**2017 GRANTS**

**Covenant 5, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**

**Action of Greater Lansing**

**$4500**

**Description of Ministry**

**Action** is a coalition of 18 diverse congregations from the Greater Lansing area that come together to address gaps within the local social systems. Through a very specific 3-step annual process,

**Action** members identify a community concern, research that concern, and use a direct action model to get specific commitments for action from responsible public officials.*Utilizing this strategy,****Action of Greater Lansing****typically wins 1-3 issues every year in the local community.*

**Crossroads Of Michigan**

**$1000**

**Description of Ministry**

Crossroads has been a safety net for tens thousands of at-risk individuals and families since 1971. Here at Crossroads we are deeply involved in direct service and also engaged in social justice ministry. We serve people in need; many are overlooked, pushed aside, disregarded or trampled on by society. At Crossroads poverty is the lived reality of most of the people who come. The majority of our clients have meager income resources, barely enough money to cover daily-living costs and to place food on the table. Unemployment remains a huge stumbling block for our clients, as well as under-employment, low wages, and chronic physical and mental illness issues. During our one-on-one work with clients, emergency assistance and crisis resolution are provided as appropriate; we advocate on behalf of people we serve; and we assist individuals and families in finding a pathway, with do-able steps, that will help them overcome barriers to stability and lead them from crisis to self-sufficiency. These are important direct-service efforts. In our educational efforts, especially trainings, we raise awareness about poverty, uncover the root causes of poverty, advocate on behalf of people who are poor, and try to reduce poverty. These are important social-justice efforts.

For volunteers and staff working one-on-one with Crossroads clients, understanding poverty both at the personal level and at the systemic-institutional level and understanding what it is like to be poor are essential to our work. In addition, self knowledge is also helpful because biases and belief systems tend to perpetuate poverty and divide us.

**Disability Awareness Committee**

**$2375**

**Description of Ministry** The major work of Disability Awareness for more than seven years has been to foster development of the Alliance to Abolish Bullying (AAB). This has been a joint project with Oasis Ministries and LGBT Concerns since June, 2009. It involves anyone having anti-bullying interests, though people with disabilities and people with differing sexual orientations are key members. The Alliance has made workshop presentations at various diocesan Ministry Fairs since 2010 in its ongoing effort to promote greater awareness of bullying and its detrimental effects. AAB has also made presentations at various deaneries and congregations during this time. We made a major effort in 2013 to supply each congregation with a sample packet of materials, seeking to heighten awareness of bullying. In 2014 we mailed information to congregations having church schools, focusing primarily on ages 9-15. AAB plans to distribute a new packet in 2017, focusing on young children. Volunteers distributed materials at exhibit tables at the 2015-2016 diocesan conventions.

**Economic Justice Commission Ministry**

**$1,200**

**Description of Ministry**

The EJC supports the Opportunity Resource Fund (ORF) (formerly the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund, a merger of the McGehee Fund and the Michigan Housing Trust Fund). The ORF raises and loans money for community development, affordable housing and small business development in Michigan, and provides funding to people who cannot otherwise gain access to capital for these purposes. The EJC supports the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan’s continued investment in and support for the work of the ORF. With the help of the ORF, the EJC also supports Covenant 5 with materials and volunteer time. The EJC has resources and speakers available for parishes on request. As co-founders of the national Episcopal Network for Economic Justice, (the ENEJ), the EJC supports the work financially and with volunteer time to build the movement in the church at all levels for economic justice and to combat domestic poverty. Through Covenant 5 and the ENEJ, the EJC actively works on domestic poverty issues and supports the global and local MDGs.

**Criminal Justice Advocacy Ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**

**$2375**

**Description of Ministry**

For the past ten years The major focus of the Church of the Incarnation’s Criminal Justice Advocacy ministry has been is to strengthen the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Program (MPR) in Washtenaw County, which members of Incarnation helped establish. The program has been a remarkable success in dramatically reducing recidivism in our county and around the state. However, we are now shifting our focus from working on the back end of the system to focusing on the front end of the system, through advocating for a county-based restorative-justice system in Washtenaw County. This work will happen significantly through working with Healing Communities and Friends of Restorative Justice, two organizations composed of local faith communities, who have committed themselves to working together for restorative justice. As developing county-based restorative-justice systems are part of the key to ending mass incarceration in Michigan, we will also continue to work with the new state-wide collaboration to end mass incarceration.

**St. Peter’s Water Advocacy**

**$1,800**

**Description of Ministry**

St. Peter’s provides office and water storage space in our Parish House for *We the People of Detroit*. Together we are involved in advocacy in the Detroit Water Struggle, specifically in the work for affordability. *We the People of Detroit* has published *Mapping the Water Crisis: the Dismantling of African American Neighborhoods in Detroit* which provides graphic evidence of the racialized and racist character of Detroit’s water shut-offs, especially when overlapped with foreclosures. The results of an 18 month project brought together community activists and academic researchers going door to door in Detroit neighborhoods. *We the People* co-ordinated studies by researchers from Wayne State University, the University of California Berkley, the University of Detroit Mercy, and the University of Michigan and included materials which illustrate the history and scope of the crisis. St Peter’s members were directly involved in the survey work. Subsequent phases of the research related to health and education are already being mounted. Books may be purchased from *We the People* and samples of the maps and graphs may be viewed at <https://wethepeopleofdetroit.com/communityresearch/>

(Related additionally is water hot-line and water delivery work. We have a first floor water storage room also supported and subsidized by St. Peters.)

**St. Stephen’s Grace in Action**

**$2,000**

**Description of Ministry**

The Grace in Action Youth Arts Project uses the medium of creativity expression to engage youth in claiming and articulating their own stories and the stories of their community. Over the years, youth have created three culturally-relevant murals, a mosaic, and a youth arts magazine. This year youth will engage in a series of art entrepreneurship workshops intended to help them take their artistic talent and make into a marketable skill that they can utilize to make a living for themselves and their families, and contribute back talent and resources to their own community.

**TBLG Concerns**

**$1,500**

**Description of Ministry**

The TBLG Concerns Committee, a Justice and Equality Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, cooperates with the Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry Michigan and other entities, offering support to and advocacy for all who experience injustice and oppression because of their sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

**Word and World (St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Detroit)**

**$1,500**

**Description of Ministry:**

The cornerstones Word and World have been a series of ecumenical and inclusive schools that integrate the insights and experiences of “seminary, sanctuary, and street”:  the first school in Greensboro, NC, focused on the legacies of the civil rights movement;  the second in Tucson, AR, centered on the philosophies and practices of liberation theology;  the third school in Philadelphia, PA highlighted the struggles of the peace movement including Plowshares; and the fourth school in Rochester, NY focused on the social, economic, and ecclesiastical changes  engendered by faith-based feminist, womanist, mujerista, and LGBT movements.  Subsequent schools in Memphis, TN and Tar Heel, NC drew on the tradition of faith and labor organizing for economic justice.  The legacy of these “streams” informed other projects including retreats, workshops, institutes, and a yearlong Mentoring Program for faith based activists in their 20s. Our work and vision is to re-animate a vision of “church as movement.”

Through the continued support of Covenant 5, we have also focused a great deal of our work in the Detroit, a city that has been “ground zero” not only of economic crisis, but also of hope and resistance. In 2015, we hosted a national event focusing on spirit in the work for environmental justice.

Word and World, in collaboration with Bartimeaus Cooperative Ministries, has for two years had a daily blog highlighting the work of radical discipleship in North America. www.radicaldiscipleship.net.