# 1st Year review

April 2024

HOLY HERMITS ONLINE

Partnership with Episcopal Diocese of Texas (EDOT), Holy Hermits Online (HHO) and St John's Cathedral Brisbane (SJC)

## Complete April 2024

**Phase 1: Establishing Foundations**

**Discernment**

- ✓ Identify existing resources and needs for online mission
- ✓ Establish accountability structures and expectations
- ✓ Build reporting schedule & relationships
- ✓ Listen deeply for the EDOT call for tailored approach

**Recruitment**

(will release clergy resources for phases 2 and 3)

- ✓ Define Admin assistant role, package and profile
- ✓ Advertise Admin position and recruit
- ✓ Train Admin and hand over tasks

**Building**

- ✓ Build relationships between EDOT, HHO & SJC
- ✓ Communicate partnership to create awareness & prayer
- ✓ Invitation to 'come and see' + 'get to know' online space

**Phase 2: Building Resources**

**Create**

Resources for workshops
Structures of support (coaching and group spaces)
Promotional resources to share invitation to enrol

**Invite**

Release promotional material
Gather enrolments
Communicate with co-hort in lead up to program start
Invite co-hort to 'come and see' with visit to HHO

**Run**

Run program with workshops
Offer coaching and group spaces
Share extra resources and learnings
Consultancy available

**Phase 3: Experimenting Bravely**

**Encourage**

Provide further materials for jump from learning to trying
Discernment of new communities launch

**Support**

One-on-one coaching offered to leaders
Provide structure for peer collaboration
Prayerfully approach launch together as co-hort
Launch new experimental community/ies

**Release**

Reflect and review learnings in new space
Collect feedback
Discern next steps for online mission in EDOT
Celebrate partnership

- ✓ Enmeshed in online community throughout
- ✓ Attentive to what is emerging and responding intuitively
- ✓ Bringing learnings from active virtual spaces
- ✓ Tailor making program to reflect the unique ministry scape of E.D.O.T online

## Phase 1 > Complete

### Discernment

Meetings were held throughout 2023 with Canon Joann Saylors, Katie Sherrod & clergy from EDOT.
An understanding of the context for ministry and the structure of EDOT gained.
A series of module titles have been named as areas of focus for the program.

### Recruitment

The Administration Officer role at HHO was defined, advertised & recruited for Sep-Nov.
Kerrie-Anne began work with HHO Nov 2023.
Training concludes Easter 2024 with the handing over of all administrative tasks - freeing clergy resources for phase 2.

### Building

Relationships built through guest-preaching visits for Canon Joann, The Rev'd Sean Steele & The Rev'd Terry Pierce in 2023.
Prayer composed by HHO community & prayed regularly at worship.
Series of open spaces held at HHO to get communty on board for partnership.
Flyer developed & shared at EDOT Clergy Conference Oct to create awareness.
Cohort list begun in the HHO database.
As at April 2024 6 clergy have signed up to get updates as the program forms.

# Learnings

## Culture and context

EDOT culture very similar to the Anglican Church Southern Queensland (HHO and SJC) with:

- dispersed congregations,
- theological diversity,
- challenges to Church growth in rural areas with closure/combining of regional congregations,
- household of clergy size (300+) with variety of vocational expressions,
- focus on creating vibrant communities with outreach & mission in mind,
- church decline for some & growth for others post-C19.

This is encouraging as it means that our learnings can translate easily from the Aus centred HHO space to the U.S.A EDOT context.

## Naming the mission

Mission/outreach online is an opportunity for Church to revitalise & create meaningful spaces with people currently missing from existing ministries, including but not limited to those:

- living with disability, chronic illness, neuro-diversity, social sensitivity, trauma,
- who may travel for work or live nomadic lifestyles,
- are in post-surgery recovery,
- experience a temporary season of illness,
- live rurally without a Church nearby,
- inhabit the online space by choice,
- trying online before attending in-person, or exploring episcopalian faith,
- experience external time/commitment pressures as a barrier to attending in-person i.e. Working or studying full-time.

# Upcoming movement

## Phase 2 now begins April 2024

### Create

After Easter 2024 the content for the 12 week program will be created by both clergy & laity at HHO.

A series of workshops for HHO to do this work together will be held May-Sep 2024.

Promotional material will be developed for Oct 2024 clergy conference.

### Invite

Communicate invitation Nov-Dec 2024.
Gather enrolments from January 2025.

Open invitation to come & see HHO during Lent & Eastertide 2025 with some open day sessions.

### Run - Cohort Season

Cohort to move through first 6 weeks of program Oct-Nov 2025.

Observe program break in Advent 2025.
Invitation to join HHO during break.

### Program shape

12 modules naming the learnings from the HHO community space.

Learning will be peer focused with collaborative outcomes encouraged.

Support will be provided in coaching circles + weekly round table sessions during program.
One-on-one coaching + HHO buddies/ pen-pals relationships maintained through phases 2-3

Some optional homework during break, offering reading, watching & reflecting resources.
Pilot experiments to try while supported during program.

Connection between gathered spaces via app.

### Aims expressed

We aim to provide a space which will:

- Experiment & explore with a focus on nurturing curiosity for online mission.
- Create peer learning experience.
- Offer opportunity for collaboration and resource sharing.
- Assist cohort form creative culture.
- Express outreach to those in the digital space for accessibility reasons as well as general evangelism opportunities.
- Equip & encourage approaching online mission with confidence.
- Share resources from the existing online community of HHO - 'no need to reinvent the wheel'.
- Take shortcuts with the HHO lessons to speed run toward new opportunities.
- Offer support structure to hold participants while they try new things.
- Cheerlead some easy win experiments.
- Foster innovation & healthy reflection practices to measure success of experiments & discern next steps.
- Grow flexibility & agility in mission for EDOT to be able to adapt to new developments in technology.

### Phase 3 - Experiment Bravely

Re-start co-hort sessions for final 6 weeks in Jan-Feb 2026. Coaching + round-table sessions running during this period.

Aim to support EDOT experiments during Lent 2026.

Reflecting on experiments after Easter 2026 and then releasing program/partnership outcomes.

### Answers to 6 FAQ

1. Not aiming to duplicate HHO in Texas.
2. Program isn't a prescriptive 'how to'.
3. We expect diverse community styles & expression (theology/culture) to come out of the program.
4. Not social media or streaming focus.
5. Not just for clergy. We hope clergy will feel welcome to join, but most importantly we hope they will work with us to empower their lay people to engage with us and support them with the experiments.
6. Online mission doesn't aim to replace in-person community. We are extending the Church space, not taking over it!

# Partnership: Coming Together

## What's in it for the cohort?

Answering God's Call
- it is the vocation of the Church to "go & make disciples of all nations".
- Identify who is missing from Church spaces in the local community for accessibility reasons.
- Use technology to break down barriers.
- Offer a new way for faith formation while speaking to different lifestyles.

Engage & build up the digital nation to do ministry alongside Church.
- Swell numbers & push back against decline.
- Find new ways of using Church resources with easy wins for the Gospel.

Travel with other enthusiastic explorers.
- Form new relationships within the diocese & beyond.
- Work together with others to try something new.
- Take mission seriously in an intentional way.
- Witness pioneering innovation in action.

Gain confidence for the future of Church.
- Establish new patterns of leading in Church.
- Be engaged in a creative space.
- Intentionally invite the Holy Spirit to transform.
- Pray with, for and alongside others on mission.

***"Using readily available technology we will enable people to participate in the ministry of the Body of Christ and find belonging online."***

## What's in it for EDOT as a whole?

Investing in innovative mission.
- Creating resources for outreach in the 'last' missionary field.
- Encouraging the current & next generation of leaders to learn new skills.
- Equipping both growing & declining congregations with a new way of doing Church.
- Growing the Episcopal witness in a borderless space.
- Engaging with those inhabiting the online space who are currently missing from Church.

Preparing for the next wave of technology advancement.
- Making ready to continue thinking outside the norm to revitalise Church.
- Enabling a cohort of pioneers to share space & energy together.
- Nurturing collaborative relationship with a sister community in Australia.
- Supporting a missional community toward sustainability.

## What's in it for HHO?

Encouraging other communities to join us in online mission.
- Learning how to communicate our experiences online & share our joy in being together.
- Providing incentive & stimulus to get creative.

Develop marketable program which will help with future sustainability.
- Community identity & culture advanced as we build the program together.

Funding for 3 years of stability 2023-2026.
- Opportunity for new connections, partnerships & collaborative alliances in the Episcopal space.
- Witnessing new innovations alongside others who are 'having a go' alongside us.

## Next steps - our strategy

1. EDOT foundations committee approves next grant payment to sustain partnership April 2024-2025.
2. HHO begins work on program content together and makes resources.
3. Mission amplification team reviews which congregations are good candidates for program.
4. Promotional material is developed for next clergy conference Oct 2024.
5. Conversations are had & invitation issued to key congregations/clergy Nov-Dec 2024.
6. Enrolments open Jan 2025.

***"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"***
***Matthew 28:18-20***