



Grow Church

Grow Church: A Congregational Development Program offered in partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia and the Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI)



Why is the program called Grow Church?

The name Grow Church has several significances. First, we take seriously Jesus' call for us to go into all the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28). We are called to grow the Church, but it isn't *just* about the numbers. We're called to participate in God's transformative mission in the world around us, helping make disciples, and we're best-equipped to do this work as we grow in our own relationships with Jesus Christ and as the Body of Christ. It's our deepest hope and prayer that, by participating in Grow Church, laity and clergy of the Diocese of West Virginia will grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ and, along the way, strengthen their parishes, the Diocese, and the whole Church.

What is DCDI?

The Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) is a leadership training program focused on developing the spiritual community and organizational life of congregations. It equips leaders to serve their congregation through a highly integrated training experience that engages participants in the issues and dynamics that they face as leaders. DCDI is a program for clergy and lay leaders who desire to transform their congregations by making them stronger, healthier, more deeply rooted in Anglican Spirituality, more responsive to God, and more effective in their communities.

DCDI provides the foundation for Grow Church, and we will tailor their program to meet the specific needs of the Diocese of West Virginia.

Who does it impact?

Individuals – in spiritual formation, expanding self-awareness, leadership skills, and ability to work in teams
Congregations – in defining clarity of purpose, encouraging healthy dynamics, and intentional development
Diocese – in providing a common theory base, along with the tools and skills of congregational development that build a critical mass of healthy congregations.

Grow Church is for laity and clergy alike. Individuals, whether lay or clergy, are welcome to sign up; we particularly encourage congregations to send teams to Grow Church so that participants may share their learning together and have a deeper impact in their parish.

What does the Grow Church program look like?

Grow Church is a two-year program that gathers four times per year (eight times over two years) for overnight meetings around the Diocese. Programming kicks off Friday morning and runs through Saturday midday, with participants departing in the early afternoon following lunch.

Each overnight event will focus on forming participants as a community and as members of the Diocese of West Virginia, teach congregational development skills, and offer opportunities for continued spiritual formation and worship.

What is the cost of Grow Church?

For 2023-2024, Grow Church costs **\$500 per person**. This includes all materials and meals for participants at the four yearly gatherings. This **does not** include overnight hotel accommodations, although we are working to secure discounted hotel blocks. Whenever possible, we encourage congregations to help offset costs for participants. Checks may be made payable to the Diocese of West Virginia with “Grow Church” in the memo line.

What are the dates and locations for Grow Church 2023-2024?

Please note: these dates are for a Thursday night arrival, with programming on Friday and Saturday.

October 5-7, 2023, at St. Matthew’s, Charleston
November 30- December 2, 2023, at St. Matthew’s, Wheeling
March 14-16, 2024, at Trinity, Parkersburg
May 9-11, 2024, at St. James, Lewisburg