

Procedure for Starting a New Lay Ministry

1. Individuals or groups with an idea for a new ministry should first seek counsel and conversation with the Rector.

NOTE: Communication via e-ministry might help people to understand how best to go about exploring a new idea, and avoid people starting ad-hoc parish ministries. The Parish Administrator should be made aware that such groups seeking use of parish space should be referred to the Rector.

2. If the conversation leads toward the possibility of a new ministry:
 - a. The Rector will refer the individual/group to the Ministry Collaboration Team chair and the appropriate affinity group for more discussion and discernment about whether and how the idea might fit with existing ministries.
 - b. The Rector may suggest that the ministry begin immediately with a trial period of several months to a year, to see if the ministry finds a permanent place in the parish, OR
 - c. The Rector may suggest the ministry wait until the MCT and affinity group has had a chance to meet and give input as to whether the ministry should begin, at what time, and under what conditions.
 - d. The Rector will inform the Vestry of any ministries in formation. Depending on the scope and possible budgetary needs of the ministry, it may be appropriate to seek approval and support from the Vestry.
3. The rector and the new ministry head(s) should meet after the trial period and discern whether the ministry is finding a permanent place. If so, the Rector will inform the Vestry and ask for acceptance or approval as appropriate.