

Yesterday, I attended the Church Periodical Club (CPC) Affiliates' Workshop: Using Printed Materials to Achieve the Marks of Mission.

Firstly, what are the marks of Mission? According to a 2012 directive, we recognize the 5 marks of mission to be:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

In essence, these lay out the groundwork for mission and ministry work in our parishes, in our dioceses, in our provinces and in our national 'church' governing bodies.

One such organization which has from its inception strove to execute this directive is The Church Periodical Club. The Church Periodical Club is an independent, affiliated organization of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church which is dedicated to the worldwide Ministry of the Printed Word and to the Promotion of Christian Mission. **It is the only organization in the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing free literature and related materials, both religious and secular, to people** all over the world who need and request them and who have no other source for obtaining them. Prayer Books and books for seminarians help them proclaim the good news of the kingdom; educational materials: audio and video materials and computer software help teach, baptize and nurture believers; medical textbooks, agricultural manuals and books for those in local and global mission help us respond to human need by loving service or even non- religious magazines for wives of clergy who have been relocated to both strange and unfamiliar surroundings. The specific materials are determined and purchased by the recipients. Materials must be used within the mission of the Church. NBF Grants are not given for equipment, (such as projectors, readers, computers or shelves) operating expenses, (such as postage and stationery) or for the production of material (such as translations or printing).

Bishop's Curry sermon, which expressed that we are the vine of The Jesus Movement with instructions to Go and share life giving, and liberating love is evident and working throughout CPC. At this meeting, I gathered that they are in the process of reclaiming their former dominance. In spite of this time of renewal and reinvention they managed to donate approximately \$21,000 through grants from the National Book Fund. Their granting is offered annually and is based on receipt of applications from July 1st through June 1st. Currently, the National Board oversees the decision process but they are working on opening this process up to include additional CPC members; a CPC member is someone who pays dues of \$20 for a yearly subscription or who pays \$ 250 for a lifetime subscription.

One thought that permeated the attendees was how to unify and recreate a more solid and accurate database of CPC leadership personnel. Firstly, the Board requests that parish CPC leadership reach out to their Diocesan leadership who in turn should remain in frequent contact with the Provincial leadership to secure the gap to the National Board; maintain the continuum.

Historically, CPC's major source of fund collection is through endowments. In addition, it employs two other fund collection methods:

1. National Book Funds (NBF) which is its eldest has limited itself primarily to books and related materials for adults since the advent of the [Miles of Pennies Fund](#) (M.O.P), the other fund collection method. Grant requests come from schools, libraries, individuals, agencies and parishes throughout the Anglican Communion. Funds to cover the requests are donated by individuals, parishes, dioceses and provinces. Receipts from Ingatherings conducted in parishes on CPC Sundays, Ingatherings conducted by individual dioceses returns from an NBF endowment fund are designated for NBF. Friends of CPC are encouraged to contribute regularly to the fund or to sponsor specific requests for books. Grant applications for funding from this source may be entered for two years consecutively if the request is to assist in providing seed money for a particular applicable program.

2. Miles of Pennies, its more youthful effort is geared toward granting funds for programs for the needs of youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. The maximum grant given by Miles of Pennies is \$844.80 which represents one mile of pennies. Grants are given year round though separate applications may be submitted for only 2 consecutive years. One example of use of this fund would be to request a grant for shipping cost to send used children's books to a community which would benefit from receiving the shared written word. Another may be to have a reading camp for children in a community where they may receive a **NEW** at its conclusion; the wonder of receiving a new book of your own is still *priceless*.

CPC distributes a newsletter quarterly but probably by next issue it hopes to be able to share an electronic version. Please update your individual Provincial CPC leadership with necessary contact information for your parish and simply if you are in need of assistance in executing fundraising events or informational sessions. Let us restore CPC to its heightened grandeur by Raising Money to give it away to persons who desire reading material; continue to help to watch that planted seed GROW and THRIVE and PROSPER