General Information (ALL)

THE PROJECT

Project Name:

Sponsoring Diocese:

Grant Type:

* Discernment (Ideation - Launch/Year 1), up to $5,000
* Seed (Years 1-2), up to $30,000
* Growth (Years 2-4), up to $30,000
* Harvest (Years 5-6), up to $40,000

Grant Amount Requested:

Site Address:

Point Leader/Church Planter:

Point Leader Email:

Point Leader Phone:

(If available)

NEC website:

NEC social media links:

Links to any other communications platforms:

What category best describes your New Episcopal Community?

* Church Plant
* Non-Congregational Community   
  *(Note: These ministries must be outward facing and have some components of worship, discipleship, and community building.)*
* Intentional Community   
  *(Note: New Monastic, traditional monastic, and other Intentional Communities are only funded if they show evidence of an outward focus and invitation to the wider neighborhood)*
* Other:

In what year did you launch or plan to launch?

Have you received an NEC grant in the past? Please list all with years and amounts.

(\_\_) I acknowledge that, to qualify for another NEC grant, I am required to have completed the Grant Accounting Report for all previous grants received.

Tell us about your NEC in 500 words or less, including how your community is organized and how you gather.

What is your project’s mission and vision? If you have not yet developed mission and vision statements, tell us how you are working toward this step.

What population(s) will/does this ministry target? Please note in particular any populations historically underrepresented in The Episcopal Church? (Youth, Young Adults, People of Color, poor and working class, people without college educations, LGBTQIA, etc.)

What percentage of this population is unchurched?

Tell us about how you are forming disciples, including your pattern of prayer and worship in your context.

Is this a partnership with another denomination? Please describe.

MISSION FIELD

Our primary neighborhood is:

* Rural
* Urban
* Suburban
* Beyond geographic location
* Other:

Describe the characteristics of your primary “neighborhood.” You may define “neighborhood” however is most appropriate in your context.

Describe the socioeconomic conditions of the service area.

Briefly describe what demographic changes are expected over the next ten years.  (What groups are increasing/decreasing in your target area? What factors may lead to demographic shifts?)

Please identify key assets already present in the community that may provide opportunity for this work.  (i.e.; libraries, community centers, nonprofit organizations, and businesses)

What other communities/organizations are present in your “neighborhood,” already doing significant work with your target population?

How will you establish partnerships with other groups?

In your “neighborhood,” what other new churches/communities have launched in the last five years or are in process of being launched?

List the four closest TEC and ELCA congregations, including their average weekly attendance and distance from the primary service area. (Those gathering beyond geography do not need to answer this question):

D006 QUESTIONS

*In accordance with GC2022 Resolution D006, all offices and interim bodies that administer grants must make “diligent efforts to award a significant percentage of grants to congregations and communities of color.” In order that the granting body can report back who has been awarded grants and how they are serving or plan to serve communities of color, please respond to the questions below.*

Is this initiative focused primarily on Latino, Asiamerican, indigenous, or Black populations?

(YES) Have you consulted with TEC staff supporting these ministries?

(YES) What feedback did you receive?

(NO) When do you intend to reach out to TEC ethnic missioners? Do you need an introduction?

(DISC.) As you discern your new community, what percentage of your conversations are with people who are American Indian/Alaska native, Asian, Black or African Diaspora, Hispanic/Latino, White, Multiracial? Please give separate percentages for each ethnic group.

(SEED) As you start this planting season, what percentage of your new community do you anticipate will be people who are American Indian/Alaska native, Asian, Black or African Diaspora, Hispanic/Latino, White, Multiracial? Please give separate percentages for each ethnic group.

(GROWTH/HARVEST) What percentage of your new community are people who are American Indian/Alaska native, Asian, Black or African Diaspora, Hispanic/Latino, White, Multiracial? How are they represented appropriately in your leadership team? Please give separate percentages for each ethnic group.

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Advocate (DA):

*A Diocesan Advocate is a person well connected in the diocesan system and responsible for helping this ministry navigate the system and for advocating for the ministry with the various public in the diocese. They may provide additional development support for the NEC.*

DA Title/Role:

DA Phone:

DA Email:

Fiscal Agent (FA):

*A Fiscal Agent is a member of the diocesan staff who has agreed to receive the grant funds and disperse them to the new ministry, assuring that proper financial controls are in place.*

FA Title/Role:

FA Phone:

FA Email:

How does this project align with your diocesan mission strategy?

Please list the investments your diocese will make in your New Episcopal Community for the coming year. (budget line item, staff support, in-kind support, communications/marketing, etc.)

Bishop’s Endorsement Form

*Attach your Bishop's Endorsement Form. If you have trouble attaching the form or prefer to send it in separately, please email to* [*krengers@episcopalchurch.org*](mailto:krengers@episcopalchurch.org)*.*

Discernment Grant (Ideation - Launch/Year 1)

Why does it matter to discern a new community in this place, at this time?

What do you hope to discover during this period of discernment? What questions are you asking?

Has a core team been identified?

What skills, assets, and networks do you seek to have present on your core team as you discern this potential NEC? What voices need to be part of your discernment and potential launch?

Please provide a detailed description of how you intend to spend the requested funds.

MINISTRY PLAN (SEED, GROWTH, HARVEST)

*A ministry plan is a guide that helps you and your core team communicate and move toward turning your vision into reality.  A strong plan contains at least these core components:*

* ***Outcomes:*** *The difference we want our community to make in God’s world*
* ***Goals:*** *The tangible benchmarks that will get you closer to those outcomes*
* ***Next Steps:*** *What action needs to be taken, by who and by when?*
* ***Resources:*** *How much money (and other resources) is needed, and what are our income streams?*
* ***Accountability:*** *The relationships you will need to manage along the way*

*For more resources on crafting your ministry plan, have a look here:* [*https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/new-episcopal-communities/training/*](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/new-episcopal-communities/training/)

Describe your proposed ministry plan for the next 1-3 of the NEC. If you prefer, you can upload your ministry plan as an attachment. We are looking for evidence of clear strategy, timelines, and measurable objectives.

*Give written and upload option.*

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Please provide a detailed description of how you intend to spend the requested funds.

(SEED AND GROWTH) At this stage of the journey, what does “sustainability” mean to you, in the context of this New Episcopal Community? What are your plans for long-term funding? In particular, tell us about your anticipation of the roles of community stewardship, diocesan funding, and any social enterprises, etc.

(HARVEST) Knowing that our funding in this round and in future rounds is not guaranteed (and is capped at $200,000 per NEC and after 6 years since launch), what is your sustainability plan beyond this Harvest Grant? In particular, tell us about your anticipation of the roles of community stewardship, diocesan funding, and any social enterprises, etc.

Attach a budget for the upcoming 12 months of the NEC. List all expenses, income sources, and include any “off the books accounting” items (such as salaries, rents paid by your diocese).

COMMUNICATIONS & INVITATION

How are you sharing a message of invitation to your target population for this NEC?

How are decisions from the core team communicated and shared with your whole community?

Is your wider diocese aware of your presence? How is your presence known and stories shared beyond the bounds of your NEC?

YOUR CORE LEADERSHIP

Please list your Core Team Members with a brief description of any particular gifts or roles they offer the community:

*A core team is comprised of leaders within your ministry who actively partner with the planter in decision making and supporting ministry development.*

How is your target population (whether a particular ethnicity or socio-economic group) represented on your Core Team?

What other people (paid or unpaid) will bring professional skill to this new ministry? (Musicians, administrative support, financial management, etc.)

How are you forming and empowering leaders in your community?

Has the point leader/planter attended a Discerning Missional Leadership (DML) Retreat through the Office of Church Planting and Redevelopment?

* Yes, attended a DML Retreat
* No, attended a similar assessment retreat in another context
* No, have not yet been assessed and seek an opportunity to meet this requirement

(YES) In the assessment process and feedback, what did you learn about yourself, your gifts for leadership, and any particular challenging areas?

(YES) Have you discussed your feedback with your bishop?

(NO, attended…) Please describe your assessment retreat and the methods by which they evaluated the point leader’s suitability for planting ministry.

Is the point leader engaging in coaching?

* Yes
* No, and I would like help to identify an appropriate coach
* No, I am in process of meeting this requirement

(YES) Please identify your coach and your experience with coaching. How often do you meet? What do your conversations typically entail?

What training, continuing education, or other learning experiences have the point leader and team participated in?

What training (if any) do you intend to pursue in the next year or two?

Seed Grant (Year 1-2)

How did you discern the particular structure (rhythm of life, formation, and worship) of your NEC?

What have you learned in your first 1-2 years of ministry?

Growth Grant (Year 2-4)

Has the point leader/planter remained the same since your launch? If no, please describe the transition process.

How are you preparing/planning for transition in your point leader/planter and/or core team?

Reflect on your first year or two of ministry with your NEC. What goals did you set and accomplish? What goes did you *not* accomplish and why?

What have you learned in your first 1-3 years of ministry?

What plans or objectives did you have in your early years that have shifted as you’ve matured and learned?

What have you discovered to be your measures of success?  How are you communicating these measures to your team, to your diocese, and your other supporters?

Harvest Grant (5-6)

How are you preparing/planning for transition in your point leader/planter and/or core team?

What has the point leader/planter learned about their own leadership over the last year or so? What are their strongest gifts and challenge areas?

What joys and celebrations have taken place in your community in the last year or two?

What does your community’s rhythm of life look like at this point in your maturity?

What concerns are currently presenting in your community?

Which benchmarks seem to be within reach for your community?  Which may still be a ways off?  Which are less meaningful to your community, and what would you add instead?

What have you discovered to be your measures of success?  How are you communicating these measures to your team, to your diocese, and your other supporters?

FURTHER TRAINING & RESOURCES (SEED, GROWTH, HARVEST)

What training and resources do you feel you still need?

What do you wish you had known before you started your NEC?   
*Answers to this question help us improve the training and resources out of our Office of Church Planting for The Episcopal Church.*

What resources (books, articles, podcasts, experiences, etc.) would you recommend to fellow church planters?