

Contextual Funding for a New Episcopal Community

1. How much money does the NEC leader need?

Does the planter want/need to be full-time, bi-vocational, co-vocational, or non-paid vocational? There's no correct answer to this question, but honesty on the part of the planter is a must. Think about it this way: what financial support will enable you to do this work? Dioceses should approach this conversation with the planter without judgement.

2. How much money does the new community need?

What are the benchmarks of success that the planter and judicatory have agreed upon? What are the financial resources that will be needed to meet them? Will you need consistent space, and for how many hours a week? Will you need to pay a musician, a community organizer, or for some help with business admin?

3. How many fundraising streams can we flow into this community, and what is their capacity?

It will take multiple funding sources to get a New Episcopal Community off the ground. Consider:

- Your Diocese
- Parishes in your diocese
- Grants
- Fundraising from supportive individuals
- Community stewardship (what's our model of ministry, and how many financial contributors can we expect? Depending on our context, what's their capacity?)

4. What's Plan B (and C), and when do we move to it?

You'll want to have a plan in case you don't meet your highest fundraising goals, or if grants are taking a while to come through. What's Plan B, and at what point in your bank account will you switch over?

5. What is the "final stretch" strategy?

If your NEC has been given a time frame after which diocesan funding will end (or NEC grant funding, etc.), what is your plan for closing the gap? Cut costs? Increase giving and attendance? Start a social enterprise? The options are limitless, but you'll want to start forming a plan.

6. What's our exit strategy?

If your NEC doesn't turn out as planned, the fruit isn't what you hoped for, or if you as the leader can no longer afford to continue, what's your strategy for ending well? Remember to budget for a faithful and graceful ending.