

Mission Fundraising Policy St. James's Episcopal Church Cambridge

At St. James's Episcopal Church, the principal fundraising for mission is done through the annual parish operating budget, supported by pledges and offerings. Our annual budget in turn supports various organizations that do mission work. Some of these are organized as Vestry-approved ministries of the parish and administered by members of the congregation, with line items in the parish budget and/or space on parish premises. Some are based outside the parish, and receive grants administered annually by the Missions Committee from the Missions Fund in the annual budget and approved by the Vestry. In general, the parish aims to confine fundraising to regular pledge appeals and capital campaigns sponsored by the Vestry or the Diocese. As a general policy, we ask that parishioners not solicit funds on church premises for outside organizations (even those funded by Missions Committee grants) or for individual mission work during announcement time or at coffee hour.

The Missions Committee oversees the guidelines for application for Missions Fund Grants (see <http://www.stjames-cambridge.org/missions-committee/>). Diocesan grants are handled by the Diocese (see http://www.diomass.org/inside/grants_loans or <http://www.diomass.org/mission-tithe-council-grants>).

Outside of the Mission Grants application process, the following fundraising activities are acceptable at St. James's:

- Vestry- or Diocese-sanctioned organizations, such as the Outdoor Church, Prison Ministry, Food Pantry, and the Annual Lenten Jubilee AIDS Offering, may make direct appeals to the congregation.
- Organizations may participate in parish events designed specifically to invite missions fundraising, such as the Alternative Christmas Fair.
- A Parish-sponsored, Vestry-sanctioned group trip such as the Costa Rica Youth Spiritual Pilgrimage or the post-Katrina Mississippi Mission Trip may raise funds in preparation for their travel. So also may those participating in a Deanery or Diocese-sponsored mission trip. The coordinator of a mission trip organized by St. James's will provide fundraising plan to Rector in advance.
- Funds for Episcopal Church-sponsored disaster relief – such as the Episcopal Relief and Development fundraising in the wake of the Haiti earthquake – may also be solicited directly from the congregation.
- Occasional visiting speakers who offer a sermon, living epistle or after-church Gathering on their mission work may describe initiatives to raise funds and provide contact information to congregation members who may wish to follow up with them, but may not directly solicit those funds from the congregation at the time of their presentation.
- Individuals who wish to solicit funds to support their personal participation in mission work may solicit funds privately from fellow parishioners in addition

to requesting discretionary funds from the Rector or applying for Missions Grants from the Missions Fund. If you are traveling as an independent missionary or pilgrim, we strongly encourage you to meet, consult and pray with the Rector before beginning a fundraising campaign.

- Solicitation of in-kind donations – such as the Outdoor Church sandwiches or a clothing-and-school-supplies collection for one of our missions grant recipients – are acceptable as long as the Rector is consulted before such a collection is begun and the collection is conducted by the grant recipient organization and stored on their premises, not on St. James's premises

Questions about this policy may be addressed to the Rector. If a missions initiative is proposed for adoption by the Vestry as a ministry of St. James's, or if the Rector feels a fundraising exception is warranted, the Rector and the congregation member may bring it before the Vestry.