August 25, 2019 – Pentecost 11 (C)
Meet our Episcopal Service Corps (ESC) Programs: Life Together

Life Together is the ESC member program based in eastern Massachusetts. This program hosts up to 18 fellows in 3 houses for 10-12 month placements, with the opportunity to continue in a second year. They are committed to renewing the Church as a school of love and aim to awaken hearts, raise voices, build relationships, and act through the teachings and practices of love that will change lives and communities. Their mission is to raise the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders for the church and world.

During their #ServiceYear, all Life Together fellows live in intentional community and work for social justice in schools, non-profits, and churches, while spending one day per week developing leadership skills, nurturing their spiritual growth, and deepening community relationships. In general, fellows serve where the need is greatest, but their placements are also meant to be places where they can engage in work that speaks to their heart, challenges them to ask big questions, and brings them joy. These placements include a group of first year and second year fellows in the Boston area and a cohort of teaching fellows serving in Lawrence through a partnership with Esperanza Academy.

Throughout their time together, fellows learn contemplative worship composed of sacred chant, Lectio Divina scriptural meditation, centering prayer, and silence. Fellows meet individually with a spiritual director every month and are encouraged to experiment with contemplative practices in their intentional communities and to lead worship in trainings throughout the year.

All Life Together fellows live in intentional Christian community for 10-12 months. Upon moving into a house, fellows create their community’s
rule of life, or living house covenant, to continually shape a healthy rhythm of fellowship, self-care, and worship. Communal practices include circle practice, study of the Enneagram, nonviolent communication, and the creation of community covenants. Prophetic practices include team-building, telling a public narrative, conducting 1:1 meetings, building a shared purpose, and other practices of community organizing. These practices help fellows become agents of personal and social transformation, in their communities and in their own lives.

Fellows share a community meal together each Monday evening and meet several Friday mornings a month with Prayer Partners. Prayer Partners are volunteers--Life Together alumni, priests, spiritual directors, and friends of the program--who accompany our fellows in deepening their learning and spiritual growth as a community. Learn more about Life Together at lifetogethercommunity.org.

About Episcopal Service Corps
Episcopal Service Corps is a network of young adults ages 21-32 serving through locally organized intentional communities that are dedicated to: serving others in solidarity; promoting justice in community; deepening spiritual awareness and vocational discernment; and living simply.

In return for volunteering, Corps members receive housing, health insurance, and small stipends to cover living expenses, transportation and food. For many young adults, this year serves as an opportunity for vocational discernment broadly understood. Most of our participants move into positions of leadership within their local churches, the wider Episcopal Church, and community organizations. Learn more about ESC on the web at episcopalservicecorps.org and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @EpiscopalServiceCorps.

Know someone who might be a good fit for a #ServiceYear through ESC? Send them a link to the application: episcopalservicecorps.org/esc-application. A few programs are still accepting applications for the year starting in August 2019. Questions? Contact Wendy Johnson, esc@episcopalchurch.org.

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