

**Ministry Innovations Task Force  
Report to Annual Council  
November 2020**

The Ministry Innovations Task Force (MITF) celebrates the percolation and propagation of all manner of innovations in ministry across the geographic Diocese of Atlanta and in the Diocese of Cuba since annual council 2019.

A growing number of innovations in ministry, understood as new ministries and new approaches to ministries, have begun in the Diocese of Atlanta since the formation of the MITF in 2015. We are excited that an increasing number of congregations are transitioning from the posture of a church-shaped mission to that of a mission-shaped church, a movement that takes the forms of getting to know their neighbors, assessing needs in their communities in partnership with the people who live there, and then identifying their part and their partners in stepping into the gaps between how things are and how things should be.

The majority of these innovations have not needed any grant money from the Innovations in Ministry Fund in order to begin. The MITF delights in hearing of all these partnerships in co-creating the dominion of God—whether they need funding or not. Please share your good news with us.

Funds in the Innovations in Ministry Fund are available for ministry collaborations and experiments in the 75.5 counties of the geographic Diocese of Atlanta and for international innovations that target one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

From fourth quarter 2019 through fourth quarter 2020, the MITF awarded grants to—

- 1) The Boyce L. Ansley School (Year 3), housed at St Luke's, Atlanta (\$12,000.00);
- 2) Granito de Mostaza Finca (Mustard Seed Farm), Los Arabos circuit, Matanzas, Cuba (\$2,000.00)

The main work of the MITF is to evaluate grant proposals from those innovators/proposers/proposal teams that do need a cash infusion to get their ministry experiment in a particular context off the ground.

All proposals are evaluated according to the criteria delineated in the MITF Purpose and Guidelines available on the diocesan web site's Ministry Innovations pages.

The annual deadlines for these grant proposals are January 1, May 1, and September 1.

No innovation receives full funding from the Innovations in Ministry Fund. 26% of the total amount needed is the largest grant percentage awarded thus far.

No innovation receives funding for more than three (3) years, and applications for funds must be made annually.

The Take-The-First-Step Form available online in the ministry innovations pages of the diocesan web site has proven useful for individuals and groups across the diocese wishing to think through innovations ideas and receive feedback on crafting proposals. By starting here, the MITF and potential grant proposers/proposal teams are able together to clarify the goals and strategies of the innovation in

development to make the actual grant proposal stronger.

Missioner for Engagement and Innovation Donna S. Mote is available to consult on ministry innovation ideas at any and all stages of development. She will come to you for site visits, conversations, connecting with community partners, and brainstorming.

Ministry Innovations Task Force members currently serving are Ms Ginny Heckel (St James, Clayton), Ms Beth King (Cathedral of St Philip, Atlanta), the Reverend Edwin Beckham (Good Shepherd, Covington), the Venerable Janet Tidwell (Archdeacon for Diaconal Formation), and the Reverend Donna S. Mote, Missioner for Engagement and Innovation. If you are interested in serving on the MITF, please contact one of us.

*The Go Guide: 10 Steps for Innovations in Ministry from Luke 10* by Robert C. Wright and Donna S. Mote lays out the understanding of innovations in ministry as currently happening in the Diocese of Atlanta. This brief volume of ten chapters is available in print, digital, and audio formats in English and in Spanish where its translation is titled *Guía Para El Camino*. You can find hard copies at the Cathedral Bookstore and on Amazon, digital versions on Amazon, and audio versions on Audible.

All grants awarded by the MITF come from the Innovations in Ministry Fund, which is funded primarily by the generosity of a number of worshipping communities around the diocese that give above their 10% fair share diocesan assessment.

In addition, individuals, families, and groups may make designated contributions to the Innovations in Ministry Fund. And, all proceeds from sales of *The Go Guide/Guía Para El Camino* also benefit the Innovations in Ministry Fund.

If you are interested in contributing to the Innovations in Ministry Fund, please contact Canon Bonnie Burgess, Director of Finance ([bburgess@episcopatlanta.org](mailto:bburgess@episcopatlanta.org)).

If you are interested in serving on the MITF, please contact the Reverend Donna S. Mote, Missioner for Engagement and Innovation ([innovate@episcopatlanta.org](mailto:innovate@episcopatlanta.org)).

If you have an idea for a ministry innovation, please contact Donna+ and/or review the Innovations in Ministry pages of the diocesan web site.

As Missioner for Engagement and Innovation, Donna+ will come to you to learn about your idea for an innovation. In addition, she travels the length and breadth of the diocese as guest preacher and presenter at Ministry Innovations forums, vestry retreats, leadership retreats, ECW, DOK, and other meetings and would love to visit you in your context. Schedule a visit from Donna+ at [innovate@episcopatlanta.org](mailto:innovate@episcopatlanta.org).