



How Do We Sing a New Song in a Strange Land?

This is a workshop offered by Ecclesia Leadership to churches, denominations, congregations, and leaders. Through biblical reflection, input, and discussion, we invite you to grapple with the realities of the post-Christendom context while exploring opportunities for adaptation and innovation. We resist the allure of simplistic answers and recognise the complexity of our current environment. We explore how to engage in essential experimentation—creating new paths and options in a context where there are no blueprints for action. By trusting in God's guidance, congregations can embrace a path of experimentation, reflection, and faithful action.

Understanding the Need for a New Missional Approach:

The world has shifted profoundly, and many congregations feel trapped in methods that no longer resonate. The approaches that once effectively engaged communities and welcomed new people into the church now seem inadequate.

This workshop is designed for congregations which are seeking to navigate the complexities of a new missional context. It offers guidance for those who wish to reflect deeply on their role and effectiveness as faith communities. By participating, we will explore the church's place in a changed society and gain insights to guide us.

Our world is changing rapidly

Research tells us the church is invisible or irrelevant for many Australians. As leaders, we know something has to change. But what? Disconnected from surrounding cultures, we need tools to understand our new contexts; to rediscover mission and to grow.

Without losing what we love, we need to dig up the garden a bit

What do we as the church carry forward, and what do we leave behind? Are we doing the right things, and doing them the best way we can?

The Challenge of Awareness:

The first step for any congregation planning and actioning its future is to cultivate an understanding of how the missional context has changed. Without this awareness, we risk that our plans will be rooted in assumptions and models from the Christendom era—an era that no longer defines our cultural landscape. Leaders must first grasp this shift themselves and then foster awareness within their congregation. Without shared understanding, resistance or disengagement from members is almost inevitable.





Workshop Elements: Engaging with Our Faith, History, and Future

Learning from the Biblical Narrative

Scripture provides countless examples of God's people wrestling with their faith in changing contexts. From the Israelites in exile to the early disciples grappling with the teachings of Jesus, and the fledgling church adapting to mission in Gentile cities, these stories offer rich insights. The workshop will explore these narratives, encouraging participants to draw wisdom from the experiences of those who have navigated profound change before us.

Insights from the Early Church

The early church's journey through uncharted territory holds lessons for today's congregations. By examining this period of adaptation and mission, we can glean strategies for engaging with our current context. This exploration reconnects us with our faith heritage and equips us to face the challenges of our time with creativity and hope.

Rethinking Leadership for a New Era

Leadership in a faith community differs profoundly from leadership in corporate or non-profit settings. This workshop helps congregations identify the unique leadership styles needed to nurture the people of God. By distinguishing these approaches, congregations can better identify and empower leaders who will guide them faithfully into the future.

Honouring Our History and Heritage

Every congregation carries a rich history that shapes its identity. This workshop invites participants to reflect on their unique journey, honestly assessing their past to inform their future. Understanding where you have been enables you to envision where God is leading you.

Change begins when we uproot our assumptions

Discerning what God is doing as we move forward is not about doing things better or working harder but discerning what God is calling us to be.

Contact Phil to start the conversation! Phil is passionate about congregations shaping themselves around mission to make a difference in their local communities.

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