

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH BUILDING FUND

[www.ecbf.org](http://www.ecbf.org)

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Helping Build the Church and Helping the Church to Build*

In faithfulness to our baptismal covenant and our mission as the church to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, and in recognition of the importance of place and space for worship, proclamation and service, the mission of The Episcopal Church Building Fund is to aid in the building, improvement and repair of churches, rectories, parochial and diocesan buildings by providing assistance in planning and loans and to aid in the development of congregations through providing training, education and resources.

**SUMMARY OF WORK**

The Episcopal Church Building Fund (ECBF) was established by the General Convention in 1880 as the American Church Building Fund Commission, a self-supporting agency. In addition to its own funds, the ECBF manages the General Loan Fund portfolio of the DFMS. The ECBF assists congregations with the process of planning for a building project. The goal of these services is to provide the church with buildings that are tools for ministry.

**TO THIS END, THE ECBF PROVIDES:**

**I. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Fixed rate, non-mortgage loans of up to \$350,000 are available to qualifying congregations and organizations of The Episcopal Church, through the diocese, within the domestic United States. Based on the availability of funds, loans of up to \$100,000 are available to dioceses throughout the Anglican Communion, if the diocese is in receipt of funding through the D&FMS budget or the diocese has a custodial trust with the D&FMS.

Loans are issued to a diocese for the applying congregation and are awarded based on evidence of the ability to repay. These monies are available from the ECBF's revolving loan fund. As loan demands increase, additional monies are secured through a debenture investment program with Episcopal parishes, dioceses and organizations.

**II. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

The ECBF produces a printed resource for congregations, *A Congregational Planning Process*, which outlines a planning and decision-making process designed to minimize conflict, set a manageable budget and clarify the architectural implications of the ministries which the building must support. Also published is *The Church for Common Prayer: A Statement on Worship Space for The Episcopal Church*, which sets forth the theological principals for worship space. A video, *Churches for Common Prayer: Buildings for the Liturgical Assembly*, provides a tour through two church buildings—one new and one traditional building, which has been renovated. The video depicts the benefits of flexible space and ways to make church buildings inviting to the newcomer. *The Congregational Builder*

newsletter focuses on practical issues for parishes concerned with how their buildings serve as tools for ministry. *The Congregational Builder* is mailed to every active ordained person and others upon request. All other resources are available to be shipped at a nominal cost. The ECBF web site provides links to resources on accessibility and eco-awareness in building.

### III. DIOCESAN WORKSHOPS

Upon the request of a diocese the ECBF conducts free, day-long workshops for congregations planning a new building, repair, renovation or expansion. Topics include decision-making as a community, determining a realistic budget, the congruence between the ministries and building and a slide show depicting the principles of liturgical design.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNIAL

- Financial** To increase the capacity to make loans, which meet the variety of needs of dioceses and congregations.
- Resources** To expand the written and media resources available to the church for building.
- Consultation** To provide services of education and support to dioceses in their efforts to be stewards of buildings as tools for ministry.