



## Frequently Asked Questions About the Forward Fund

### **What is the Forward Fund?**

The Forward Fund is C4SO's capital campaign to build a Spirit-led future through three strategic initiatives: 1) Equipping new leaders, 2) Planting vibrant churches, and 3) Sustaining faithful clergy. This campaign represents a pivotal moment as we move from our founding season into a new chapter of diocesan growth and impact.

### **What is the vision?**

To cultivate churches that are sources of God's kingdom goodness in cities across America. Led by pastors and leaders shaped by deep spiritual formation and equipped for fruitful mission, these churches exist for the sake of others: for those outside the faith, those who have left the church, and those longing for the healing Jesus brings.

### **Why now?**

We're at a defining moment. C4SO has grown from a small band of congregations into the largest and fastest-growing diocese in ACNA. As Bishop Jeff has assumed leadership of the diocese and as Bishop Todd Hunter prepares for full retirement in April 2026, we have the opportunity to secure the

resources needed to carry this vision forward with the next generation of leadership.

### **Are you creating an endowment?**

No—depending on how much money is raised, funds will be thoughtfully and prayerfully invested in ministry in the next one to three years, ensuring immediate impact in our churches and communities.

### **Does Bishop Todd's retirement change the vision and values of C4SO?**

No. Bishop Jeff carries the vision and values of C4SO instinctively in his heart and soul. Jeff has the gifts and abilities to shape C4SO's future in Spirit-led ways that build on the foundation laid by Bishop Todd.

### **How is this different from C4SO churches' regular diocesan giving?**

The Forward Fund is a capital campaign—a one-time, extraordinary effort to build long-term capacity for three critical areas. While regular diocesan giving supports ongoing operations and ministry, the Forward Fund creates enduring infrastructure for leadership development, church planting and clergy care that will bear fruit for decades to come.

## **Vision and Inspiration**

### **What makes C4SO's approach to leadership development unique?**

We're raising up diverse, young, Spirit-filled leaders who are both theologically grounded and culturally aware, equipped for today's mission field. Our approach emphasizes godly character, pastoral resilience and kingdom imagination. At a time when *Christianity Today* reports declining public trust in clergy, we're investing in leaders who can restore that trust through authentic witness and pastoral excellence.

## Why focus on clergy care?

As you know, clergy health determines church health. When Barna reports that 38% of pastors have seriously considered quitting due to exhaustion and one in five pastors consider self-harm, we face a crisis that threatens every congregation. By investing in clergy renewal, we're protecting every pastor across the diocese. This is essential for the long-term flourishing of our churches.

## How does the Forward Fund reflect C4SO's core values?

Each initiative embodies our five core values:

- Kingdom: We're expanding God's reign through new churches and renewed leaders
- Spirit: We're developing Spirit-filled leaders and Spirit-led communities
- Formation: We're investing in deep formation of clergy and emerging leaders
- Mission: We're equipping leaders and planting churches for the sake of others
- Sacrament: We're strengthening the Anglican sacramental witness across North America

# The Three Strategic Initiatives

## What are the three initiatives?

The Forward Fund will invest in three strategic areas:

- **Church Planting:** Creating new missional and formational communities of kingdom ministry in cities across America
- **Leadership Development:** Creating systems to discern, develop and deploy the next generation of leaders, training them in a kingdom/missional

philosophy of ministry and establishing healthy practices for spiritual growth and self-care

- **Clergy Care:** Creating systems and structures to care for clergy who are increasingly vulnerable to anxiety, depression and leaving ministry

### **How will church planting funds be used?**

C4SO aims to plant new churches in strategic cities across North America in the next several years. Our church multiplication team will award grants on a case-by-case basis, investing in the most fruitful opportunities. These funds cover launch costs, coaching, and support for new Anglican communities that will reach the growing number of Americans disconnected from the Church.

### **How will leadership development funds be used?**

Funds will be spent on activities to discover, recruit, train, deploy, monitor and nurture rising leaders. This initiative will likely include grants for internships at C4SO churches; residencies; curacies; theological and pastoral training; education or in-service training opportunities; and coaching/mentoring that develops diverse, young, Spirit-filled leaders who are theologically grounded and pastorally resilient.

### **How will clergy care funds be used?**

Funds will help fund resources like sabbaticals, counseling, spiritual direction, retreats, assessments, peer support networks and wellness resources — benevolence carefully aimed at what a specific clergy person needs for long-term health and fruitfulness. The goal is to prevent burnout and facilitate long-term flourishing.

### **What impact do you hope to have?**

We envision two primary areas of impact:

- **Evangelistic Impact:** Tens of thousands of people encountering or returning to Jesus through new, mission-minded churches led by young leaders steeped in Scripture and culturally discerning
- **Community Transformation:** These churches will be instruments of kingdom renewal in their neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and families, demonstrating the holistic healing power of Christ

## Next Steps for Congregations

### How can my church participate?

There are several meaningful ways your congregation can engage:

- **Mission Budget Allocation:** Include a Forward Fund gift as part of your annual mission budget planning
- **Individual Donor Cultivation:** Share the vision with parishioners who have capacity for major gifts
- **Prayer Partnership:** Commit to praying for the Forward Fund during worship or small groups

### What's the benefit to my local church?

When C4SO thrives, every congregation benefits. Your investment directly strengthens the entire diocese by creating a robust pipeline of trained leaders, establishing new churches that reach the unchurched, and ensuring your fellow clergy receive the care and renewal they need for long-term flourishing. Healthy diocesan infrastructure means better resources, stronger partnerships and a more vibrant witness across all our churches.

### Can we designate our gift to a specific initiative?

Yes! If your church feels particularly called to support church planting, leadership development or clergy care, you can designate your gift accordingly.

We also welcome general gifts that give the diocese flexibility to direct funds where the need is greatest.

### **What if we're a small church with limited resources?**

Every gift matters—truly. The widow's mite principle applies here. A gift from a church plant of 30 people carries the same spiritual weight and significance as a major gift from a larger parish. Your participation, whatever the amount, demonstrates kingdom values and inspires others.

## **Forward Fund Governance and Accountability**

### **Can you describe C4SO's governance and finance structures?**

C4SO is led by Bishop Jeff Bailey and governed by an Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of clergy and lay leaders from each deanery. The ELT works closely with a Finance Team, chaired by CFO the Rev. Matt Brown, to approve budgets, manage finances and ensure transparency and accountability in all expenditures.

### **Who oversees the Forward Fund?**

The campaign is overseen by C4SO's Executive Leadership Team, in collaboration with the Finance Team and Bishops. It is managed with the same financial accountability and transparency C4SO has demonstrated throughout its history. This ensures your investment is stewarded wisely and directed toward maximum kingdom impact.

### **What are the mechanics of how funds are approved and distributed?**

**Approval:** Funding decisions will be made collaboratively by C4SO Bishops, Executive Leadership Team and the Finance Team, who know our churches and leaders best.

**Distribution:** The Bishop's office, in consultation with the ELT, will carefully design the systems and structures by which monies will be spent. The Forward Fund will officially conclude at Pentecost 2026. At that time, if you would like to explore receipt of funds, contact [Eric Vinson](#), COO, who will guide the request along proper channels.

## **Timing and Process**

### **When should we give to the Forward Fund?**

The campaign concludes at Pentecost 2026 (May 24). That said, we welcome gifts on whatever timeline works best for your church's budget cycle.

### **How do we make a gift from our church budget?**

Contact [Eric Vinson](#) for wire transfer instructions or to arrange an EFT. You can also mail checks designated "Forward Fund" to the C4SO office. We'll provide you with a formal acknowledgment letter for your records.

### ***C4SO Mailing Address:***

The Diocese of C4SO  
1763 Columbia Rd NW STE 14323  
Washington, DC 20009

### **Can we make a multi-year pledge?**

Absolutely! Multi-year pledges (typically two-to-three years) allow churches to make larger commitments while spreading the financial impact across budget cycles. This is particularly helpful for churches that want to participate significantly but need to plan carefully.

## Addressing Concerns

### **Our church has its own building needs. Should we still participate?**

This is a both/and, not an either/or. Your local building needs are important, and so is strengthening the diocese that supports your ministry. Many churches find they can do both by including Forward Fund giving in their annual missions budget rather than their capital or facilities funds. Think of it as investing in the infrastructure that makes your local ministry more sustainable and effective.

### **We already give 5% to the diocese. Isn't that enough?**

Diocesan assessments cover essential operations—staff salaries, administration, basic programs. The Forward Fund goes beyond maintenance to build transformational capacity. It's the difference between keeping the lights on and lighting new fires across North America. Your assessment keeps the diocese running; your Forward Fund gift propels us forward into new territory.

### **What if we're uncertain about our own financial future?**

That's a valid concern, especially in uncertain times. Consider a smaller gift that feels prudent, or explore a contingency pledge that activates only if your church meets certain financial benchmarks. Even a modest contribution signals your support for the diocesan vision and encourages others.

### **How does this fit with other fundraising appeals our church receives?**

The Forward Fund is a once-in-a-generation diocesan campaign. Think of it as a capital investment in C4SO's future capacity. Many churches find they can participate in the Forward Fund while maintaining their existing commitments to other worthy causes because it's a distinct, time-limited opportunity.

## Making Your Decision

**What should our vestry/leadership discuss when deciding whether to contribute to the Forward Fund?**

Consider asking:

- How has C4SO strengthened our local ministry?
- What would it mean for our church if C4SO didn't exist?
- Which of the three initiatives resonates most with our congregation's calling?
- What gift amount would be sacrificial yet sustainable for us?
- How might Forward Fund giving inspire generosity among our parishioners?

**What's a meaningful gift level for a church our size?**

That varies widely based on budget size and congregation priorities. The right amount is what represents genuine sacrifice and faith for your specific congregation. We encourage you to pray about what God is calling your church to give and discuss this prayerfully with your leadership team.

**How do we get started?**

Three simple steps:

- **Pray:** Ask God what he's calling your church to give
- **Discuss:** Bring the opportunity to your vestry or leadership team
- **Give:** Contact the diocesan office to arrange your gift or pledge

We invite every member and friend of C4SO to pray, give and participate in this vision—to see new churches planted, new leaders formed, and clergy renewed for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how your church can help build C4SO's Spirit-led future. Let's go forward together!

[Learn more.](#)