

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*seeking the goodwill of your neighborhood*



**EDSD**  
COURAGEOUS LOVE

## Campus Tours

When asked what the greatest command was, Jesus said that it was to love God with every fiber of our being but that the second greatest command was of equal importance—to care for our neighbors in the same way we care for ourselves. As congregations, we are called to discern how best to steward our campuses in a spiritually fulfilling *and* financially sustainable manner. The following is intended to help bring into that discernment the care of our neighbors, just as Jesus commanded us.



Your church building is place where worship and ministry happen. It is a space that reflects the art and architecture of your context and different eras. Your congregation has gifts to offer, but it also has needs. It may have physical space but needs financial resources in order maintain it. The community around your church also has strengths and needs. This exercise is intended to assist you in discerning how your gifts might be paired with the gifts of your neighbors so that however you move forward it is sustainable for all.

Using the “Relational Inventory” worksheet, develop a list of community member and stakeholders that you can invite to your campus—possibly even to worship with your congregation. These can be informal or well-prepared visits to your church campus. In any case, remain open to learning from and dreaming with your potential partners. Introduce yourself and your church. Learn about the work, mission, etc. of the visiting group. Tour your facilities, sharing how and when it is used. Keep the following questions in mind and ask some version of them:

**What ways could our campus be a resource to the neighborhood/community?**

**What neighborhood/community needs make sense in spaces with our architecture?**

**What ways could we partner to plan and implement projects that use of our space?**

This assessment process will assist your congregation in determining how to use its physical resources in a manner that allows the congregation to thrive while integrating into the wellbeing of the entire community.

For further assistance, please consult with EDSD’s Mission Real Estate task force.

When entering into a rental agreement, please review applicable diocesan canons and consult with the diocesan CFO, the Rev. Canon Jeff Martinhauk at [jmartinhauk@edsd.org](mailto:jmartinhauk@edsd.org).