



WHO WE ARE



What is a fresh expression of church?

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet part of any church.

What does a fresh expression of church look like?

- Fresh expressions are attentive to a micro-climate or environment— i.e. a group of people who share a similar interest, hobby or meeting place.
- They consider “affinity” before geography. Think about social networks. You might have more in common with someone who lives 10 miles from you than you do with the person who lives next door.
- On the other hand, one might also think hyper-local: Those who live or work closest to you might be the right people for a fresh expression.
- Fresh expressions are small-scale. Think 20-70 people: big enough to throw a party, but small enough to know everyone’s name.
- Fresh expressions often meet in homes and neighborhood gathering spots.

Why should I care about fresh expressions of church?

- Our world is rapidly changing and our society in the US is increasingly post-Christian. If we are to faithfully carry out the Great Commission of Christ, the world needs a church rooted in scripture, orthodoxy, and tradition but fluent in the language and culture of the world today.
- What sets the fresh expressions movement apart is the focus on forming faith communities especially for those who have never been involved in church (un-churched) or who have left the church (de-churched).
- This doesn’t mean giving up on the established church. There is a great inheritance in the established church that can and must be passed along to future generations. We believe the key to doing this is by partnering with pioneering leaders, dynamic pastors and existing churches as well as denominational streams and agencies who are committed to make disciples who make disciples, raising up leaders with a passion to join with God on the mission edges where new forms of church can flourish.

What is Fresh Expressions, the movement?

- Fresh Expressions is an international movement of missionary disciples cultivating new kinds of church alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage our growing post-Christian society.
- Beginning in 2004 as an initiative of the Church of England and the British Methodist Church, the movement has resulted in the birth of thousands of new communities in the UK alone and brought renewal to scores of established churches. The movement has spread to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Germany.
- In 2010, the movement began taking shape in the US through the vision and generosity of the Baptist General Association of Virginia and a growing number of partners, including: Florida Conference UMC, Western North Carolina Conference UMC, Alabama West-Florida Conference UMC, Asbury Seminary, Kentucky Annual Conference UMC, the American Baptist Churches of Vermont & New Hampshire, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.