

**+EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EL CAMINO REAL
MISSIONAL GRANTS COMMITTEE
Progress Report Form Q2 - 2024**

Name of Church: Calvary, Santa Cruz

Brief Description of your Missional Ministry:

- 1) **Goals of your Ministry:** What progress has been made so far in living into your vision for this ministry initiative? Tell us about the goals that you set for Q2 and how are they manifesting the purpose of your missional ministry initiative in your community. (Congregation and Mission Field)

Calvary has made considerable progress toward our vision for a Labyrinth Garden in Downtown Santa Cruz – Walking in Community, Growing in Spirit. In fact, we believe the project has exceeded our expectations as evidenced by the success of the goals we set for Q2:

- 1) **Host our first-ever World Labyrinth Day event on May 4.** We put an all-out effort into making this a success, inviting a broad spectrum of community members, opening up the church, and participating in World Labyrinth Day promotions. Despite the rainy day (in May!), a hardy group of people participated and the visibility of creating a temporary labyrinth encouraged considerable community interest.



- 2) **Expand community connections.** The labyrinth project website and email address generated inquiries from several unexpected sources. As a result, we now have a connection at the University who has worked with Lars Howlett in the past on a labyrinth at UCMerced. She connected us to a Presbyterian pastor from Santa Barbara who met with us to learn more about building a labyrinth. And we have a new energetic partner who is an academic in mythological studies who has done several video programs on labyrinths. He has offered to document our project in one of his Myth Salon video programs for use by others interested in building a community labyrinth. Other unsolicited emails have come from people who simply want to be a part of our community build when the labyrinth is built later this year. We've also received a couple of unsolicited donations via our website. We have established a "Friends of the Labyrinth"

community email list to keep folks informed and publish our first e-newsletter in July. In other community outreach, we participated in the Downtown Association's Kids Day Downtown by offering kids activities (drawing, coloring, creating their own labyrinths) and offering a temporary labyrinth to hop, skip, jump, or simply walk. Given the enthusiasm we've seen from passersby whenever we're doing something labyrinth-related, we started tabling on the lawn on Wednesdays during the downtown farmers market. The labyrinth project is growing organically through the community!



- 3) **Continue Labyrinth Field Trips.** On June 1, we hosted another Labyrinth Field Trip day for the parish to continue our communication and education process within the congregation. We visited the Rosicrucian Garden Labyrinth in San Jose and a labyrinth at a UCC church in Campbell. These two labyrinths were very different from each other and offered a perspective on how design and materials are important in planning for a labyrinth.



- 4) **Complete contract proposals and set a date for implementation.** We completed and signed the two major contracts for building and implementation of the labyrinth and the surrounding garden. With our contractors, Lars Howlett (Discover Labyrinths) and Terra Nova Landscaping, we set a date for October 26 as the Community Build Day for the labyrinth. We've targeted completion of the surrounding garden for Thanksgiving 2024.
 - 5) **Establish a donor recognition program.** To encourage both internal and external donations to the project, we established a donor recognition program to help people determine how they might want to participate in the project. We're especially encouraging memorial gifts and dedications in thanksgiving or in honor of a person or event. These gifts will be recognized in the garden with plaques displayed on a cross-section of the former Douglas fir that graced our property for over 100 years before its ill health forced us to remove it a few years ago. The polished and weatherized cross-section will be installed at the site where the tree once stood.
- 2) **Point of Reflection at the end of 6 months:** At the end of Q2, please tell us what you are learning about your congregation and your community with the grant from the MGC for missional ministry? Share a story of how your community has changed as a result of your ministry initiative over that past six months.

We are learning how interested and eager the Santa Cruz community is in the labyrinth garden project, and in return, we're learning what a sense of pride this is giving us – we're seeing how much the larger community appreciates us and needs us downtown. What may have always been there in the hearts of the community is now being spoken – we know we've found our place. For instance, at our rainy World Labyrinth Day event, two sisters unaffiliated with our church stopped in with a friend from the parish. Even though it was a rainy day and there was only a painted temporary labyrinth on the lawn, they could see the vision for the future garden. So much so, that they later inquired about the possibility of making a memorial gift to the garden in honor of their mother who had been an Episcopalian. As mentioned above, we've received several unsolicited emails and donations from folks who just want to be a part of the effort, and we've seen passersby light up when we tell them about the vision that is coming. Every single interaction has been positive and filled with joy.

- 3) **Communication with congregation:** Please share how you are communicating with the members of your congregation about the missional ministry that is supported by your MGC grant.

We're taking advantage of every communication tool at our disposal to keep the parish informed. We include information in the weekly email newsletter and we report to the vestry on a monthly basis. Not to mention that a good number of people from the parish are involved in the events we're hosting, so they're seeing first-hand the missional outreach the project is conveying.

- 4) **Companion Congregation:** Please share what you are learning from your Companion congregation, and how this has impacted your own missional ministry. Please share this with a story of how you have benefited and/or how your Companion congregation may have embraced something you have been able to offer.

Frankly, we have not been able to connect as much as we would have liked with our Companion congregation, Holy Family. However, we are very connected in spirit and in enthusiasm. I believe we've been a mutual sounding board and avenue of support. We already had a bond through our interim Peggy Bryan who had been at St. Philip's for a couple of years. She and Ruth Casipit-Paguio helped connect the lay leaders of our two projects. We communicate regularly and plan a visit in July.

- 5) We would like to know how you will continue to develop and expand your missional ministry initiative with your congregation and the community in your mission field.

We plan to build on what we've learned as we move into the next six months and especially in the last quarter when we implement our labyrinth garden. The project team is drafting messaging for parishioners to use in talking about the project to others in the community. We're planning for the Community Build Day on October 26 when Lars Howlett will be with us to lay the bricks and pathways for the labyrinth. We're imagining the community events we'll sponsor with the labyrinth once it's completed, and of course, a community dedication ceremony.

- 6) **End of Q2 Financial Report:** Please report on how you have been using your grant funds for the first two quarters of 2024. Please use specific allocations. (Example: \$X used to fund an event related to your ministry initiative in your community; \$X used to support the Rector's salary.) It is OK if more than 50% of your grant has been used YTD.

In the first two quarters of 2024, we have two expenses against the \$30,000 grant:

- 1) Deposit for contract with Lars Howlett for installation of the labyrinth = \$2,000
- 2) Deposit for contract with Terra Nova Ecological Landscaping for labyrinth installation = \$2,100

Total = \$4,100

Remaining grant funds = \$25,900

- 7) **Please list the people who helped prepare this report and their role in the ministry.**

The Labyrinth Project Team (10 members) reviewed and commented on this report, and various members provided photos. Jillian Steinberger-Foster from Terra Nova Ecological Landscaping provided photos from Kids Day Downtown. Cathy Watson, parish treasurer, confirmed the expenditure numbers. Interim pastor, the Rev. Peggy Bryan, also reviewed the report and provided input and photos.

Please return this form to Carlos Estrada (cestrada11@gmail.com) by July 15, 2024.

We will be asking the liaisons to choose one of the first five questions to share at our meeting on September 10th.