

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SEEDS OF HOPE GRANT PROPOSAL



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Creative • Curious • Faithful •



DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA
SEEDS OF HOPE
2025 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPLICATION

PURPOSE: “SEEDS OF HOPE” funding for outreach/social justice projects that relate to the Five Marks of Mission is available for 2025.

The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission which expresses the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to an understanding of God’s holistic/integral mission. The first mark of mission is really a summary of what all mission is about, because it is based on Jesus’ own summary of his mission. Instead of being just one of five distinct activities, it should be the key statement about everything we do in mission.

[The Five Marks of Mission:](#)

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach baptize and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

This “seed” money is to serve as a catalyst for congregations either to:

1. Develop new programs that reflect the Five Marks of Mission with an emphasis on Social Justice Ministry or
2. Add a new dimension to an existing program (details of such expansion must be provided).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: All congregations in the Diocese of Southern Virginia and diocesan-affiliated groups. Per Diocesan Canon VII.4(f) congregations will not be eligible for grants from the Diocese until the preceding two calendar years’ audit reports have been provided to the Diocese.

GRANT AMOUNTS: Awards may be as much as \$6,000. All grants are for one year.

AWARD CRITERIA: Applications will be evaluated on these criteria:

1. Enables the congregation (or diocesan group) to expand their mission activities as framed by the Five Marks of Mission with an emphasis on Social Justice Ministry.
2. The grant is to be used as “seed money” to mobilize other resources (people or supplemental funding).
3. Includes the potential for ongoing projects to be self-sustaining beyond the grant period.
4. Includes the number of people who will be reached.
5. Includes collaboration between congregations, diocesan-affiliated groups, etc. (for example: convocation-based programs).

6. Preference will be given to groups who have not previously received Seeds of Hope grants.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: The grant must be used by **November 15, 2026**. Recipients must also submit a report, with pictures, if available, **before applying for any subsequent grant**, but no later than **December 15, 2026**, describing how the funds were allocated and the results of the project.

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed to:

Seeds of Hope Grant Application
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
11832 Rock Landing Dr, Suite 100
Newport News, VA 23606-4231

Fax: 757-595-0783
Email: sallen@diosova.org

Applications must be received no later than **September 30, 2025**.

Awards will be announced and distributed no later than **December 10, 2025**.

2025 SEEDS OF HOPE GRANT APPLICATION

Feel free to continue answers on a separate sheet.

TITLE of project or program: 2026 Camp Imagine

NAME of the applying congregation/diocesan group: The Episcopal Church Of The Good Shepherd

ADDRESS: 7400 Hampton Boulevard Norfolk Virginia 23505

NAME of the clergy if applicant is a congregation: The Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Soltys

CONTACT PERSON: Ben Blanchard

CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE: 757-423-3230

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL: Ben.Blanchard@goodshepherdnorfolk.org

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – provide a brief SUMMARY of the project:

In the summer of 2026, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will partner with UPAC (Underground Performing Arts Collaborative) to offer a week-long Puppet Theater Camp for teens in grades 6–12. This program will culminate in a public performance parade, showcasing participants' creativity and celebrating their hard work.

The goal of this camp is to engage youth, particularly those from at-risk communities, in an accessible and empowering arts experience. Participants will explore storytelling, design, and performance while developing collaboration, problem-solving, and communication skills. The camp will be staffed by UPAC artists and supported by trained volunteers from Good Shepherd, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all youth.

UPAC is a collective of artists, creatives, and designers amplifying historically marginalized communities, including BIPOC, LGBTQ, and Disabled voices. By centering these perspectives, the camp will not only offer artistic instruction but also invite youth to reflect on and share their own lived experiences through creativity.

Good Shepherd and UPAC have an established history of collaboration, including creative liturgies (Easter Vigil, Palm Sunday Passion Reading) and outreach initiatives (Food Drives, Gingerbread & Jazz, and Trunk or Treat). This camp builds on that successful partnership, expanding our shared

mission to foster creativity, nurture young leaders, and strengthen community connections.

LOCATION where project will be implemented:

The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd

New Project? X Expansion of Existing Project? _____

Start Date: Summer 2026 DATES TBD Amount requested: \$6000.00

How will these funds be used (be specific; attach an itemized list of projected expenses):

Seed funds will be used to support the essential components of the camp, including professional staffing, program materials and supplies, meals for participants, and transportation to and from activities. These resources will ensure that the program provides a high-quality, accessible, and safe experience for every participant.

How this project implements our mission:

At Good Shepherd, our moniker is “Creative. Curious. Faithful.” We believe that creativity builds meaningful connections and strengthens community. This project embodies that mission by engaging youth in hands-on, collaborative artistic experiences that inspire imagination, foster relationships, and bring people together across diverse backgrounds. By channeling our God-given creativity, we seek to create a lasting impact on participants and the wider community.

How will the grant expand the outreach mission of the congregation or group?

Camp Imagine is a natural outgrowth of relationships Good Shepherd has already built with UPAC, Generic Theater, Rouge Theater Company and NSU. The project is an extension of our shared vision: to empower and strengthen young people who are often ignored or sidelined. By nurturing the spiritual and artistic growth of the campers, and by affirming our Baptismal promise to respect the dignity of all people, Camp Imagine will extend Good Shepherd’s reach and solidify our friendships with like-minded organizations who already work with underserved communities. The Camp is an investment in the relationships Good Shepherd needs for further collaboration in and with underserved communities in Norfolk.

How does this project fit within the Five Marks of Mission?

Proclaim the Good News: Youth will connect their own stories and perspectives to sacred texts through puppetry and performance, sharing their experiences with the wider community and proclaiming God’s presence in everyday life.

Teach, Baptize, and Nurture New Believers: We seek to create a place where individuals can encounter God’s love, grow in faith, and become active participants in the life of the Church. By encouraging youth to live creatively with confidence and authenticity, they will model a way of discipleship that encourages others to share their own gifts and callings as well.

Tend to the Hungry, Sick, and Vulnerable: The camp is fully accessible at no cost to participants, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent youth from attending. It provides a safe and supportive environment that nurtures personal growth, particularly for youth from at-risk communities, offering mentorship, encouragement, and opportunities for meaningful engagement and creative expression.

Transform Unjust Structures of Society: By centering the voices and experiences of historically marginalized communities, the program actively challenges exclusionary norms, affirms participants’ identities, and builds bridges across social inequities. Participants are empowered to imagine, advocate for, and contribute to more just, inclusive, and equitable communities. The week’s culminating performance intentionally invites people from all walks of life to witness and engage in this shared experience.

Treasure Creation: The program emphasizes sustainability by using repurposed materials salvaged from roadsides, dumpsters and buy-nothing groups. This models resourcefulness and practices environmental stewardship.

How will the program be financed after the grant is spent?

The program will be sustained through annual allocations from the church’s operating budget.

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSAL AUTHOR: Ben Blanchard

SIGNATURE OF EXECUTIVE: _____
(Clergy / Warden / Chairperson)

Send application by mail, fax, or email no later than **September 30, 2025**, to:

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Proposed Budget

- **Van Rentals & Fuel:** \$3,000
- **Meals & Food:** \$1000
- **Staffing:** \$1,000
- **Creative Supplies & Costumes:** \$1,000
- **Marketing & Promotion:** \$500 (Good Shepherd will absorb these costs)

Total: \$6,000