

Subject: Summary of Spaeth Grant Recipients' Projects for the ECCT Mission Council

The Spaeth Committee has never had a Grant application period where so many excellent applications were received. We only wish we could fund all these worthy and faithful projects to their full cost. We settled for dividing the money available evenly between the four creative and well planned projects proposed, and offering a tithe of the Grant money to the fifth proposal in recognition of decades of work in God's vineyard, engaging the faithful in protecting, preserving, and celebrating God's creation and creatures.

Camp Washington/Bart Geissinger \$500

The Camp Washington Alumni Christmas Tree Farm is to be planted in Camp's centennial year. (this spring) The project has as its goals the connection of campers and alums to God's creation, the Camp itself, and the actual hands on work and opportunities of planting, nurturing, cultivating, harvesting, and replanting trees. The Camp hopes that the Christmas Tree Farm will help Camp families develop new Christmas traditions and ways of connecting with Camp Washington. It also aims to conserve a large tract of land with the tree farm.

St Paul's, Southington/The Rev. Dr. Suzannah Rohman \$500

St. Paul's, along with many community partners, is seeking to establish the Southington Common Good Garden. Its goal will be to provide organic, locally grown produce to two feeding programs in Southington. The planting, tending, and harvesting of the garden will include children and adults, churches and social service agencies, a local farm, an Eagle Scout project, and new gardeners and master gardeners. The garden will be sustainable and entirely organic and will feed those who would not ordinarily have access to fresh vegetables.

Trinity Church Hartford and Trinity Academy Elementary School/Barbara Roberts \$500

The proposal is beautification of the urban landscape through rejuvenation of old gardens and planting of new ones. Partners include the neighboring Lutheran church and a non-profit group called Fresh Start which creates job skills, training, work opportunities, and personal development while building furniture out of reclaimed wood. Fresh Start works with the chronically un-employed and those in recovery. The school children will be involved in every aspect of this project, by hands on work and through their curriculum (Math, Science, and Language Arts), as will the parish through worship, work on the project, and celebration of God's creation in a variety of community opportunities.

Trinity Episcopal Church and School, Southport/The Rev. Peggy Hodgkins \$500

The proposal is a vision to grow a large, powerful, multi-faith Environmental witness and activism hub in Fairfield County. The project has several dozen faith and community partners, and envisions the engagement of people of all ages across a variety of traditions. They are working with GreenFaith and a number of other Environmental groups. They already have and/or are planning curriculum for children, and congregations. They imagine seeding and supporting a variety of activities and projects by faith communities on behalf of God's creation, as they seek to preserve, protect and celebrate its beauty and resources. They will be employing the services of an organizer.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey and Anne Rowthorn \$200

Jeffrey and Anne applied for funds to defray the costs of fees for the long list of permissions they will be seeking to publish their next book, *God's Good Earth: Daily Praise and Prayer for Creation*. The Committee decided to tithe 10% of our total Spaeth Grant funding this

calendar year to the Rowthorns in recognition of their early, persistent, wise, and worshipful efforts to raise up Environmental issues, making clear the connection between our Christian faith and our stewardship of God's creation.

The Spaeth Committee will accept applications again in the early winter of 2018.