

New Episcopal Communities Grants

The Next Faithful Step • Grant Application – 2026

Thank you for your interest in the New Episcopal Communities (NEC) grant program. These grants are designed to support communities across The Episcopal Church that are forming new expressions of Christian community, reaching new people, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in their local contexts.

This application invites you to describe the community you are building, the people you are seeking to reach, and the next faithful step you believe God is calling your community to take.

We encourage you to respond thoughtfully and to include specific examples from your community. Strong applications help the Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization understand the community you are forming, the relationships you are building, and the opportunities for sharing the Gospel in your context. Clear and concrete responses will show how this grant could meaningfully support your community as it takes its next faithful step.

Basic Information

The following questions gather basic information about your NEC, its leadership, and its relationship with the sponsoring diocese. This information helps the advisory group understand the context of your community as applications are prepared for review.

1. Name of new Episcopal community (NEC): _____

2. Year founded/began: _____

3. Community type

- Traditional church plant
- Identity-focused or niche community (non-traditional)

4. Which description(s) best reflects the primary focus of your community? (Select all that apply.)

- Worshiping community / traditional church plant
- Missional community or neighborhood-based community
- Identity- or culture-centered community (e.g., language, ethnicity, affinity group)
- Service- or justice-centered community (e.g., food ministry, wellness ministry, advocacy)
- Intentional Christian community or shared life community

- Network or gathering around a shared interest or activity (e.g., outdoor ministry, arts, agriculture)
- Diocesan initiative or experimental community project
- Other: _____

5. Diocese _____

6. Community location

Country

Address (city, state, zip):

Primary setting

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Mixed / Multi-site
- Virtual
- Other: _____

7. Primary community leader / point leader

Name

Title/Role

Email

Phone

8. Person completing application (if different from primary leader)

Name

Role

Email

9. Current number of people actively engaged in your community (approx.)?

- 1–10
- 11–25
- 26–50
- 51–100
- 100+

10. Current number of people actively served by your community (approx.)?

- 1–10
- 11–25
- 26–50
- 51–100
- 100+

11. What is the primary ethnicity served by your NEC?

- Arab / Middle Eastern
 - Asian American and Pacific Islander
 - Black / African American / African Diaspora / Caribbean
 - Indigenous / Native / First Nations
 - Latino
 - White / European descent
 - Multicultural / Multiracial
 - Not yet established
- Other: _____

12. Does this community have ecumenical partners?

- Yes
- No

If yes, which denomination(s): _____

13. Community website or social media (if applicable): _____

14. Amount Requested (up to \$20,000): _____

15. Grant contact for financial reporting

Name

Role

Email

Phone

16. Bishop diocesan

Name

17. Upload bishop's endorsement letter

18. Diocesan point of contact supporting this community

Name

Role

Email

19. Has your community previously received an NEC grant from The Episcopal Church?

Yes

No

If yes, briefly describe: (100 words)

Narrative Questions

The following questions invite you to share the story and vision of your NEC. Through your responses, the advisory group hopes to understand what type of community you are building, how you are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and forming disciples, how your community is engaging with its local context, and how leadership and partnerships support the work.

We are especially interested in the next faithful step your community hopes to take in the coming season of ministry, and the role this grant would play in supporting its greater vitality and long-term sustainability.

Please offer concrete ideas and examples whenever possible. Specific descriptions of community activities, relationships, practices of discipleship, and community engagement will help the advisory group better understand your context and discern how this grant might support the continued growth of your community.

Vision & Mission

21. Describe the vision and mission for your NEC. What kind of community are you building, whom is it intended to serve, and why is this community needed in this context? (250 words)

22. In what ways does your NEC share the good news of Jesus Christ and nurture discipleship? Describe specific worship practices, gatherings, or relationships that help people encounter Jesus and grow in faith. (250 words)

Local Context

23. Describe the local setting in which this NEC is developing and how you are engaging within that context. What characteristics of the surrounding community—such as cultural, social, economic, geographic, or spiritual dynamics—shape the mission and priorities of your NEC? In what ways is your NEC present and active in the community (e.g., relationships, partnerships, shared activities, local presence)? (250 words)

24. Who are the primary people or communities your NEC is seeking to reach? Please describe the individuals or groups your community is engaging, particularly those who may be underrepresented in The Episcopal Church or not currently connected to church life. Underrepresentation may include culture, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, life stage, or prior church experience. (250 words)

Leadership & Diocesan Partnership

25. What leadership structure supports this NEC? Describe who all are involved in guiding the community, including the roles of clergy and lay leadership, and how leadership responsibilities are shared. Include the ways your diocese is supporting and accompanying this community.

(250 words)

26. How are decisions made within this NEC? Please describe the governance processes that guide your NEC at this stage in its life, including how decisions are made, how leaders and community members participate in discernment or planning, and how the community remains accountable to diocesan oversight.

(250 words)

Your Next Faithful Step

New Episcopal communities grow in different ways depending on their context and the people they serve. In this section, we invite you to reflect on the next faithful step toward growth and long-term presence for your community—what you believe God is calling your community to pursue in the coming season. In your responses, please share how this grant would support that work and how this step may help your community grow toward a sustainable and long-term expression of Episcopal community.

27. What is the next faithful step for your NEC? Describe the most important development or area of growth your community hopes to pursue in the next 12 months. What do you hope will change, deepen, or expand in the life of your community during that time?

(250 words)

28. How will this grant help your community take that next faithful step? Please describe how the requested funds will support this work, including the activities, resources, or investments that will help move the community forward.

(250 words)

Sustainability & Long-Term Presence

29. If this next step is successful, how do you envision your NEC developing as a long-term Episcopal community? Communities often pursue different models of sustainability, including congregational support, diocesan partnership, collaborative ministry, or other creative approaches. Building on the next faithful step mentioned above, please

describe the trajectory you see for this community over the next several years. What might this community look like as it matures, and how do you imagine sustaining its life and mission in its context?

(250 words)

Budget & Supporting Materials

Please provide a one-year operating budget for your NEC that includes projected income and expenses. This budget should reflect the overall financial picture of the community and help the advisory group understand how the requested grant supports your next faithful step. Download a sample budget [here](#).

You are also welcome to share photos, videos, or other materials that help illustrate the life of your community and the ministry described in this application. These materials are not required.

30. Upload a 12-month operational budget

31. Share photos and/or videos that help capture the life of your community (optional)