



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER & ST. MARY

Grant Report 2025

Last fall leadership from St. Peter and St. Mary requested a grant to assist in operating costs. The congregation found itself at a crossroads, with a lot of energy for ministry and not quite enough money to cover our budget. We wanted the opportunity to see how a few years of intentional discernment work could help us envision a sustainable way forward for our ministry in and with the Baker neighborhood.



At our annual meeting we gathered information about what brought people to Peter and Mary and what is keeping them here. This gave us a starting point for our conversations together. We began work with Cyclical Full Circle, a non-profit that works with churches who are seeking renewal. We began with an online health assessment that confirmed what we gathered at our Annual

Meeting: we are a welcoming and inclusive community.

We also confirmed that we need to do some more work identifying and clarifying our ministry in the community, as well as more clearly articulating ways to deepen our formation opportunities.

We have committed to bringing a Full Cyclical consultant for an all day meeting on October 26th with Peter and Mary church leadership. We will develop the next steps during this weekend.



In the meantime St. Peter and St. Mary continues to grow deeper together. We have a newly formed hospitality committee that coordinates coffee hour and hosts special Sunday events. We have celebrated an ordination, Easter, a parishioner's book launch and had a parish wide picnic.

This summer we had a four week course exploring Mary Oliver's poetry which was well attended and helped us deepen our connection to nature and one another.

There were 13 people that participated in our conversations which we held under the large tree in front of the church.



We are not sure where the future will take us, but we are hopeful and optimistic. Our Sunday attendance is consistent 24 people a Sunday even during the summer, compared to last summer's less consistent numbers in the teens.

We have plans of a bee hive in partnership with Denver Urban Gardens beginning next spring and continue to explore shared ministry with Sobriety House next door. We have re-engaged with a neighborhood tutoring ministry that started at Peter and Mary and out grew our space, and we have several parishioners who participate in St. Clare's Ministries. Some of our members are joining the work of the Indigenous Allies Network in Colorado and we are planning to bank with the Native American Bank in our neighborhood.

Another important ministry partnership is with The Baker Community Arts Association (BCAA) which offers free concerts to the Baker Neighborhood. Many of our parishioners participate in hosting the receptions and participate in the leadership of this group. The director of BCAA, also our music director, says that without the support of the congregation at Peter and Mary, there would be no concerts. We see the concerts and the neighborhood response as something we could build on for more community engagement.

Financially we are ahead of budget in our pledge income, and on track with the rest of our budget. It is too soon to project how we will end the year, but we have not had any major losses of income or any unexpected expenses. So we hope to end the year with a balanced budget. We will be using just over half of the \$10,000.00 grant to help pay for the consultant fee and travel. The balance of the grant has helped us feel secure enough financially to take some ministry risks that will hopefully continue to deepen our community and help us build strong neighborhood relationships.

We are so grateful for the support of the High Plains Executive Committee while we continue our time of discernment and growth. The investment of \$10,000.00 took the pressure off of worrying about money and instead, we were able to focus on where we are being led by the Holy Spirit, and we are excited for where and how we are being called to witness God's love in the Baker Neighborhood of Denver, CO.