

LAUNCH TRACK – SCD 2017

Many Flavors of New Church

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10:30 am – Noon Friday, August 18, 2017

Talk to Your Neighbor

+ *When you were younger and you heard that the United Methodists were starting a new church, what things did you assume about this project?*

A Brainstorming of all the Different Flavors of Church we see these days

+ Some of the list from *Weird Church* to get us started...

- The Simple Cell
- The Dinner Party
- The Soulful Village
- The Community Based Enterprise
- The Innovation Lab
- The Pilgrimage
- Same Time Next Year
- The Family Chapel
- The Community Center
- The Mission Basecamp
- Gallant Fortress of Defiance
- The Small Venue Multi-site
- The Tabernacle
- The Cathedral
- The Spiritual Theme park
- The Seminary

+ Our list (developed as a group)

Spiritual Neighborhoods vs. Covenantal Churches

- + Planting the Neighborhood
- + Fresh Expressions
- + Messy Church
- + 5000 New Faith Communities

In the Spiritual Neighborhood, you have

- + Mystical connections
- + (often) Informal relationships
- + (often) Community for the sake of Community
- + Significant inter-faith possibilities
- + Gateways to more intentional Faith Community
- + Living out the dynamics of the Sending of the Seventy

In the Church as Covenantal Community, you have

- + A formal belonging one to another, and a ritualization of our belonging to God (as defined in Baptism on the most foundational level) *"I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together."*
- + Spiritual Accountability
- + A pastor or pastor(s) – spiritual shepherds in a formalized relationship to the body
- + A mission and a basis of community that by nature takes on theological language; intentional theology is no longer optional
- + In UMC life, you also have Sacraments, Connection, Christocentric Theology, and a call to enlist persons to a life of following Jesus for the transformation of society.

And yet, we still have not said you must have...

- + A GCFA number
- + An elder appointed directly as your pastor
- + Organizational charter that separates you organizationally from another Congregation (as in the case of the multi-site which functions, by design, in total alignment with a set of leaders and members which transcend a single location or worship service.)
- + Sunday worship services

Do you see how each of these creates a tighter subset of the previous category?

Models of Sustainability

- + Conference Grant shifting to Member-donors
- + Multiple sources shifting to Member-donors
- + Multiple sources shifting to Different sources, including Member-donors

Funding Sources beyond Conference Grants and Member-donors

- + Pastor and/or Launch-team-led fund-raising pre-launch
- + Creation of a Cheering Section – an ongoing fellowship of donors who believe in the cause of this new church, and who will become a part of its financial underwriting on a long-term basis
- + Creation of a Foundation that focuses on the Social Ministries of the Church, apart from the ministry of Word and Sacrament – inviting persons beyond the Christian faith to share in funding, based on humanitarian motivations.
- + Creation of a Small Enterprise – in the spirit of the old monastic orders that sought to be financially self-sustaining and not constantly begging.
- + Leveraging property to provide some income (a parking lot, a building rented to tenants, creation of fee-based engagement such as with a preschool or co-working space, etc.)
- + Endowment or permanent funds: by which an organization utilizes interest and a maybe a small portion of the principal in order to supplement annual income.

Finally, FOUR major questions for every new church (and differing answers case-by-case!)

- + When (and where) should we launch Public Worship?
- + Which platform(s) of Social Media will we use in starting out, and to what ends?
- + When (if ever) will we need a physical property available to us 24:7?
- + How will we develop commitment to this church's mission (prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness) among our constituency?
- + Whom will we pay to help us?