



Covenanting Worksheet

We know from experience that New Episcopal Communities have their best chance of achieving success, health and resilience when there is: 1. A shared vision AND 2. A strong system of mutual accountability among the new community, their diocesan leaders, and any sponsoring parishes.

Use this worksheet as a guide as you share your vision and ministry plan with your Bishop, Canons, CFO, etc. Bring it with you (complete or incomplete) to our NEC Activator. Don't be tempted to fill it out on your own just to "get it done" - the whole point is that the answers are discerned together. Most of these questions will continue to live with you throughout the early life of your new community - revisit them with regularity!

Read pages 23-26 of the "What to expect when you're starting a New Episcopal Community" guide. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/new-episcopal-communities/training/>

Vision

The difference we Covenant to work together to make in God's world through this New Community is:

What would success look and feel like for this new community?

What do we imagine long-term sustainability looking like for this new community?

Roles

Has your ministry discerned a Point Leader? In a few sentences (not a complete job description), describe the Point Leader's role:

Who are the Diocesan leaders (and the sponsoring parish leaders) who have a role in this new community? Come to clarity about this with your Bishop, list them here and describe their roles:

Who is this new community's direct contact at the Diocesan level? (At the sponsoring parish level?)

Sending and Being Sent

How does this new community fit in with the dioceses' wider strategy and priorities for mission?

What does it feel like to be the Sender? To be the one sent? What is the hope in you that makes taking this risk worth it? Use this worksheet to take some notes.

What does the wider Diocese, and those who make decisions about budget and resources, need to see in order to support this new community - financially and spiritually?

Are you planning a "sending" or "commissioning" liturgy/event for this new ministry? What will it look like?

When you are describing this new initiative to others in the wider diocese, what will be your shared message?

Committed Resources

What are the financial, tangible and human resources that will be committed to this new community by (by the diocese, sponsoring parishes, the point leader and core team)? Consider crafting a chart like this:

Resource:

Length of time:

Date when we'll reassess the need for this resource:

Practices of Accountability

When, and how often will we meet together to discuss the progress and well being of this new community? Who will be at these check-ins, and at whose initiation will they happen?

What will be our agenda at check-ins?

Are there any behavioral norms we can set now for these check-in conversations, that may help us communicate and problem-solve effectively when this new community hits setbacks or experiences failure?

Are there certain ways the new community should be prepared to report on its progress to the wider diocese? (to Diocesan Council, budget committees, diocesan newsletter articles, etc.)

*The Episcopal Church
New Episcopal Communities
March, 2021*