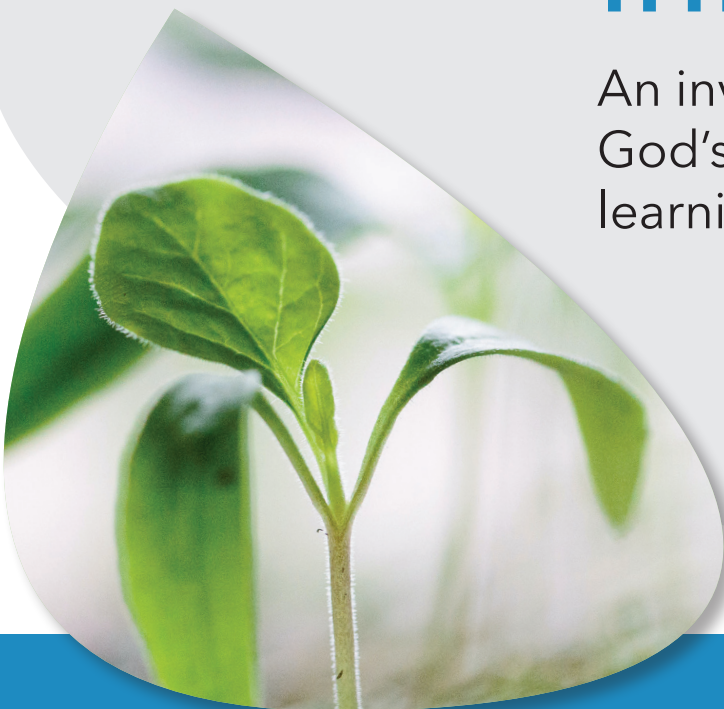




Cultivating missional innovation

An invitation to participate in
God's mission through listening,
learning and acting.





Cultivating missional innovation

The world has changed significantly but many congregations feel stuck. The methods that the church once used to engage in mission to its community and to connect with new people don't work as they once did. Church members and leaders are keen to engage and connect with their communities but are unsure how to start and worry that limits on a congregation's financial, structural and personnel resources may prevent effective action.

Ecclesia Leadership has created a program of learning and development resources and a process of action and reflection that can assist ordinary congregational members and leaders to get started. The process is designed to generate real action in the short term. It teaches leaders and members to identify real connection points and opportunities in the community and actually get new missional activities up and running.

We can teach you to work with the resources that you already have available and understand and develop new ways of connecting with new people and serving those in need. We can help you transition your congregation to engaging with a new post-Christendom context.

This is true innovation using a creative and entrepreneurial spirit which is created from God's wisdom in your own congregation rather than a pre-made "one size fits all" program to be imposed from above. This means that you can bring your members and leaders along with you - acknowledging and engaging with the individual and unique talents, perspectives and passions of your particular community of the people of God.



A process for joining God's mission

The invitation to this journey of discovery will involve your church in the following process:

Forming a Missional Experiment Group (MEG): A MEG is made up of 4-8 people in the life of a church who are nominated by the church leadership. The minister will be included in the MEG. The MEG participants commit to at least a 18-month process that involves attending 4 intensives. They will participate in reflective learning on their activities supported by a coach appointed to them.

Options: Churches will be able to identify if they wish to focus on a new activity designed to plant a new faith community or to provide missional service in the community.

Intensives: The MEG members will attend 4 intensives, focused on the following areas:

1. Intensive 1: Forming and Listening - Creating awareness and understanding of the post-Christendom missional context and forming discipleship practices.
2. Intensive 2: Listening - Reflecting on our local community and asking where God is involved.
3. Intensive 3: Shaping - Identifying a local people group or issue to create a missional experiment.
4. Intensive 4: Reflecting and Committing - Explore the questions; what are we learning about ourselves, God and the experiment? Conduct an assessment of a future commitment to the experiment.

Coaching: Each MEG will have an appointed coach. Each coach will be trained by Ecclesia Leadership to effectively support the MEG through the process. A coach will meet with the MEG once every 4-6 weeks. The coach's role is to be an outside guide to walk alongside the church as it responds to each intensive. They will attend intensives with the MEG and participate in all conversations. The coaches will meet with Phil as a team for ongoing support.

Ministers: Ecclesia Leadership will offer ministers of participating churches additional support and further conversations as required.



I want in...

Do you think your church is ready to get involved?
Here's the criteria for getting on board:

An openness and commitment to discerning the Spirit's leading in deepening the missional practices of the church.

The experiment will be in response to a new initiative identified through the listening process. This is not for existing projects.

The church leadership needs to be engaged in prayerful support of the MEG and needs to give its full endorsement to the process before a MEG is formed. This includes the board signing a licensing agreement for the process.

There is a high expectation that all MEG participants attend all meetings and intensives.

The minister needs to be a member of the MEG.

MEG

This team needs to be made up of people who are part of the congregation with a commitment to participating in the action learning and experiment. People in this group should be selected carefully by the church leadership. The team, including the minister, should be no smaller than 4 and no larger than 8 people. Please consider:

- Availability to the process
- Readiness for local mission
- Talents, skills and experience they bring to the process

Cost

There is a cost to this process which needs to be covered by the participating church. A licensing fee is charged to access the process and all the material provided over this period. Some denominations offer a subsidy or financial support for involvement in the process. The church is also responsible for covering the cost of MEG participants attending the intensives, one of which is live-in. Details of costs per participant will be provided once your application has been approved.

Contact

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