

Report of the Grants and Research Committee of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church

Committee met via Zoom at 10am ET on 13 May 2022

Present: Ben Guyer (chair); Lee Jefferson; John Runkle; William Stafford

Apologies: Al Moss (surgery). Absent: Lauren Winner

1. General Grants Program

We received 10 applications for grant monies this year. All were funded. The grant recipients are:

- Christy Baty – MA candidate at University of Nebraska at Kearney, awarded \$1,500 to research the role of embroidered book bindings in women’s religious lives in early modern England.
- Devin Burns – PhD candidate at Florida State University, awarded \$1,500 to study the Confederate Episcopal Church and its relationship to the making of Lost Cause historiography.
- Mongezi Guma – Canon, Anglican Church in South Africa, awarded \$1,750 to research Sister Alberta Ngudle, a Religious Sister from Tsolo, who founded in 1919 an African female Religious Community of St. John the Baptist (CSJB).
- Laura Hernandez-Ehrisman – Faculty member, Department of History, Austin Community College, awarded \$1,000 to research the place of slavery and race relations in the history of St. David’s Episcopal Church, Austin.
- Stephen Kapinde – Lecturer, Religion and Public Life, Pwani University, awarded \$1,750 to investigate the long standing and ambiguous history of the Anglican Church and ex-slave’s descendants at Frere Town in Kenya.
- Simon Lewis – independent scholar, awarded \$500 to study doctrinal debate in the early-eighteenth century Church of Ireland, focusing on the contributions made by the clergyman Edward Nicholson.
- Donn Mitchell – independent scholar, awarded \$1,250 for research on Frances Perkins and the religious dimension of the New Deal by placing it within the context of the Episcopal Church’s role in social mission.
- Daphne Noyes – independent scholar, awarded \$1,250 to continue her research on the life of Adeline Blanchard Tyler (1805-1875), the first deaconess in the Episcopal Church.
- Donna Ray – Senior Lecturer in History and Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, awarded \$1,000 to the voices of laywomen, especially their “soft power,” in shaping the Episcopal Church in the American Deep South.
- Bart Segu – PhD candidate in systematic theology, St. Paul’s University, Kenya, awarded \$1,500 to study the influence of liberation theology upon John Henry Okullu and his pursuit for social justice in Kenya.

This is for a total of \$13,000 of a possible budget of \$13,000.

2. Cragon Fund

We received four requests for funding that fell outside of the General Grants program. We recommend that two of these be funded from the Cragon Fund. They are as follows:

- Diocese of Mississippi – \$1,060 – to digitize five audio cassettes and thirty-three VHS tapes, 1975-2003, which will include sharing the stories online through the diocesan website.
- Diocese of Milwaukee – \$2,000 – for the collection and dissemination of oral histories of the Milwaukee Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

We do not recommend funding the following due to the reason given.

- St. Paul's Flint, MI – we are concerned about funding this, fearing that it might lead to a slippery slope situation in which every parish celebrating a big anniversary turns to HSEC for funding.
- Spiritual Library at Trinity, Southport, CT – technology requisition requests are outside of the purview of our funding, and 75% of this request was for the acquisition of technology (iPad, laptop, etc.).

3. The Prichard Prize

Janelle Legg is the recipient of the Prichard Prize. We were impressed by her groundbreaking research on deaf ministries in the Episcopal Church and we look forward to seeing her work appear in final, published form.

4. Questions

1. We would like to add an archivist to our committee. Does this require any sort of official/constitutional change concerning how committee membership?
2. One of the general grantees, Simon Lewis, received a grant from HSEC just 5 years ago. This prompted further discussion of whether we want to add language to the Grants application about how often one can reapply to HSEC. Is this advisable - and, if so, is it doable?
3. Given that the committee has begun making recommendations on the Cragon Fund, should we have guidelines posted on the website for applications that would be funded by it, rather than the General Grants program? The reasoning behind not funding the two requests above might therefore be used as precedent going forward and also placed online. It would be helpful if the precise relationship between the committee and the Cragon Fund were made fully official.
4. This was a banner year for grant applications. For next year, we will likely ask for more money than \$13,000.