

# Innovation Grant

Made possible by the North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation

The North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation (NCECF) has invited the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and diocesan churches into a partnership to ensure churches have the tools they need to take the first (or next) steps to thrive in our new technological landscape. Long a source of support for bricks-and-mortar church buildings, NCECF views the foundational business tools that comprise this grant as the “bricks and mortar” of the 21st-century church.

Funded entirely by NCECF, this grant allows the Diocese to take a journey with the churches that apply, providing support and conversation to ensure these tools can be used to build new avenues previously unavailable.

The grant offers specific tools, and applicants are eligible to receive any and all components not already in use by the church; **this grant does not apply to replacing hardware already owned by the church or funding subscriptions already in place.** Funds will be provided directly to churches to purchase needed hardware and subscriptions identified in the application. Also included in the grant is technical and tutorial support.

## Reporting Guidelines

There are only two reporting requirements.

1. **As funds are spent, keep your receipts for the various pieces of equipment, subscriptions, etc. your church has purchased through the grant, and submit all of them in one email to [grants@episdionc.org](mailto:grants@episdionc.org).** The easiest way to do this is to scan receipts or take pictures of them with your phone, then attach all files to a single email. If you would rather send all of your receipts by mail, mail them to:  
Innovation Grants  
c/o Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina  
200 West Morgan Street, Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27601

We will take receipts in any form as long as they are in one organized bundle (not submitted one at a time). **The deadline to submit receipts is March 31, 2021.** If you have not spent all your grant funds by March 31, 2021, submit receipts for what you have spent by that date and then report the rest with the second step listed below.

*Example: If your church has requested a Zoom subscription, a QuickBooks subscription and a camera for livestreaming, you will need to submit three receipts: one from Zoom, one from QuickBooks and one for the camera.*

2. **Once per year during the two-year grant period, submit a brief report documenting the impact of the grant to [grants@episdionc.org](mailto:grants@episdionc.org).** Reports are due December 1, 2021, and December 1, 2022. The exact information each church needs to report depends on the types of funding each church receives. The report might include the following information:
  - a. a link to the church's website,
  - b. a link to the church's database,
  - c. the amount of money raised via online giving during the reporting period,
  - d. the average weekly number of online worshipers during the reporting period,
  - e. a description of the overall impact of the grant funding on the church's congregational community and ministry.

*Example: If your church has requested a Zoom subscription, a PushPay subscription for online giving and a camera for livestreaming, you will need to include items c, d and e in the reporting, but not items a and b since the church did not request a website or a database. **All reports will include item e.***