

New Episcopal Community Grant Recommendations

Report to Executive Council – Fall 2026

The New Episcopal Community Grants support emerging Episcopal communities as they begin, grow, and deepen their ministries in response to God's call in their particular contexts. Rooted in the priorities established by General Convention and informed by a year of listening and assessment across The Episcopal Church, the 2026 grant cycle introduced a new approach to accompanying these communities and investing in their work.

The response to this year's grant cycle reflects both the vitality of this work and the significant need across the church. A total of 85 applications were submitted, of which 82 were eligible, representing 44 dioceses.

Together, applicants requested approximately \$1.57 million in support. Applications represented communities across The Episcopal Church, including eight locations outside the United States.

Reference: Attached 2026 NEC Grant Snapshot.

A New Approach: The Next Faithful Step

For the 2026 cycle, the Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization moved away from the previous progression of Discernment, Seed, Growth, and Harvest grants and introduced a Next Faithful Step approach.

This shift recognizes that faithful ministry development is rarely linear. New Episcopal communities grow in different ways, at different speeds, and within dramatically different cultural, geographic, economic, and ecclesial contexts. Rather than asking a community to fit a predetermined stage of development, the 2026 process invited each community to identify the next faithful step God is calling it to take and to describe how an investment of up to \$20,000 could help make that step possible.

Discernment and Selection

Each eligible application was reviewed by multiple reviewers using a shared framework designed to consider both the community's current ministry and the next faithful step it proposed.

Reviewers first considered core eligibility requirements, including Episcopal identity and diocesan oversight, the age and developmental stage of the community, the bishop's endorsement and missional alignment, and the presence of a realistic operating budget.

Reference: Attached 2026 NEC Grant Reviewer Guide, Eligibility Requirements.

Applications were then evaluated across 10 areas of discernment: Gospel & Discipleship; Worship & Spiritual Life; Clarity of Vision; Community Engagement; Local Context; Mission Reach; Leadership & Diocesan Partnership; Next Faithful Step; Stewardship of Resources; and Long-Term Trajectory. The framework intentionally considered whether ministries were reaching people not currently connected to an Episcopal congregation or historically underrepresented in the church, while also attending to the particular context, leadership, and trajectory of each community.

Following the individual review process, the advisory group considered the collective reviews and engaged in prayerful discernment to identify the communities recommended for funding.

Recommended 2026 Grant Awards

The Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization recommends 29 new Episcopal communities for funding, representing a total investment of \$565,500.

Reference: Attached 2026 NEC Grant Snapshot.

Funding for these awards will be drawn collectively from:

- General Convention Resolution 2024-A045 – Support New Episcopal Worshiping Communities
- General Convention Resolution 2024-A046 – Support New Bi-Cultural and Multi-Cultural Ministries

Together, these funding sources allow The Episcopal Church to invest in a diverse portfolio of new communities responding to different contexts, populations, and opportunities for mission.

Communities Recommended for Funding

Diocese of Alaska, Eucaristía en Español at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church - \$7,200

Eucaristía en Español is a growing Spanish-language worshiping community at St. Mary’s serving Latino and Spanish-speaking people in Anchorage through monthly Eucharist, shared meals, and an inclusive expression of Episcopal faith. Its next faithful step is to reach more Spanish-speaking through retreats, a Spanish-language book group, music, and continued community outreach.

The Episcopal Church in Colorado, Holy Companion Episcopal Church - \$20,000

Holy Companion is an intergenerational Episcopal community in rapidly growing Sterling Ranch, creating a spiritual home for neighbors—including many who have stepped away from institutional Christianity—while also building meaningful ecumenical and interfaith relationships. Its next faithful step is to establish a consistent rhythm of worship, formation, and service through dependable gathering space, strengthened ministry leadership, and a predictable weekly presence.

Diocese of Dallas, Advent, Celina - \$20,000

Church of the Advent is a new Episcopal church plant in rapidly growing Celina, creating a community of worship, discipleship, and belonging particularly oriented toward young families, newcomers, and people with little or no connection to liturgical Christianity. Its next faithful step is to launch weekly public worship, deepen its small-group discipleship, and expand its reach into the community as it grows from its established core team into a public worshipping congregation.

Diocese of Dallas, Grace Community - \$20,000

Grace Community is a culturally rooted, Farsi-speaking Episcopal community where Persian refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants, and their families find worship, belonging, discipleship, and a connection to the wider Church. Its next faithful step is to establish a consistent, culturally responsive ministry for youth and young adults, creating an intentional pathway for the next generation to grow as disciples, navigate Persian and American identities, and emerge as leaders in the church.

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Mission Épisopale Francophone de la Résurrection - \$20,000

Mission Épisopale Francophone de la Résurrection is a multicultural and multinational French-speaking Episcopal community in Paris, serving people from across the global Francophone community with an affirming and reconciling expression of the Gospel. Its next faithful step is to expand that witness beyond Paris through higher-quality livestreamed worship while beginning to develop culturally grounded French-language Episcopal formation resources for children, youth, and adults.

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, Saint Nino’s Mission Church, Tbilisi, Georgia - \$20,000

Saint Nino's is a predominantly young, lay-led Episcopal community offering an affirming Christian witness in Tbilisi, Georgia, including a spiritual home for LGBTQ+ people and others seeking a more welcoming expression of faith. Its next faithful step is to strengthen its stability and formation through more frequent clergy presence, Georgian-language resources, and continued work toward legal recognition as a church in Georgia.

Diocese of Hawaii, Hālau Wa'a Episcopal, Honouliuli - \$20,000

Hālau Wa'a is a culturally grounded Episcopal community serving the rapidly growing and diverse communities of West O'ahu through worship, small "wa'a" gatherings, service, and ministry rooted in Hawaiian values and culture. Its next faithful step is to deepen its community presence and move toward the long-term vision of Hālau Wa'a Commons, a permanent gathering place for worship, cultural learning, education, and community life.

Diocese of Hawaii, Kāne'ohe Episcopal Ministry Center, Korean Ministry - \$20,000

This emerging Korean-language Episcopal community seeks to reconnect Korean immigrants and Korean Americans on O'ahu with a culturally rooted, grace-centered expression of Christian faith while sharing a ministry campus with a developing Tongan community. Its next faithful step is a 6- to 12-month pilot to build relationships across O'ahu's Korean community, establish a consistent rhythm of prayer and gathering, and grow toward weekly Sunday worship and a committed core congregation.

The Episcopal Church in Idaho, Grace / La Gracia - \$20,000

Grace / La Gracia is The Episcopal Church in Idaho's first bilingual, bicultural Episcopal worshipping community, bringing English- and Spanish-speaking neighbors together as one congregation shaped by shared worship, leadership, formation, and service. Its next faithful step is to build the ministry capacity and financial stability needed to deepen bilingual discipleship, develop lay leaders, expand community relationships, and establish a sustainable foundation for this growing community.

Diocese of Kentucky, Trinity South Sudanese Episcopal Church - \$20,000

Trinity is a new Episcopal congregation where South Sudanese refugees and their families worship in Dinka, English, and Arabic while finding spiritual belonging, practical support, and connection to their cultural heritage. Its next faithful step is to deepen Christian formation for children, youth, and adults, expand educational and family support ministries, develop new leaders, and strengthen its foundation as a sustainable Episcopal mission congregation.

Diocese of Massachusetts, Trinity-Trinidad Episcopal Church, Haverhill - \$20,000

Trinity-Trinidad is a bilingual, multicultural Episcopal community in Haverhill where English- and Spanish-speaking members worship and lead together as one congregation, creating a home particularly welcoming to Latino immigrants. Its next faithful step is to deepen relationships across language and culture, expand sustained evangelism, and equip more members for lay and ordained leadership, with grant support providing the pastoral, translation, formation, and coordination capacity required for a truly bilingual community to flourish.

Diocese of Michigan, Mother of the Savior Church - \$20,000

Mother of the Savior is a bilingual Arabic-English Episcopal-Lutheran community in Dearborn serving Arab and Middle Eastern Christians, immigrants, and refugees through worship, pastoral care, formation, and relationships. Its next faithful step is to build a more sustainable ministry of pastoral care and healing by developing culturally responsive, trauma-informed resources and equipping lay and youth leaders to provide

spiritual care, strengthen Arabic-language worship, and accompany families navigating grief, displacement, immigration, and the ongoing effects of conflict in the Middle East.

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Casa Maria - \$20,000

Casa Maria is an emerging bilingual Episcopal community among immigrant and refugee families in Richfield, Minnesota, where relationships formed through hospitality and practical support are opening pathways to prayer, worship, discipleship, and shared leadership. Its next faithful step is to deepen those relationships into a more intentional worshipping community by expanding bilingual formation, pastoral and spiritual accompaniment, community meals, and opportunities for immigrant participants to discover their gifts and increasingly lead the community's life and mission.

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Good Courage Farm - \$20,000

Good Courage Farm is an agrarian Christian community where worship, discipleship, creation care, food justice, and shared work come together. Its next faithful step is not to add more programming, but to build the organizational capacity needed to sustain what has already taken root by hiring a full-time director of operations, freeing its priest-in-charge and ministry leaders to focus more fully the community's distinctive life of prayer, farming, and hospitality.

Diocese of Missouri, St. Monica Missional Community - \$20,000

St. Monica is an emerging African Anglican-Episcopal community serving African immigrants, members of the African diaspora, and intercultural families in the Greater St. Louis and St. Charles region. Rooted in Anglican sacramental tradition and enriched by African spirituality, hospitality, and worship, the community offers a spiritual home for people who may have become disconnected from their Anglican identity after immigrating to the United States, while nurturing worship, discipleship, pastoral care, youth formation, and belonging across generations.

Diocese of Nebraska, The Benedictine Way - \$20,000

The Benedictine Way is a diverse Christian community in North Omaha bringing Benedictine spirituality into the world through a shared life of prayer, formation, hospitality, service to neighbors experiencing food insecurity, young-adult ministry, and an expanding online contemplative community. Having grown substantially since its founding, its next faithful step is to deepen and distribute leadership by moving its dean of community life into a full-time role, strengthening young-adult ministry, operations, fundraising, retreat development, and the next generation of leaders who can sustain the community's growing mission.

Diocese of New York, The Society of the Siblings at Bethany - \$20,000

The Society of the Siblings at Bethany is an intentional Christian community living, praying, and practicing hospitality together in a previously vacant rectory at the Church of the Atonement in the Bronx. Its next faithful step is twofold: strengthen the legal, administrative, and physical foundation of its first house while preparing to establish a second house at St. Stephen's in Woodlawn, extending its model of prayer, presence, hospitality, and congregational vitality into another Bronx neighborhood.

Diocese of North Carolina, New Hope Collaborative - \$20,000

New Hope Collaborative is transforming the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church campus in East Raleigh into a community hub where faith, justice, service, and relationships intersect. Its next faithful step is to deepen its identity as a new Episcopal community by moving beyond a shared ministry space toward a recognizable spiritual home, creating stronger pathways from community relationships and service into worship, prayer, formation, discipleship, and leadership.

Diocese of Northern California, The Village at St. Patrick's, Kenwood - \$18,300

The Village is a new missional community emerging from St. Patrick's in Kenwood to reach Gen Z and Latino young adults in Sonoma Valley, particularly those who may feel disconnected from traditional forms of church. Its next faithful step is to begin sustained outreach and weekly gatherings that allow young adults to shape the community alongside clergy and peer leaders. Grant support will provide the leadership, food, materials, gathering space, and outreach resources needed to establish that rhythm and build a community of belonging and faith.

Diocese of Northern Indiana, Iglesia Episcopal de Santiago - \$20,000

Iglesia Episcopal de Santiago is a new Spanish-speaking Episcopal community taking root in Goshen, Indiana, where a large and growing Latino population has had limited access to an affirming, sacramental, and liturgical Episcopal community. Its next faithful step is to establish a stable worshipping congregation by deepening relationships with Latino neighbors, expanding the paid ministry capacity of its Spanish-speaking clergy, and developing culturally responsive formation and outreach that can grow into a sustainable Spanish-speaking Episcopal presence in Goshen.

Diocese of Northern Michigan, U.P. Wild - \$20,000

U.P. Wild is a nature-based faith community with seven branches across Michigan's Upper Peninsula, creating spiritual community for people who encounter God outdoors, including many who feel disconnected from or wounded by traditional church. Its next faithful step is to deepen spiritual connection within and among its widely dispersed branches through expanded retreats, rituals, formation resources, gatherings, and shared ministry that can strengthen each local community while knitting the seven branches together.

Diocese of Oklahoma, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Okmulgee - \$20,000

Redeemer is a renewed, Native-led Episcopal community in the capital of the Mvskoke Nation, proclaiming the Gospel while honoring Mvskoke language and culture through worship, children's formation, recovery ministry, hospitality, and relationships among Native and non-Native neighbors. Its next faithful step is to strengthen its ministry with children and families by supporting dedicated children's ministry leadership and expanding discipleship, worship, and formation resources that incorporate Mvskoke language, hymnody, and cultural heritage.

Diocese of Pittsburgh, Church of the Incarnation - \$20,000

Church of the Incarnation is restoring an Episcopal presence to Beaver County after nearly 20 years, welcoming people returning to faith, exploring Christianity for the first time, or seeking an inclusive sacramental community after difficult experiences with the church. Its next faithful step is to establish a sustainable children's ministry through dedicated leadership, welcoming spaces, formation and retreat opportunities, and trained volunteers so that the growing number of children and families can be fully formed and supported in the life of the congregation.

Diocese of San Diego, Good Shepherd, Bonita - \$20,000

El Buen Pastor is a new bilingual and cross-cultural congregation at Church of the Good Shepherd, creating a Spanish-language Episcopal community for Latino families, young people, and unchurched neighbors in the culturally diverse South Bay near the U.S.–Mexico border. Its next faithful step is to deepen this newly launched community through Spanish-language formation, music and worship, fellowship and outreach, leadership development, and culturally grounded opportunities such as Cursillo that can strengthen discipleship and grow a sustainable community of lay leaders.

Diocese of San Diego – Resurrection Episcopal Church - \$20,000

Resurrection is a growing Episcopal community in San Diego’s Ocean Beach neighborhood where LGBTQ+ people and families, unhoused neighbors, people in recovery, young adults, and those wounded by previous church experiences are finding belonging through sacramental worship, relationship, service, and formation. Its next faithful step is to strengthen the ministries and leadership needed for continued growth, with particular emphasis on launching a children’s formation ministry with dedicated space, trained volunteers, and part-time leadership to better welcome and form young families.

Diocese of Texas, Mosaic Episcopal Church - \$20,000

Mosaic is a diverse and inclusive Episcopal community in rapidly growing West Pearland, creating multiple pathways into Christian community for young adults, families, LGBTQ+ people and allies, spiritual seekers, people recovering from church hurt, and neighbors who may not initially connect through traditional Sunday worship. Its next faithful step is to expand the accessibility and reach of its ministry through upgraded audio, visual, assisted-listening, and livestream technology that will strengthen in-person worship while connecting homebound participants, newcomers, and others exploring faith online.

Diocese of Washington, The Well, Bowie, Maryland - \$20,000

The Well is a multicultural Episcopal community with Black leadership in Bowie, Maryland, building relationships with unchurched and spiritually curious people—particularly young adults, young families, and people from the African diaspora and Latiné communities—through hospitality, conversation, service, and accessible forms of worship. Its next faithful step is to expand relational evangelism so its network of small gatherings can grow into a sustainable worshipping community, increasing opportunities for connection, intentionally engaging Black men, developing additional lay evangelists, and broadening digital outreach.

Diocese of Washington, Water and Wilderness Church - \$20,000

Water and Wilderness Church is a fully outdoor Episcopal community worshipping along the Potomac River, creating a threshold between church and world for people who encounter God in nature, seek authentic spiritual community, or have been harmed by or disconnected from traditional church. Its next faithful step is to distribute leadership more deeply among lay members while building the organizational capacity for expanded youth ministry and future “tributary” communities in other dioceses, supported by stronger communications, financial administration, fundraising, and program infrastructure.

Diocese of Western Massachusetts, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Haverhill - \$20,000

St. Paul’s Hispanic Ministry is building a bilingual and culturally responsive Episcopal community in Holyoke where Spanish-speaking adults, children, youth, and families can worship in their own language while becoming fully connected to the life, service, and leadership of the wider parish. Its next faithful step is to move from establishing the ministry toward long-term sustainability by deepening discipleship, developing Hispanic lay leaders, expanding bilingual formation and outreach, and strengthening relationships between the parish’s English- and Spanish-speaking communities.

The Abundance We Could Not Fund

The strength of this year’s applicant pool extended far beyond the communities recommended for grants. Many communities that could not be funded demonstrated strong leadership, meaningful relationships in their local contexts, creative approaches to ministry, and compelling visions for their next faithful steps. The absence of a grant award should therefore not be understood as a judgment on the value, faithfulness, or future of those ministries.

Instead, the 2026 grant cycle reveals something deeply hopeful about the church: There is more faithful imagination, more missional energy, and more possibility emerging across The Episcopal Church than our current grant resources can fund. The applications themselves provide a remarkable picture of leaders and communities experimenting, listening, gathering, worshiping, serving, and building new expressions of Episcopal life.

The Advisory Group gives thanks for every community that entrusted its story, hopes, challenges, and next faithful step to this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Advisory Group on Church Planting and Revitalization

Attachments

1. **2026 NEC Grant Snapshot** – Overview of applications, geographic reach, funding requested, funding awarded, and funded/non-funded communities.
2. **2026 NEC Grant Reviewer Guide** – Eligibility requirements, discernment criteria, and funding recommendation framework used by reviewers.