

The Committee on Congregational Missions Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Statement of the Discipline of Partnership

Mission congregations are a vital part of the life of the Diocese of Virginia. Missions serve to bring the Good News of God in Christ to places and among populations of the Diocese where, without their presence, the Good News would go unheard. In some cases, missions are churches planted with the expectation that they will quickly become financially self-sustaining contributors to the larger diocesan community. Others meet defined missional needs and may develop creative means of self-sustaining viability. A few are small missions in very remote areas that need the support of the larger community to meet the most basic needs. The congregations of the Diocese partner with all these congregations in many ways. Some support may be financial, and some will be in administrative and other areas, by way of CCM liaisons and diocesan staff support. Mission congregations partner with the Diocese by actively striving to deepen discipleship, spread the Gospel, and serve the larger community, while fulfilling faithfully their obligations to the Diocese.

These obligations include meeting the following responsibilities by their appointed deadlines:

March 1

Parochial Reports due to the Bishop. (Canon 16, Section 2)
Report on Covenant for the preceding year due to CCM

April 15

Certificate of Election of Lay Delegates to Diocesan Council due to the Secretary of the Diocese. (Canon 2, Section 4)

Easter Monday

Vote on nominations to the Vestry Committee members unless the date of the annual parochial meeting is set for another time of year. Send a list of nominated Vestry Committee members and officers, with contact information, to the Secretary of the Diocese as soon as possible following their election. (Canon 11, Section 3). Vestry Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, who is rector of the mission.

August 1

Parish Audit due to the Vestry Committee (Canon 25, Section 3)

August 1

Budget requests for the following year due to CCM.

August 31

Parish Audit due to the Bishop (General Convention Canon I.7.1 (g))

November 1

Signed Covenant due to CCM for the coming year

November 30

Diocesan pledge card due to the Treasurer (Canon 12, Section 5)

CCM and its supervising Bishop will make every effort to work with mission congregations if they are having difficulty submitting these materials, correctly completed, in a timely fashion. That effort will include answering questions and offering appropriate concrete help. Should a congregation fail to submit materials despite these best efforts, unless an exception has been granted by the supervising Bishop, quarterly aid checks will be withheld until the delinquent documents have been submitted.

CCM Covenant

Mission Beyond Ourselves

Being Good Stewards

Every congregation that receives a grant from the Diocese of Virginia will make an annual Covenant with the Committee on Congregational Missions. The Covenant offers you an opportunity to focus on how you are deepening life of faith, your plan for self-sustaining viability, and on how you bringing the Good News to your community.

Our baptismal promises provide a useful outline of the areas of our common life: Worship, Christian formation, spiritual growth and fellowship; proclaiming the Good News vocally and in action; seeking and serving Christ in all people and loving our neighbors as ourselves, and striving for justice and peace (see the Book of Common Prayer pp. 302-305) Some of these actions may happen within the walls of our buildings; others necessarily extend beyond the walls as we strive to be Christ in the community. As a Diocese, our particular focus is on healing across differences; care of creation, sharing the Good News, and financially resourcing God's mission.

Your Covenant

As a community of faith, discern your mutual commitment in three areas:

- discipleship and spiritual growth;
- developing vibrancy and sustainability,
- proclaiming Good News and serving the community in the name of Christ.

If You Need Assistance

If the Vicar, Priest In Charge, or Lay Leader of Congregation, working with the Vestry Committee, would like help with the development of the Covenant, the CCM liaisons and the supervising Bishop and diocesan staff will be happy to offer assistance.

CCM Covenant for 2022

We, the Vestry Committee of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Bluemont, Virginia, make this Covenant with the Committee on Congregational Missions and its supervising Bishop for the calendar year 2022. We agree as a congregation to keep this covenant and live out our mission and ministry in the local community. CCM and the supervising Bishop agree to grant specified financial and other support for this mission.

Discipleship and Spirituality

What our congregation will undertake:

An Epiphany Retreat Series targeting full day Saturday sessions. These sessions will be led by a priest and be targeted for spiritual growth and renewal.

Restart our Lenten Series for 2022. These Wednesday night presentations and discussion groups will be led by different church members each week. If COVID conditions permit, we may be able to return to our light bread and soup supper.

Goals, hopes and dreams for this undertaking:

The Epiphany Series will provide in depth spiritual growth for a small congregation that has been without a spiritual leader for many years. The hope and goal of this series is to replenish us spiritually.

The Lenten Series will be a next step for spiritual growth as individuals will lead and be given the opportunity to bring their insights and questions to a group. The goal is to expand our community as we enjoy each other's spiritual journey.

Coordinator Judy Hall will coordinate the Epiphany Retreat Series and Cindy Ingram will coordinate the Lenten Series.

Vibrancy and Sustainability

What our congregation will undertake:

Create a Prayer and Meditation Garden on the east slope of the church. Our little church is literally on the side of a mountain. This year we will establish a plan and initiate a garden space with the focus on erosion control with native, non-invasive plantings and pollinators that will provide a spiritual space for forest bathing.

Goals, hopes and dreams for this undertaking:

This is an ambitious undertaking that will span several years. It is our hope and dream that we will attract more of our community to use our church as a place of prayer and meditation, especially when they are in need. This garden is a natural extension of the sweet chapel of the Good Shepherd and the Stations of the Cross pathway.

Coordinator Cindy Ingram will be the coordinator for this effort.

Proclaiming Good News and Serving the Community

What our congregation will undertake:

Spiritual Walks at Cool Springs and other nearby spaces on a routine basis. These spiritual walks will include priest support. We will be bringing a priest out into the community on a routine basis.

Open our church to small groups. Currently AA is the only small group using our church. As we continue to refurbish the facility we should be able to encourage others to use Good Shepherd as a religious and community space.

Goals, hopes and dreams for this undertaking:

The goal and hope of the Spiritual Walks is to bring God to others. The religious tone of these walks will be set by the priest at her discretion and assessment of the crowd.

The goal and hope of having more small groups in our church is to enhance our opportunities to serve and support our community.

Coordinator Josette Keelor will coordinate the Spiritual Walks. Judy Hall will coordinate the small group effort.

Signed by:

Members of the Vestry Committee

David Japsett

AS

Judith Refo Hall

Timothy B. Hall

Josette Keelor

Chris Brunell

Vicar _____

CCM Liaison _____

Bishop _____

Date Oct. 26, 2021