

Discover & Dream: Recapturing Vocational Identity and Reimagining Economic Vitality

Empower and equip your congregation to expand its vision for social impact and access the financial capital needed to realize your community goals.

The African American church has a long history of community-based ministry. That ministry has often included being an anchor institution — a central institution of economic stability and vitality in communities that were often denied participation in banking, lending, and other systems of capital investment.

Now in the 21st century, the African American church in these same communities is facing challenges in rapidly changing and gentrifying contexts. Often, the challenges hinge on the lack of adequate resources and a struggle to develop a vision in the midst of such pressures.

Discover & Dream addresses these challenges. The program aims to increase the creative potential and economic vitality of participating congregations and provide a path to social impact and economic vitality. The 2-year program will engage 10-12 congregational teams in seminars, workshops, peer learning, and mentoring groups. The content will provide a basis of financial competency, rooted in theological commitment toward creativity and imagination. Congregational teams will apply their learnings in an experimental initiative that demonstrates their vocational identity, serves the community, and enhances their congregation's economic vitality.

Participating congregations that identify a viable social impact real estate development project will be eligible to apply for social impact lending programs that can help to transform communities of color.

Eligibility and selection criteria:

African American churches in the Washington DC Metro area (DMV) that are:

- Committed to community engagement
- Actively seeking vitality in a changing cultural context
- Ready to connect their prophetic imagination and economic imagination
- Revisioning ministry and leading change

There is no fee to participate, but the teams must have access to internet service to participate in this primarily online program.

For more information and to apply, please contact:
Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr. at dpowe@wesleyseminary.edu

Discover & Dream is a program partnership of The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary, Crossing Capital Group, and the Oikos Institute for Social Impact, funded by the Trinity Church Wall Street Leadership Development program.



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership



TRINITY
CHURCH
WALL
STREET



Discover & Dream: Recapturing Vocational Identity and Reimagining Economic Vitality

Discover & Dream is a two-year program that aims to increase the economic vitality and creative potential of African-American congregations that leads to sustainable revitalization of churches and their surrounding communities.

Selected congregations will commit a team of 5-7 members (must include the pastor) to actively participate in monthly online classes, engage with online peer groups, and develop an experimental initiative that serves the community and enhances the congregation's economic vitality. There is no fee to participate, but space is limited to 10-12 congregational teams.

1. Church and Team Information

▶ Church name:

▶ Church address:

▶ Church website:

▶ Church phone:

▶ Pastor Name:

▶ Phone:

▶ Email:

▶ Project Manager Name:

▶ Title/Position:

▶ Phone:

▶ Email:

▶ Project Team: Provide names and a one-sentence bio of each of the 5-7 members who will lead the initiative.

2. Church Profile

▶ Denomination:

▶ Age of the church:

▶ Congregational size:

▶ Average age of members:

▶ Church's annual operating budget (total):

▶ How many paid staff (clergy and/or lay) serve this church?

▶ Approximately how many people serve in unpaid leadership positions in this church?

▶ Please describe any facilities, land, or other real estate your church owns:

▶ Describe the congregation's leadership structure:

▶ Church mission statement:

3, Current Congregational Involvement in the Community

▶ List the opportunities and needs for service in your surrounding community:

▶ How do the listed opportunities and needs intersect with your church's mission?

▶ Describe your congregation's current involvement in the surrounding community (ministries, programs, etc.):

▶ Approximately how many and what percentage of members participate in these initiatives?

▶ How do you recruit and train volunteers and lay leaders?

▶ What strategies do you use for congregational engagement and buy-in for community initiatives?
How is your surrounding community involved in your community initiatives?

- ▶ To the best of your knowledge, please describe your surrounding community's perception of your church's ministry purpose:

4. Current Congregational Involvement in the Community

- ▶ Currently, what are your church's greatest assets (financial, human, social, community etc.)?

-
- ▶ What has been the greatest struggle the congregation has faced in the last 18 months?

-
- ▶ What has given the congregation hope over the last 18 months?

-
- ▶ What has the congregation tried over the last 18 months to increase vitality? What are the results?
What have you learned?

-
- ▶ What are your budgeting or financial challenges and opportunities?

-
- ▶ What is your biggest facility challenge and opportunity?

▶ Why do you want to participate in the Discover & Dream program?

By signing and submitting this application, I affirm:

- The information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.
- The Pastor and all of the proposed team members have read and understand the Participation Covenant, which selected congregations will need to sign to participate in the Discover & Dream program.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Discover & Dream is a program partnership of The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary, Crossing Capital Group, and the Oikos Institute for Social Impact, funded by the Trinity Church Wall Street Leadership Development program.



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership



**TRINITY
CHURCH**
WALL
STREET

