

Coach Certification Guidelines

Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers congregations and individuals to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging rooted in the gospel directive to, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). A central part of spreading the Invite Welcome Connect message is to identify gifted teachers and leaders throughout the Episcopal Church to become an Invite Welcome Connect Coach. To become a Coach, you are encouraged to read through the materials provided and prayerfully discern joining a network of skilled practitioners throughout the Episcopal Church.

What is a Coach?

Invite Welcome Connect Coaches support the implementation, visioning, and application of Invite Welcome Connect in a parish or community setting. Coaches are only able to support parishes that have completed an intensive 6-hour Invite Welcome Connect Workshop by a trained facilitator.

How do I become a Coach?

To become a certified Coach, you must complete a comprehensive 10-step process that includes an application process, approval by Diocesan Bishop, hands-on training, and maintain a biennial certification renewal.

What is the difference between a Coach and a Facilitator?

Facilitators are certified to conduct intensive Invite Welcome Connect workshops around the country and provide support to participating parishes and dioceses. All facilitators can be coaches but not all coaches are facilitators.

10-Step Coach Certification Process

1. Confirm Eligibility
2. Receive approval from Bishop
3. Submit Coach Candidate Application
4. Receive Coach Candidate Approval Email
5. Complete Pre-Work
6. Attend a 1-day Invite Welcome Connect Workshop
7. Attend a 2-day Coach Training with Mary Parmer
8. Submit Coach Certification Application
9. Receive Coach Certification
10. Maintain Biennial Coach Certification Renewal

STEP 1

Coach Eligibility & Requirements

Eligible Invite Welcome Connect Coaches must meet or exceed the following requirements. Additional eligibility requirements may be applicable.

- Passionate about Evangelism and Hospitality
- Active Lay or Clergy Member of the Episcopal Church
- Familiar with Episcopal Church history, structure, and beliefs
- Clear understanding of Invite Welcome Connect
- Past or current leadership role in the church (vestry, staff, EfM, etc.)
- Certified in Safe Church training
- Excellent Communicator
- Willing to Travel
- Receive approval from Bishop to be an Invite Welcome Connect Coach

STEP 2

Receive approval from Bishop

Eligible candidates must receive approval from his or her Diocesan Bishop to become an Invite Welcome Connect Coach. Bishops can complete the “Bishop Endorsement Form, Invite Welcome Connect Coach” or a letter from the bishop can be attached to the Coach Candidate Application.

STEP 3

Submit Coach Candidate Application

Eligible candidates must complete the 2-page Coach Candidate Application and supply a copy of his/her resume. Candidate Applications can be obtained on the Invite Welcome Connect website (invitewelcomeconnect.sewanee.edu) or by contacting the Invite Welcome Connect office (931.598.1105). Once the Candidate Application has been submitted it will take 1-2 weeks to receive a response.

STEP 4

Receive Coach Candidate Acceptance Email

Once the Coach Candidate Application and paperwork have been reviewed and references checked, the candidate will receive an email with next steps in the process. Acceptance emails into the Coach Certification process do not guarantee that a candidate will ultimately receive an Invite Welcome Connect Coach Certification.

STEP 5

Complete Pre-Work

Candidates will be required to complete pre-work that will include, but may not be limited to, reading Invite Welcome Connect by Mary Parmer (ISBN 978-0-88028-461-5), watching designated videos, and familiarizing himself/herself with content found at www.invitewelcomeconnect.sewanee.edu

STEP 6

Attend a 1-Day Invite Welcome Connect Workshop

Candidates are required to attend a 1-day Invite Welcome Connect Workshop presented by Mary Parmer or another Certified Facilitator. Candidates will be required to arrange and pay for transportation, lodging, and registration. If candidates have previously attended a 6-hour workshop prior to the application process to become a coach, he or she may not be required to attend another workshop.

STEP 7

Attend a 2-Day Coach Training with Mary Parmer

This intensive hands-on training will provide coaches with the tools, resources, and skills needed to support Invite Welcome Connect participating congregations. Coaches will learn how to conduct a visioning process and support best practices in a congregation. Coaches are to support congregations, not implement Invite Welcome Connect. Coach trainings will occur quarterly or as needed around the country. The Coach Training fee can be found on the Invite Welcome Connect website and candidates will be required to arrange and pay for transportation and lodging for the training. Details on upcoming training dates and locations can be found on the Facilitator-Coach Certification tab: www.invitewelcomeconnect.sewanee.edu

STEP 8

Submit Coach Certification Application

Candidates complete an Invite Welcome Connect Coach Certification Application for review and approval or deferment. Submitted applications will be responded to within 2 weeks.

STEP 9

Coach Certification Approval

Candidates that have completed the necessary paperwork, attended required trainings, and have demonstrated an awareness and understanding of the knowledge and ethos of Invite Welcome Connect will become Certified Coaches. Certified Coaches are eligible to conduct visioning, support implementation, and ongoing support to congregations that have members who have attended a 6-hour Invite Welcome Connect Workshop. Coach/parish relationships must be approved by Diocesan Bishop and Invite Welcome Connect Director.

STEP 10

Maintain Biennial Coach Certification Renewal

All coaches are required to maintain certification on a biennial cycle (once every two years). Renewal certification protocols will be communicated directly to coaches and he or she will have 60 days to complete necessary requirements.

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