

Province IV Workshop
June 8, 2017

Tools for Congregational Development

This workshop is intended to provide information on how congregational development is enhanced in the Diocese of Southeast Florida via two of its entities: The Nehemiah Process and Episcopal Charities. Information will be shared both by the diocesan workshop presenters and workshop attendees from other Province IV dioceses. The expected outcome is for participants and presenters to gain helpful ways to implement and effect congregational development.

Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida(EC)

EC is a nonprofit organization that provides grants and information to parishes and community organizations with close ties to parishes in the diocese. It is one of the few EC's in the province. Services and support includes:

- Outreach funds to eligible parishes providing outreach services in their communities
- Funds to nonprofit service organizations working with EC funded parishes
- Helps parishes to discern and meet community needs
- Works with the diocese's social concerns effort to supplement funding and services
- Provides small grants (\$1,000) seed money to special parish start up projects and parishes are expected to continue the efforts after one year
- Connects parishes via messenger program where interested community and church members interested in outreach. Members discuss and tie in similar programs and help booster operations of outreach efforts

The Nehemiah Process

Nehemiah is the primary congregational development arm of the diocese having been in existence over 14 years. Nehemiah gathers parish representatives on a regular basis where information is presented and shared via presenters, steering committee members and by members attending the sessions. Parishes' successes and failures in implementing projects based on information gained during the sessions are discussed along with best practices. Over 30 parishes are involved in Nehemiah.

Tie Ins

The Episcopal Charities and Nehemiah Process tie-ins include:

- Workshops and sharing resources of the EC and Nehemiah parishes engaged in congregational development. This maximizes the use of resources in development efforts.
- Connecting Nehemiah parishes with other parishes engaged in outreach and/or development in the community
- Sharing outreach successes in order to improve congregations' involvement in their communities

What works well in your diocese to connect parishes, share information and help outreach efforts in communities surrounding parishes? What congregational development tools work in your diocese?