

## HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY BUILDING POST COVID

During this past year, church leaders have struggled to come to terms with restrictions on gathering in our buildings for Sunday and weekday services, how to remain hospitable to those outside groups that have leaned on us in the past, and how to continue ministries to those in our communities. With many folks vaccinated and the Covid metrics thankfully in decline, we are returning to our buildings for worship and other gatherings. Questions are coming up about proper ventilation, and making sure our buildings are healthy. Do we need to replace our HVAC systems? How do we develop safety and improvement plans and/or consult on improving these systems?

The Advance and Development Fund Committee is offering a small grant to be used to consult with representatives from Tetra Tech that will:

- Host a meeting on site that will allow the consultants and parish representatives to gain an understanding of their facilities, and/or proposed HVAC systems improvements
- To understand space utilization
- To review current maintenance/cleaning procedures
- To determine flexibility to make modifications
- The grant will be enough for a two - three hour meeting

Areas of discussion might include:

- Increased cleaning strategies, social behaviors, and procedures
- Enhanced HVAC systems
- Physical environment concepts (use of space or optimizing natural ventilation)

Another important task is to have an energy audit completed. Delaware Interfaith Power and Light provides this important service. Please contact Lisa Locke, Executive Director, at [llocke@delawareipl.org](mailto:llocke@delawareipl.org) for additional information and to sign up for the audit. These audits are free for a while longer, so this is a great opportunity to make this happen.

Following up on the meeting, parish leaders will receive recommendations from Tetra Tech. The grant will not cover additional consultations, but may be rolled into a request to the Advance and Development Funds for a loan to make changes to building systems.

At this time, we have worked with one parish to see how this would work. The feedback has been positive and so now we are offering this service to other parishes.

Please contact Canon Judith Lane Gregory for additional information about this program. She can be reached at [jgregory@delaware.church](mailto:jgregory@delaware.church).

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