

# partners\*

THE KINGDOM EXTENSION NEWSLETTER OF THE EC CHURCH

## \* RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS

**I**T'S ANOTHER dreary day and Covid is still hanging around. What to do?

Gardeners scan seed catalogs and order supplies. Beach lovers crank up their Beachbody® workouts so they're ready. Winter-weary, housebound dreamers scroll the internet in search of the most exotic or fun-filled vacation spot—and then they book it.

What about church leaders?

It's time for us to explore new possibilities too! What ideas can you implement within or alongside your existing church? What seminars or gatherings can energize your heart and your imagination? What will get you and your congregation dreaming of ways to engage with excitement in God's Great Commission, Great Commandment, and Great Collaboration? The Kingdom Extension Community offers you these resource organizations as a way to kick start your plans for God's Kingdom in 2022.

### RESOURCE

**1**

## FRESH EXPRESSIONS US

(info from website)

[freshexpressionsus.org](https://freshexpressionsus.org)

The Fresh Expression US team equips Christians to start contextual expressions of church among the many segments, neighborhoods, and people groups of society.

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 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 committed to a new era of missional ecumenism, a unity around the mission of God the Father through the resurrected Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 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 those who are not yet part of any church. Check out an info video at <https://freshexpressionsus.org/about/>

Around the world, Christians are stepping out in faith and beginning fresh expressions of church, new or different forms of church for a changing culture.

Each fresh expression of church is unique and designed for their particular context. They can be rural or suburban, in public spaces, housing projects and college dormitories. Some are aimed at specific groups, ranging from "Messy Church" for families with children to "Amore Groups" led by married couples. There is biker church, cowboy

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church, church for artists, church at or after work; the sky's the limit. Each is an adventure in bringing the power of the Gospel to people who might never experience Christian community and the transformational and self-giving love of Jesus.

**Four guiding principles tie fresh expressions together.**

**Each one is:**

- **MISSIONAL** – Joining God's mission by going to those not currently served by any church
- **CONTEXTUAL** – Grounded in the language and culture of the people in and for their particular context

- **FORMATIONAL** – Focused on discipling people in the way of Jesus
- **ECCLESIAL** – Forming local, tangible Christian communities that are able to step out as church in their own right

**Why Fresh Expressions?**

Our world is rapidly changing. It needs a church, rooted in scripture, orthodoxy and tradition; but fluent in the language and culture of the world today.

What sets Fresh Expressions apart is a 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). But 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, denominational streams and agencies who are committed to make disciples who make disciples, raising up leaders with a passion to join with God in the mission edges where new forms of church can flourish.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://freshexpressionsus.org/>

**RESOURCE**



**DINNER CHURCH MOVEMENT**

(info from website)

[dinnerchurch.com](http://dinnerchurch.com) • [dinnerchurchmovement.org](http://dinnerchurchmovement.org)

<https://freshexpressionsus.org/2021/06/07/seeds-and-fruit-a-dinner-church-story/>

Catch a glimpse of God. See the divine in a neighbor or stranger. We believe something sacred happens when we break bread at a common table.

**What is the Dinner Church Movement?**

The Dinner Church Movement is made up of churches across the world that share a eucharistic meal as their primary form of worship. The form of our worship services vary, but at their heart, each church embodies a commitment to prayerfully shared meals. This is a place to explore the practice of Dinner Church, a movement that returns to the first century communion practice

of sharing a full meal as worship.

**What is a "Dinner Church?"**

Christians in the early church gathered together around a meal, telling the story of Jesus' last supper, breaking bread, and sharing the cup. The earliest known instructions for this Eucharist (or "thanksgiving") meal are found in the Didache, a second century document. Ritualized meals have been practiced by a variety of Christian denomination through the centuries. Moravian Christians celebrate a love feast, or Agape meal.

In 2008, conspirators Rev. Emily M. D. Scott and Rachel Kroh founded St. Lydia's Dinner

Church, the first congregation to make a sacred meal their primary liturgical celebration. The pair were informed by Eucharistic meal liturgies practiced at Union Theological Seminary's chapel, Yale Divinity School's Marquand Chapel, and St. Gregory's of Nyssa's "Feast of Friends." Scott's internship at St. Gregory's under The Rev. Donald Schell and The Rev. Daniel Simons was deeply influential in the liturgical style and principals employed at St. Lydia's. The term "Dinner Church," was coined by Kroh in 2008.

St. Lydia's received attention around the United States and became the model of a number of early Dinner Church experiments,

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including Simple Church in Grafton and Worcester, MA, Root and Branch in Chicago, IL, and Kindred in Houston, TX. Dinner Church has become an example for both established congregations wishing to explore a new liturgical practice and newer congregations who place the practice at the heart of their liturgical life. St. Lydia's has been reported on in "Faith and Leadership," "The Atlantic," and "The Wall Street Journal."

### What makes Dinner Church different?

Dinner Church is practiced in various ways across the country. The practice is strongest when it's adapted for your context, theological background, and cultural realities. We think Dinner Church is characterized by:

- a meal that is explicitly sacramental in nature. The meal is a celebration of communion and is framed with a prayer marking the bread as Christ's body and the cup and Christ's blood.
- a blurring of the boundaries between

the "sacred" and the "profane." By celebrating the Eucharist at an ordinary table with through an ordinary meal, we encounter Christ as present in all the ordinary places in our lives, not just those marked as "holy."

- a focus on participation. Congregants are invited to cook the meal, set the table, and clean up afterward, all as an integrated part of the liturgy. The meal is, quite literally, the work of the people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.dinnerchurchmovement.org/>

#### RESOURCE

## [3] EXPONENTIAL

(info from website)  
[exponential.org](https://exponential.org)

### Exponential 2022 Global Conference

*Empowered: Moving with the Spirit*  
**March 7 – 10, 2022; Orlando, Florida**

The single command that Jesus gave his followers before igniting a movement was "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised..." He was telling them to wait for and then move with the Spirit. In 2022, we'll discover a growing awareness of the Spirit's work and leadership while also realizing that we will always be more effective if we move with the Holy Spirit.

### 2022 THEME BOOK *Empowered: Pastoral Perspectives on Life and Leadership in the Spirit*

(Free Download <https://exponential.org/>)

Empowered exists to inspire and equip pastors and other church leaders to grow in their own knowledge and experience of the Holy Spirit and to lead their churches to do the same. This book

provides both a theological framework for life and leadership with the Holy Spirit and practical advice from pastors who have been on this journey themselves.

### OR Regional – Washington DC 2022

**Empowered** September 12 – 13, 2022  
<https://register.exponential.org/dc-2022/>

Join hundreds of leaders for inspiration, encouragement and equipping at Exponential's Washington DC Regional in Chantilly, VA. Register early as space is limited at these smaller, more intimate gatherings.

### OR Join the HUB

<https://multiplication.org>

The "HUB" is a recently launched FREE digital platform offering exclusive web events including Webinars, Forums, and Office Hours. You will interact with thought leaders shaping the national conversation on multiplication and engage with trusted resources to help you advance your Kingdom mission.

Inside the HUB, you will find unique weekly shows and opportunities to connect with our speakers and other Kingdom leaders. Join today and connect with Kingdom Leaders and Movement Makers for content and conversations to move the mission of Jesus forward.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [https://multiplication.org/hub/?\\_ga=2.167692926.1746280376.1642285127-1735448936.1642285127](https://multiplication.org/hub/?_ga=2.167692926.1746280376.1642285127-1735448936.1642285127)

RESOURCE

ONE MORE EXPONENTIAL TOOL



# Exponential Together Resource Library

(info from website)

<https://exponential.org/together-resources-2/>

## Together: Pursuing the Great Collaboration

What is missing from many of our efforts and strategies? Doing it Together! We are all very familiar with the Great Commission and the challenge to “Go.” There has been much taught on the Great Commandment and the need to go with “Love.” But it is the last part of Jesus’ mission – which was Jesus’ final prayer – that we

have forgotten. It’s the Great Collaboration – that we are to go in love Together!

“...that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you

have loved me...” John 17:22-23

Exponential has collected a significant number of their books, e-books, articles, videos, resource kits, podcasts, and more in one place. This is on-stop shopping for ideas, resources, and training experiences for your missional ministry needs and questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[exponential.org/together-resources-2](https://exponential.org/together-resources-2/)

# PRAYING FOR CHURCH PLANTING

## CURRENT PROJECTS:

### CHURCHES AND CHURCH PLANTS

- Ephrata, PA . . . Christ House Church (Tim King)
- Ephrata, PA . . . House of Blessings (Abe Montanez)
- Lehigh Valley, PA . . . Horizon (Bud Daneker)
- Pottstown area, PA . . . Journey53 (Rick Christman)
- Slatington, PA . . . Trinity (Brian Kern)
- Willow Street, PA . . . Virtual Church (Addison Roberts)
- York, PA . . . Iglesia Cristiana (Carlos Kelly)
- York, PA . . . The Next Step (Carlos Kelly)

### PARTNERSHIPS

- Lancaster, PA . . . Iglesia De Dios Ven A El (Luis Ramirez)
- Mohnton, PA . . . Dinner Church (Robert Shuey)
- Palmerton, PA . . . Gaming Grotto (Chris Bronico)
- Sinking Spring, PA . . . Fresh Expression Launches
- Slatington, PA . . . Dinner Church (Brian Kern)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- A continued sense of well-being and wholeness for our planters, families, and congregations as they navigate daily life and ministry
- An ability to recognize a healthy pace and know when it is time to take a break as our planters and their families deal with the daily busyness of planting ministry
- A creative flair for the members of each ministry team as they develop relational and outreach ministries
- A sense of discernment regarding the real needs and concerns of the people they encounter as they do daily life
- An awareness “in the moment” that this is the time to bring Jesus into the conversation



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