

Young Adult Grant or Campus Ministry Grant

Summary Page

Information

Date of Application: November 8, 2019

Name of the Ministry submitting this application: Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard

Name and Title of person submitting the application: The Rev. Rita Powell, Chaplain

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Diocese in which the ministry is located: Massachusetts

Name of Bishop: +Alan Gates

Bishop's email: agates@diomass.org

Bishop's Phone Number: 617-482-5800

Application is for a:

Campus Ministry Grant

Project Title and Summary

The Big Tent

How can we be the pilgrim church on the move from within our inherited structures? By building a tent inside a church and then taking it outside! Our young adult chaplaincy community discerned a need for a dedicated space to call home inside the church that hosts our weekly worship. One of our members, a Ph. D. student who studies medieval ephemeral architecture, had the idea of building a liturgical tent. Our student-led Greek Bible Study reminded us that when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, "dwelt" was the verb "to pitch a tent." We began to realize that if we built a tent to solve the immediate community's liturgical need, we would also have a mobile church that could help us think faithfully about the sojourner status of the people of Israel and challenge us to see and live the gospel in its contingent impermanence. We began to imagine church outdoors in our garden to explore the spirituality of creation, pop-up church in Harvard Square to consider evangelism in a reconciling way, interfaith arts programming on the University campus and many more possibilities!

I give my permission for my Grant Title and Summary to be published by DFMS.

Amount requested: \$5,000

Narrative Description

How can we be the pilgrim church on the move inside our inherited structures? By building a tent inside a church and then taking it outside!

Our young adult chaplaincy community has discerned a need for a dedicated, distinct space to call home inside the church which hosts our weekly worship. We are called to build a spiritual dwelling that reflects who we are — but one we can set up and take down each week. Faced with this challenge, one of our members, a Ph.D. student who studies medieval ephemeral architecture, had the idea of building a liturgical tent. Our tent would draw on a rich and deep-rooted Christian heritage: from Medieval Sarum, where clergy raised a tent decorated like a garden during Holy Week, to modern-day New Zealand, where a Cardboard Cathedral sprang up in the aftermath of the devastating Christchurch earthquake, temporary structures allow us to make an offering to God even as we navigate a world in transition. Meanwhile, our student-led Greek Bible Study reminded us that when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, that instance of “dwelt” was the verb “to pitch a tent.”

As we began to imagine a tent to solve the liturgical need, we realized we would also be creating a mobile church. Could we have church outdoors in our garden to explore the spirituality of creation? Pop-up church in Harvard Square to consider evangelism in a reconciling way? Faith-based performance art on the University campus in collaboration with the other chaplaincies? Our tent would open innovative new pathways for evangelism and public witness to the wider world we live in.

This project evolved out of two streams of community discernment: the Diocesan Young Adult Task Force, and the local community. Because we understand our work in the context of broader young adult ministry in the area, and young adult ministry in service to the whole body of the church, we imagine partnerships of various kinds to emerge in the course of the design, development, and especially the programming of the tent. We have already begun to speak with Lakota street artists and Taizé brothers, Cambridge Jewish young adult groups, a specialist in medieval drama, and local singers and songwriters. We will be able to offer program that invites young adults from the Diocese alongside non-religious University students. Through these collaborations, we will reach out, literally, visibly to people who may never have thought to enter a church.

We believe this project addresses the General Convention mandate to take evangelism seriously, as both public witness and as meeting people where they are. We also imagine this work to be in the spirit of the 2018 convention invitation to liturgical innovation. Building this tent with the support of this grant will affirm that the work we are envisioning is part of the community, conversation, and priority of the whole church. If we do not get this grant, The Chaplaincy will find another way to build our tent. We are seeking support on the Diocesan level through a congregational development grant (reflected in the grant budget.)

Timetable

Design, Development, and Learning: Spring 2020.

Includes 3 community presentations from the design team exploring the range of historic and contemporary ephemeral architecture in liturgical use; travel to a conference to develop capacity around history, liturgy, and practice; a guided reading group exploring the theology of creating sacred space; and experimentation with a prototype.

Construction/ Creation: Summer 2020.

Upon community approval of a final design, construction will happen in the summer months.

Programming: Fall 2020 (and beyond!)

Pitch the tent as part of fall welcome back, and develop program in three areas: community worship within the Chaplaincy, public witness in Cambridge, and partnership with University Interfaith Chaplains and Diocesan Community.

Evaluation and Continuation of Ministry

Goals and Evaluation

Our goals include empowering students to

- Develop an informed sense of ownership of the chaplaincy as church
- Experiment with new forms of liturgical space and presence.

We will evaluate this project through a series of dedicated community conversations at our weekly dinners:

- Design/development process: series of 3 community conversations led by tent leadership team.
- Development/learning process: delegation attending Sarum conference as well as members of the guided reading group will each present at and lead a community conversation.
- Experimentation: as we program the tent both inside and outside the church, we will designate one community conversation per month to process and evaluate the experiences, with a focus on what we are learning about ourselves as church, community, and evangelists.

Continuation of Ministry

We imagine continuing this ministry in a number of ways.

- Presentation at 2021 YACM Conference to create conversation across regions/ministries
- Program for and with Diocesan Young Adult Ministry Committee
- Evolving use for the Chaplaincy, shaped by our dynamic student community

This project does not require continued funding (separate from the Chaplain and Kellogg Fellow work accounted for in our operating budget.) Once we've built the tent, we've built it!

Budget

Organization Name **Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard**
 Organization City and State **Cambridge, MA**

Description	Proposed Funding from Grant	Other Funding	Budget Narrative
Other Income (Income other than the grant funding)		7,500	From our operating budget
Diocesan/Congregational/Community Support		10,000	Applying for a Diocesan Congregational Development Grant spring of 2020
Subtotal	\$5,000.00	\$17,500.00	
	List the expense amounts proposed for the YACM Grant	All other funding, including registration fees, contributions, and donations	Provide descriptions of expenses and income and how they relate to the goal of your grant.
Program and Learning Opportunities			
American Sarum Conference	1,200	0	4 person delegation to attend medieval liturgy conference to deepen our understanding of the tradition.
Subtotal	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
Personnel Costs			
Kellogg Fellow	1,000	4,000	25% of annual cost designated for the support of this project

Chaplain	0	8,000	10% of annual cost designated for the support of this project
Subtotal	\$1,000.00	\$12,000.00	
Equipment and Materials			
The Tent	1,000	2,500	Includes artisan fabric creation, lighting, prototype, and structural materials
Subtotal	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	
Travel			
To/ From Conference	1,800		Train, lodging, food
Subtotal	\$1800.00	\$0.00	
Other Expenses			
Art and Architecture Consultants	0	3,000	Within and outside the Chaplaincy
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
Grand Total	\$5000.00	\$17,500.00	

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Subtotal	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	
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Subtotal	\$1800.00	\$0.00	
Other Expenses			
Art and Architecture Consultants	0	3,000	Within and outside the Chaplaincy
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	
Grand Total	\$5000.00	\$17,500.00	

Signatures:

Prepared by The Rev. Rita Powell, Chaplain

Signature  Date 11-8-19**Approval of Diocesan Bishop**

I have read and approve the submission of this Grant Proposal. (Please print or type name. Use the space below your signature to include any other thoughts about the grant.)

Bishop of
Signature  Date 11-7-19

THE RT. REV. ALAN M. GATES, BP. OF MASS.