

New Episcopal Communities Grants

Guidance for Bishop's Endorsement Letter – 2026

Each New Episcopal Community (NEC) Grant application must include a letter of endorsement from the bishop diocesan of the sponsoring diocese. This letter should be written on diocesan letterhead and detail the bishop's support for the community and its place within the mission and evangelism strategy of the diocese.

The purpose of this letter is to help the Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization understand the diocese's relationship with the NEC and the role this community plays in the life and mission of the diocese.

While there is no required format, the advisory group encourages bishops to address the following areas in their letter:

1. Episcopal Relationship and Diocesan Oversight

Please confirm that the community operates with the knowledge and support of the diocese and under the oversight of the bishop.

2. Diocesan Support for the Community

Please describe how the diocese is supporting the development of this NEC. This support may include financial investment, staff support or supervision, coaching or mentorship, diocesan resources or partnerships, or other forms of accompaniment. A financial match is preferred but not required; other forms of diocesan support are also meaningful indicators of partnership.

3. Role in the Mission of the Diocese

Please describe how this NEC contributes to the broader mission of the diocese—for example, reaching new people, engaging communities not currently connected to church life, developing new forms of Christian community, or supporting evangelism and discipleship in the diocese.

4. Support for the Next Faithful Step

Applications to the NEC grant program focus on the “next faithful step” that the community hopes to take in its development. The bishop's letter may briefly affirm the importance of this next step, the diocese's support for the direction of the community, and the potential impact of this work in the local context.

5. Length and Submission

The endorsement letter should typically be one page in length and submitted on diocesan letterhead as part of the NEC grant application.

We are grateful for the leadership of bishops and dioceses across The Episcopal Church who are nurturing new expressions of Christian community. Your partnership is essential to the development of new Episcopal communities and to the church's ongoing mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.