



COMMISSION ON MISSION & DEVELOPMENT
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

June 29, 2020

Greetings from your diocesan Commission on Mission and Development,

In this new pandemic world, all of us have been struggling to find new ways for our parishioners to worship and engage in fellowship. From our conversations with you, it has become apparent that these formats will become a permanent feature of our ministry, even after the COVID contingencies are over.

We think that this is a good time to step back and consider what the range of options are for creating a digital space for your parish. *Whatever* it is that you are doing now, we would like to offer you an in-depth guide from folks who are experts not only in the technical aspects, but also the areas of worship and pastoral leadership. The Rev. Don Fleischman and John Washbush, who have produced our diocesan Sunday worship services, will be your guides through this wilderness. They also have used the equipment suggested and can help with specific questions you may have.

[Our Digital Parish: Conversation Questions](#)

Once you have reviewed these materials, it is our hope that you will engage your parish leadership in a thoughtful discernment about what kind of digital space you hope to carry you into the future. Look at it like you are doing a campus improvement project and adding a new physical structure — take the same care that you would with your buildings. To help you with this conversation, we include a series of questions to guide you.

A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Any equipment you need may take a long time to be available! The COVID crisis has sent *everybody* scurrying to do just what you are and, manufacturers are catching up.
- Websites — your website should be the “Access Portal” for your space and you will want to make sure they are ready and current. If you need help with your website, please let us know since we are looking at options in providing sites to congregations in need. Remember your website is your front door, now more than ever.

Meanwhile, have the conversation!

COMD and diocesan staff are working on ways to provide monetary assistance as well as savings in equipment and website development. Stay tuned for more information about that.

APPLICATION

Here is a short application. Use additional space as needed and email to Peggy Bean (bean@diomil.org).

Parish name and city _____
Contact person _____
Contact person’s phone and email _____

Money needed/detail:

Plan:

Faithfully,

Commission on Mission and Development

Henry Peters (St. Andrew’s, Madison), convener; Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh (St. Matthew’s, Kenosha); Kreigh Knerr (Zion, Oconomowoc); Rev. Pedro Lara (Christ, Delavan); Rev. Jason Lavann (St. Luke’s, Bay View); Alice Mirk (St. Paul’s, Watertown); Rev. Joel Prather (St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee); Peggy Bean, diocesan Canon for Congregations