

Episcopal Enterprises Service Corp – Defining the Role

About Episcopal Enterprises

Our motive for launching Episcopal Enterprises was to create new channels of revenue that churches can use to fund programs with more impact -regardless of their size. We work to balance fresh, idealistic ideas with realistic analysis of what an organization is capable of and what its community needs and is willing to pay for. Our services facilitate imagining, launching and scaling up ministry-based businesses, including strategies for repurposing buildings and property.

Many churches are in economic crisis due to declining membership and expensive buildings and grounds which no longer serve member interests. But in crisis, there is also a huge opportunity to return faith-based organizations to their roots as providers of service and economic development. Under-utilized assets plus the talents and passions of parish members can address a wide variety of needs and generate income. Housing projects, community gardens, social service programs, swap meets, and community cafes are but a few of the businesses which are springing up around the country.

Since we began our work last year, we have determined that Parishes come to us in various stages of readiness to launch a social enterprise. Our incubator program, the EE Academy, is a good match for Parishes that have members with business expertise but others really require outside help to succeed. This has led us to conclude that we need a cadre of volunteer coaches who can guide a Parish's leadership in the planning process and help them to secure the technical assistance and training needed to launch a venture.

We invite you to be an EE Service Corp Coach

The role is perfect for a successful entrepreneur or someone whose profession serves entrepreneurs (management consulting, accounting, legal, etc.) that can guide this process. Orientation and training will be provided but some experience with managing budgets, developing plans and objectives and/or with nonprofit and church culture will also be helpful.

We anticipate the following possible activities once you are assigned to a Parish:

1. Advise Parish leadership in determining assets and opportunities that could be the basis for a new enterprise, and in identifying what technical assistance (EE Academy, other incubators, one-off workshop on particular topics, written materials etc) would best serve them.
2. Oversee the design and execution of market research to test the viability of possible enterprises;
3. Assist in recruiting a Business Advisory Committee that can provide expertise not already "in house" for parts of the business planning;
4. Update the Service Corp management on progress being made and on what additional training or resources are needed;
5. Be generous in sharing contacts or other resources that might help build success;

6. Help the team prepare a plan and presentation that can be used to secure seed capital;
7. Be confident that the business they are planning will be implemented and that it will produce the intended social and financial returns for the Parish.

What We Will Provide

Episcopal Enterprises has gathered and developed training materials, a library of business planning and best practice templates, and an expanding roster of subject matter experts to support our Service Corp members. This includes our plan to host monthly (mostly Zoom) meet-ups for Corp members to offer supplemental information and case studies, to continue to discern what's needed to break through barriers to launch and to generally encourage "cross-pollinating". We will also set up a Slack group.

Assignments will be made to vetted Parishes that are able to articulate needs and demonstrate the capacity to move forward. Matches will be based on the skills and interests of Corp Members. The time commitment expected is an average two hours a week for 3 to 6 months. Although the ultimate "key performance indicator" is progress towards the successful launch of mission-based products or services, Service Corp members can also count on personal results such as the satisfaction of serving and the chance to take credit as a business coach.

POSSIBLE SCENARIO FOR SIX MONTH ENGAGEMENT

1. Establish a Relationship with the Priest in Charge
 - a. Learn about the church and programs -read documents, review website, do a tour, etc-.
 - b. Define working communications and meetings —how often to meet, setting up standing appointment, email or phone, etc—.
 - c. Discuss and identify goals/ vision for the Parish —Who do they serve? Who could they serve? What would make the biggest difference in their organizational capacity?-
 - d. Discuss and identify internal resources —current leadership, under-utilized physical and human resources—that could contribute to a new or expanded enterprise.
2. Drive development of a work plan and timetable.
 - a. Use to refine and create pathway to the goals/vision.
 - b. Make it basis for a 3-6 month planning process.
 - c. Help to recruit a team of stakeholders ready to participate in the process.

If you want more information or volunteer for the Service Corps

Call to 562-359-7534 or email taniavasquez12695@gmail.com and get in touch with our social enterprise coordinator.