

Starting the Conversation with The Church Development Committee: Capturing a Vision & Mission to be shared with others



Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, the labors are few; ask the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into the harvest field."
Luke 10:2

A New Worshiping Community is . . .

New

- Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Forms of church for our changing culture

Worshiping

- Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
- Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world

Community

- Practicing mutual care and accountability
- Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

Using the definition provided by 1001 New Worshiping Communities, craft a 1-page vision/mission for your community/innovative idea that captures NEW, WORSHIPING, and COMMUNITY...ask yourself and your team how your idea will speak to each of these components. These components are broad and are meant to leave lots of space for creativity! The goal of this exercise is to provide a starting point for our conversation as you enter into a relationship with the Innovation and Support Committee of Grace Presbytery. Think of this as a starting place for the conversation.

Example questions:

- How is what we are doing offering NEW ways of creating disciples and offering NEW forms of church in a changing culture?
- How will people be gathered by the Spirit to encounter Jesus in word and sacrament? (will it be around a table, in conversation, over music, on a podcast, in a garden?)
- How will our community empower people to go into their communities?
- How will our ministry practice mutual care, and what will our structure look like as we think about accountability practices? What are the core values we want to align around?
- How will we think forward about sustainable funding and leadership- who else do we need to invite into the conversation?

Things to consider: (doesn't need to be written, but prepared to answer when meeting with committee)

- Are you open to a clear and consistent partnership with the Innovation and Support Committee and the Coordinator for Innovation and New Ministry Development? What do you hope to offer and receive from that relationship?
- Are you interested in training and leadership development?
- Who else do you want to share this idea with, and in sharing, what outcomes are you hoping for?

Please email your draft to Rev. Dr. John Williams, Moderator of Innovation and Support Committee (jwilliams@austincollege.edu) AND Rev. Pepa Paniagua, Coordinator for Innovation and New Ministry Development (pepa@gracepresbytery.org). They will follow up and coordinate next steps with you.