

Application to Participate

This PDF file is for reference only. Please go to www.edow.org/tending-apply to apply.
Due date: March 19, 2021

Thank you for your congregation's interest in participating in the Tending our Soil initiative. Tending Our Soil is a three-year process for congregations to work with coaches and peer congregations to clarify mission and vision, reconnect with your neighborhood, discern where God is calling your congregation to mission, and either launch a new, or re-vision an existing ministry.

Each year, congregations will meet eight times with trained ministry coaches, participate with peer congregations in four learning labs and two group coaching sessions, and engage the entire congregation in a process of focused revitalization. Congregational teams will be comprised of 4-6 vestry-approved lay members plus a clergy member able to make a three-year commitment.

For more information about the program, please see the [Tending Our Soil description and timeline](#).

To prepare for the application process, you will need to:

1. Read and review the application questions with the vestry.
2. Download a *FullInsite Report* (from [MissionInsite](#)) for your congregation with appropriate travel radius (recommended: 20-minute drive if rural context, seven-minute drive if suburban, and 20-minute walk if urban). You will upload this report as part of your application.
3. Download and review [the Parish Vital Signs](#) as a vestry.

Please complete and submit the [online application](#) by March 19, 2021. Upon completing the application, you will be contacted by a member of the Diocesan Staff to schedule a follow up interview in April or May. Invitations for participating congregations will be made by June 1, 2021.

Consider attending one of two one-hour Tending Our Soil information sessions either February 4 at 7 pm or February 18 at 12 noon. ([Register here](#))

For assistance with the parish vital signs or the *MissionInsite Report*, please contact [the Rev. Todd Thomas](#). For general questions about the Tending Our Soil initiative, please contact [the Rev. Jenifer Gamber](#).

1. Congregation Name and Contact Information

Congregation Name
Street number and name
City, State, Zip Code

Primary contact for communications
Email + Phone/Cell

2. Has your congregation engaged with parish vitality resources in the past 3-5 years? If yes, which?

- The Unstuck Group resources
- MissionInsite
- EDOW *Vital Signs Discussion Guide*
- Diocesan trainings
- Other _____

3. Which of the seven parish vital signs are sources of strength for your congregation? How does your congregation exhibit those signs? (100 words or less)

4. Which of the seven parish vital signs are sources of opportunity for your congregation? What about your congregational context (e.g. neighborhood, gifts of the congregation) has led you to identify this as an opportunity? (100 words or less)

5. Based upon your *FullInsite* report, what are the basic trends in your neighborhood that present opportunities or challenges for your congregation? (100 words or less)

6. What excites you about Tending Our Soil? (100 words or less)

7. What challenges do you anticipate in participating? (100 words or less)

8. Is the congregation ready? Review the following and indicate whether your congregation is ready by checking the box.

- Will you have a clergy person and 4-6 vestry-approved lay leaders willing to engage in the process of learning and practicing over 3-years beginning September 1, 2021?
- Do you believe your congregation's existing models of ministry need revisioning and strengthening and are you open to exploring new models of ministry?
- Does the congregation have sufficient financial stability and congregational trust to engage wholeheartedly in the process?
- Is the leadership in your congregation willing to ask deep questions about their leadership and their congregation, and are they open to change?
- Can the leadership team make a three-year commitment?
- Can the leadership team carve out the time to participate fully?

The cost to participate is \$300/year per congregation as a sign of commitment.
Will your congregation need a scholarship to participate? _____ Yes _____ No

Upload your congregation's *FullInsite Report*.

This application was submitted with the approval of the vestry by:

Rector/Priest (Name, signature, date)

Senior Warden (Name, signature, date)