

# Précis

15 January 2015

To: Diocesan Council

**RE: Parish Development Grants, Diocese of New Westminster**

Proposed by Standing Committee on Mission & Ministry Development  
with support of the Standing Committee on Management Finance & Property

**Purpose of the Parish Development Grants:**

The purpose of this proposed process for Parish Development Grants is to shift the culture around grants to parishes, to increase transparency about diocesan support to parishes, and to streamline a process. We hope that this process will allow the Diocese to focus on supporting parishes that have a clear vision for their own development and are ready to take the next steps in living out their mission and ministry. We also hope that by having a single process for Parish Development Grants, we will free Committee time from handling such requests which currently come year-round.

**Key Elements:**

The key elements of this new process for Grants to Parishes are:

- Two stages: an “Intent to Apply” stage where applications can receive feedback and a “Grant Application” stage where applications will be approved or not.
- Clear criteria for parishes as to what this process will fund and won’t fund, along with examples.
- An annual schedule that ensures parishes know what funding they will have in the upcoming year (Applications in the Spring; Decision in Autumn)
- An evaluation and reporting stage so that parishes are held accountable and the Diocese, as a whole, has the opportunity to learn from each other’s work.
- A Parish Development Grants Team<sup>1</sup>, with membership skilled in both mission/ministry and financial matters, mandated to review applications at both stages and make grants.
- A set amount of money allocated for Parish Development Grants to be distributed at the discretion of the Parish Development Grants Team.

**Funding:**

The Standing Committee on Management Finance and Property will present to Diocesan Council regarding the recommended method of funding these grants.

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<sup>1</sup> Essentially the Team is a joint sub-committee of the two Standing Committees. Any language Diocesan Council feels is appropriate can be used to name the body.