

September 11, 2022

Submit a written report that outlines the use/accounting of grant monies, the outcome/progress of the mission initiative, and movement towards self-sufficiency.

We are pleased to report that Church of the Holy Redeemer (CHR) is taking concrete steps to live out its new social justice mission, including establishment of the Pauli Murray Social Justice Coalition Center (PMSJCC). Part of CHR's work since December 2021 has been strategic planning around the relationship between CHR and the PMSJCC initiative, including the role of the community's spiritual leader. To that end, the High Plains Region Grant monies are being accounted for separately from other CHR funds in anticipation of hiring a spiritual leader for the church in late 2022/early 2023.

This strategic planning led to the decision to hire a priest who can be the spiritual leader of CHR while also having the call, experience, and passion to launch the PMSJCC in earnest. Among other duties, one of their responsibilities will include fundraising for their own salary and creating a sustainable operating budget for both the church and the PMSJCC. The initial launch of the PMSJCC will also include completing a Discovery Study and Asset Mapping with the help of consultants Partners for Sacred Places. Both studies involve extensive input from stakeholders, allies, and potential partners. This exploratory work will help ensure that the PMSJCC organizational structure, goals/objectives, and strategic planning matches the needs of its future users, and that its operating budget and fundraising strategy is realistic and sustainable.

In addition to the High Plains Region Grant, the first-year salary for the new spiritual leader will be funded with proceeds from the sale of CHR's historic rectory building. The sale of the rectory is expected to be complete, and the funds available, by the end of 2022. The timing of the sale and available funds will coincide well with the clergy screening and hiring process through the Office of the Bishop. The Canon for Transition and Wellness will receive the final elements of CHR's clergy profile in September/October, at which time the search and hiring for the position will begin.

CHR is already earnestly engaged in prioritizing and centralizing its social justice mission. Since December 2021, CHR has:

- Prioritized social justice themes and the voices of People of Color in weekday and Sunday liturgies
- Contracted with Partners for Sacred Places for initial exploratory studies
- Created a Lenten and Holy Week series that included:
 - Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday remembering those who have died from police brutality
 - Movie series including "The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson" (proceeds benefiting the Transgender Center of the Rockies), and "Crip Camp"
 - A Night of Poetry and Reflection featuring social justice-themed poetry

- A vigil in the Whittier neighborhood commemorating the lives of those who died by violence
- Book study of "Caste" by Isabella Wilkerson
- Issued strategic communications to partners inviting them to join in events and celebrations and to strengthen those relationships
- Participated as a church community in the Juneteenth and Denver Pride events

Before the end of the year, CHR is planning:

- A transition event acknowledging CHR's past, the sacredness of the land where it sits and the Indigenous peoples to whom that land belongs, honoring CHR's friends and partners, and officially presenting the PMSJCC initiative to the community
- October and November to focus on the stories and voices of Indigenous people, including CHR's own Indigenous community, with possible pilgrimage to Sand Creek in remembrance of the anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre
- A poetry night featuring the works and stories of Indigenous people
- A vigil commemorating the lynching murder of Preston "John" Porter, Jr. in Limon, Colorado





Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



The Great Vigil of Easter



Maundy Thursday Agape Meal



Good Friday



Easter Morning Service & Brunch

Holy Week & Easter 2022