

Beloved Empowered

Engage with the Beloved & Empowered campaign by hosting an event of your choosing for your congregation or faith community! We want congregants to know about the diocese's commitment to youth and young adults and to feel connected to it and to one another.

The primary goal of these events is to engage together, as the faith communities of the diocese, in support of this shared ministry.

This packet offers suggestions for connecting your event to the Beloved and Empowered campaign's purpose of supporting youth and young adult ministry – and for making it a more meaningful event in the life of your congregation.

There are three categories of suggestions: Gather, Fundraise, Connect.



GATHER

Your parish probably has a way that it gathers for special events – potluck, catered meal (by church team or outside group), pancake breakfast, etc. Choose an option that is in your wheelhouse.

Consider the following ideas for matching the event with the campaign:

- For a potluck, encourage people to bring something they learned to make as a young adult.
- For a potluck or a provided meal, have a “camp” theme and serve food that you would make while camping or spending time at Waycross.
- Hold your event after church on Youth Sunday if you typically have one.
- Involve youth and young adults in the event (e.g., serving, cooking, cleaning up)
- Or do something else that your planning group finds appealing



FUNDRAISE

Share the why. The money raised through these events will be used to provide long-term, consistent support for youth and young adult ministry. With sustained investment, the diocese will have the capacity to serve 1,000 youth and young adults by 2035 — but don't stress about how much an event raises. The dollar amount isn't the point and any amount raised is helpful! The purpose of this aspect of the campaign is participation and connection. The Beloved & Empowered Case Statement has additional information and quotes you are free to use to help underscore the purpose of this campaign. Consider the following ideas for raising funds::

- Increase the suggested amount for a free-will offering to raise more money.
- Invite people to support the event at different levels:
 - A casual event might ask for:
 - Supporter - \$10 per person
 - Steward - \$25 per person
 - Champion - \$50 per person
 - Child - \$5 or free
 - Include an option for those who cannot pay at this time
 - A fancier event might be
 - Supporter - \$25 per person
 - Steward - \$50 per person
 - Builder - \$100 per person
 - Champion - \$150 per person
 - Include an option for those who cannot pay at this time

Tip: If your event is on the higher-cost end, you might record the tax-deductible portion of the event in your giving tracking system.
- Add a silent auction to your event – it increases the workload, but it also increases connection and fundraising potential.
 - A Time and Talent auction allows congregants to volunteer their unique services for the event, e.g., babysitting, teaching, pie-making, pet care, or a homemade loaf of bread every month.
 - Dinner experiences – ask congregants who enjoy hosting people for dinner to donate a dinner. People are invited to bid on a seat (or two) at the dinner. This is best offered with several themed options for the dinner (e.g., fondue dinner, murder mystery dinner, Italian Night). You can do an upfront cost - \$50 or \$100 buys you a seat at the dinner, or let people bid on a seat.

Tip: The bidding sheets should clearly note how many seats a donor is bidding on.
- Set a goal for your parish and make a direct ask. People like to know what they are aiming for and how they can be a part of it.



CONNECT

Your event is a way to connect your congregation with one another and with the important, life-shaping work that happens in youth and young adulthood. Consider the following ideas for adding connective elements to any event:

Pictures from Youth/Young Adulthood

Invite attendees to bring in pictures of themselves as youth or young adults. During the gathering, invite them to share with those at their table their picture and what was going on in their lives that was meaningful to them at that time.

Variation: In advance, ask your Vestry to bring in pictures of themselves as youth or young adults. Put them on a board and number them, and then let attendees guess which picture is which Vestry member. After the game, invite a few of those Vestry members to share their picture and how the church shaped them in their youth and young adulthood.

Church Map

The church is everywhere and touches us in multiple stages of our lives. Put up a United States map and have people place pushpins where they have been part of a congregation or faith community; use a special color for churches they attended in youth and young adulthood. You could also do another special color for Episcopal churches.

Variation: If you only have a few kids and want to include them at the event, give them little pads of paper and ask them to go around and ask the adults for their names, the other Episcopal churches they have attended, and where they are. Then, with an adult's help, label those places on the map. They don't have to put the person's name on it; the point is to create a visual of the way the church is bigger than our current one and to promote interaction between kids and adults at your event.

Three Things Mixer

Have people register in advance and submit three details about their youth and young adulthood (e.g., where they went to college, where they lived, and the jobs they held). Put a word limit on it and make sure they know these things will be shared publicly. When people check in at the event, give them someone else's three things (without the name) and invite them to find that person in the room. Some people will participate; some people won't; that's fine. At some point in the evening, ask the room if people have found their person, and invite a few people to share their person's three things.

Variation: If you are expecting a large event (50+ adults) or you don't want to do pre-registration for your event, you might want to ask just a dozen people you know are coming to share with you their three things in advance. Create a "Find the person" activity – one-page front and back with each person's three things and a blank for them to write their name. Upon arrival, give each person the page and invite them to find the people in the room. At some point during the event, get the room's attention and identify the correct people who went with each set of three things.

Table Questions

To promote conversations connected to our purpose, have two questions on each table and announce a time for those questions to be the focus of the table's conversation. Possible questions include:

- What are you grateful for learning in youth or young adulthood?
- How did you learn it?
- How was the church or a faith community there for you during your youth and young adulthood?
- How do you wish they had been there for you?
- What do you see or hear the youth and young adults of today longing for?
- How is it similar or different from what you long for?

Speaker(s)

Invite a youth or young adult (or several) in the congregation to speak about why they value the church in their life and what their faith has given them.

Invite a few people from your congregation who were connected to youth ministry, camp, or campus ministry to speak about how these experiences shaped them. It is preferred that it be an Episcopal ministry and diocese (any diocese), but it is not necessary.

Eight Toasts Dinner

This is a more formal, adult-oriented event, but it is also a great way to encourage attendance, as people love to hear each other's stories. You could call it "What I'm Glad I Learned: a night of eight toasts to the lessons of youth and young adulthood. Ask eight people, or whatever number you choose, to prepare a 3-5-minute reflection (aka Toast) on a Christian value they learned in youth or young adulthood. Ideally, their story would include a connection to their faith, the church, or a ministry of some kind, but it isn't necessary. The value should be considered a Christian value. You could even gather those who agreed to do this in advance for a special evening of practicing their toasts, deepening connection and support among them. During the fundraiser meal, spread the toasts out throughout the evening.



TOOLKIT

Once you have decided what event you want to hold, head to the capital campaign webpage:
<https://indydio.org/beloved-and-empowered-toolkit/>

- Fill out the quick form telling us about the event
- Access the messaging toolkit and support materials
- Hold your fabulous event
- Respond to the follow-up email after the event and send in the funds raised

Communications Materials

To support your congregation's participation in the campaign, we are providing a messaging toolkit that includes:

- Capital Campaign case statement
- Bulletin announcement
- Three-minute video with Bishop Jennifer introducing the campaign
- Placemats for food-related events

All digital versions of this material, including logos, are available on the Beloved & Empowered Capital Campaign page of the diocesan website. It can be accessed easily through the QR code below.

Communications questions? Reach out to communication@indydio.org.





ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS

1. There's a lot of stuff here. In as few words as possible, what do I need to do?

Your congregation needs to host an event in support of the diocesan capital campaign, Beloved and Empowered, to support youth and young adult ministry.

2. We have _____ going on right now. Does my parish have to have an event?

Your event can be as simple as a post-worship coffee hour where you share about the campaign and take up a collection. We hope you will do more, as this effort has the potential to be much more meaningful to your congregation. However, we understand that some seasons of a parish's life just don't have the capacity for another thing. You have until June 2027 to host an event, so we do hope you will try to fit it into your parish's life in a more meaningful way.

3. My church has had the event. Now what?

Within two weeks of your event, you will receive an email with a few questions and a request for photos. It will also give you options for how to send the funds raised for the campaign. We will be using pictures of parish events and quotes in the diocesan newsletter to keep the campaign effort in front of people. We will also share the parishes and faith communities that have held events, as well as the cumulative amount raised. We are not sharing how much individual churches raise.

4. Someone approached me who wants to make a substantial individual gift to the campaign. What do I do with that information?

That's awesome. Most of the funds raised for this capital campaign will come from individual donors. You can pass their name and contact info to The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli at cspaccarelli@stchriscarmel.org. And she will pass it along to the appropriate people for follow-up.

5. Have another question about the parish fundraising events?

Email the Rev. Cara Spaccarelli at cspaccarelli@stchriscarmel.org