

## What Is a Ministry Innovation?

An undertaking of a new ministry enterprise

- for the express purpose of engaging with people and communities in order to equip, serve, and heal the world
- among people not presently members of any parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
- by members of the Diocese of Atlanta - convocation(s), parish(es), or other worshipping community, or individuals
- in partnership with others both inside and outside the diocese who say it with cash and in-kind contributions
- introducing concepts and practices that are new to a community, new to the diocese, or some combination thereof, and
- with the potential to become financially sustainable (i.e., self-supporting) within three years if seeking a grant from the Innovations in Ministry Fund.

So, a ministry innovation can be new work in a familiar place or new or familiar work in a new-to-us place. And it is work that some folks agree together needs to be done and that they are willing to do. It's also work that requires Episcopalians to serve alongside non-Episcopalian neighbors for the common good.

A ministry innovation is not an idea—even a good idea—that Episcopalians have dreamed up to deliver to their community without consulting with the community. It's service alongside community members and ministry partners, not "charity" and not "help." It should have the potential for mutual transformation and growth—of all involved.

It doesn't have to reach huge numbers of people, but it does need to connect us to people who are not currently served by any ministry connected to the Diocese of Atlanta. It isn't a liturgical offering (such as a worship service) unless it's a liturgical offering connecting us to new-to-us people. It's a well- designed experiment in ministry that has built-in ways of measuring how we will know if the experiment is successful.

Is God calling you to a new thing in one of the 28 counties in the diocese's geographic area where we have no consistent Episcopal presence or witness and are conspicuous by our absence?

Is the Holy Spirit whispering to you an idea about something new in the context where you currently live and serve?

Do you feel a holy nudge toward a global endeavor?

What's your idea for getting the church outside our buildings?