



2026 Parish Engagement Conference Workshop Proposal Guidelines Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston invites you to submit a proposal for the 2026 Parish Engagement Conference, which will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church in Houston. This one-day conference seeks to engage the faithful of our parishes using the tenets of stewardship and effective communication. By drawing them into a deeper participation in parish life, we are able to be more impactful and prolific in our parish ministries. Consisting of a keynote presentation and four rounds of workshops covering more than 20 topics, participants have the opportunity to learn and share new ideas, insights, and best practices to help connect with one another, enliven parishioners, and draw everyone into deeper involvement in the life of the parish.

This is your opportunity to share your expertise, insights and experiences with participants from over 70 parishes from across the diocese developing a **50-minute program** for presentation at the annual conference. Proposals with timely insights, innovative teaching techniques, and applications to parishes of all sizes and economic levels are strongly preferred.

With limited time and space, we expect to receive more proposals than we can accept. We encourage applicants to [review these guidelines carefully](#) to ensure a qualified proposal is submitted. **First round of proposals are due by May 1, 2026.**

Proposal Selection Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee. The team reviews proposals based on (but not limited to) the following:

1. **Timeliness and relevance of topic to our parishes.** Workshops should focus on parish engagement *with an emphasis on stewardship or communications*. Workshops should not simply be a replica of a prior year's program; rather, each workshop proposal should present new ideas, success stories, and timely information for a range of parishes of diverse sizes, locations, cultural diversity, and economic levels.
2. **Definition and focus of the topic.** We often receive multiple proposals for similar topics. Proposals which are clear, designed with specific audience and teaching goals in mind, and with new and interesting perspectives on well-trod subjects will be preferred (we may also reach out to you to suggest combining similar panels).
3. **Experience/expertise of presenters,** balanced with the need to provide mentoring/accompaniment to parishes seeking guidance.
4. **Innovative workshop presentation style.** Proposals should illustrate a collaborative effort by speakers to present the material in an engaging, interactive fashion rather than a lecture. Panels of speakers and collaborative presentations may be given preference.
5. **Languages and Cultural Adaptations.** We are seeking presentations in Spanish and Vietnamese to speak to particular communities within our diocese, both in language and cultural understanding.

Speaker Requirements

Please adhere to the following requirements for all workshop speakers:

1. All speakers must commit to the presentation of a program at designated times during the Parish Engagement Conference on July 25, 2026, at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church. The Conference Planning Committee will do its best to accommodate specific scheduling requests but cannot guarantee a specific time slot.
2. Presentations should focus on inspiring and educating the participants. While presenters may share products or services offered by their employers or organizations, the presentation should not be a “sales pitch.” Information shared should be applicable to all attendees, regardless of their use of your products/services.
3. It is preferred that speakers attend and participate in the entire conference. Speakers are not required to register and conference meals will be provided. Conflicts should be communicated to the Conference Planning Committee as soon as possible to discuss possible solutions.
4. Presenters will be required to share a PDF version of their slide deck and/or a 1-page PDF summary of their presentation for distribution after the conference.
5. The Conference Planning Committee reserves the right to remove or add speakers to all workshops.
6. The Conference will provide projectors, monitors, or other presentation capabilities onsite, though presenters will need to supply their own laptop. Please note that microphones may be used depending on room size.

Submitting a Proposal

All proposals must be submitted using the online [Workshop Proposal Form](#). You are welcome to submit more than one proposal but must complete one submission before beginning another. All proposals must be submitted using the online form.

The proposal form will first ask for information about the person submitting the proposal, including name, email and phone number. We will contact the individual named in this field with all organizing information including a decision regarding acceptance.

The next section will ask for the name of the speaker or speakers (if different than the person submitting the proposal) and contact information. Speaker biographies should be under 250 words. We **MUST** have a current email address and cell phone number for every proposed speaker, and we will be in contact with every accepted speaker to confirm their availability and intent to participate.

The final section will ask for information about the workshop itself. The description of your workshop should be as concise and as engaging as possible. We value freshness, innovation and timeliness.

If you have any technical questions about submitting a workshop proposal for the 2026 Parish Engagement Conference, the content of your workshop, or speakers for your workshop proposal, please contact Sean O’Driscoll at sodriscoll@archgh.org.