



Beloved Community Gospel Choir
St. Aidan's, Boulder
2025 Front Range Regional Grant



Grant Amount: \$3500
Total Budget: \$4500

St. Aidan's received this grant to offer a Beloved Community Gospel Choir Concert on Sunday, March 2, 2025. The concert was preceded by a month of Beloved Community Gospel Choir rehearsals on Wednesdays, at which 5-10 visitors joined the choir each week. The culminating performance included Gospel repertoire that had been rehearsed, and also shared on Sunday mornings at St. Aidan's during February 2025, as well as a keynote speaker on the theological and historical grounding of Beloved Community

These goals were met with this grant:

- Sharing more broadly our authentic Gospel music learning and growth--learning, not consuming
- Deepening our relationship with Eric Smith, our music leader for Beloved Community Gospel
- Deepening our relationship with the CAAAS (Center for African and African American Studies) at CU Boulder, and especially its Executive Director and our keynote speaker, Dr. Reiland Rabaka
- Welcoming community members to this event, including CU students, members of other local congregations, and members of the community at large.

Why this grant matters?

- In the long work of reconciliation and justice, being able to participate in Gospel music, with the leadership of a Gospel musician and friend of St. Aidan's, was essential. We grew in love and care for each other, instead of making a brief nod to Black History Month during February.
- We engaged in partnerships based in Beloved Community, grounded in mutual respect and growth.
- We set a pattern for future Beloved Community events that models partnership and growth together

What does the future hold?

- St. Aidan's will continue to share Gospel Sundays from time to time, as they have been incorporated into our common life of prayer and worship.

- We anticipate future partnerships of doing theology and social justice together with the CAAAS.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of this grant. The results surpassed every expectation we had for engaging in the work of Beloved Community. Our detailed expenses are as written in the grant application in Fall 2024:

Description	Amount	To
Payment for a month of Choir rehearsals and Sundays	\$2000	Eric Smith
Musicians for March 2 Performance and 1 Rehearsal	\$1000	Or-Yakir Bitton (bass) Zach Howarth (drums)
Honorarium for Teaching on Beloved Community	\$1000	Dr. Reiland Rabaka, CAAAS CU Boulder
Printing and advertising costs	\$500	St. Aidan's budget



Music Leader Eric Smith (hand outstretched)



Keynote Speaker Dr. Reiland Rabaka



The Beloved Community Gospel Choir