



the sessions

Session 1: *Brave New World?*

Session 2: *What in the World is God up to?*

Session 3: *The School of Jesus*

Session 4: *Changing world, changing church*

Session 5: *Where do we go from here?*

Session 6: *Next steps*

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prayer

Jesus, you invite us to follow you.
Help us, Lord,
to follow where you lead us,
to join in with what you are already
doing in our world,
and to become more like you.
We pray in your name, Amen.

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Matthew 7: 24-29

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

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For Discussion

- In the parable Jesus tells, what is the rock?
 - In particular, what does the first builder do that the second does not?
- After all, both of them hear the words of Jesus!

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what is a fresh expression of church?

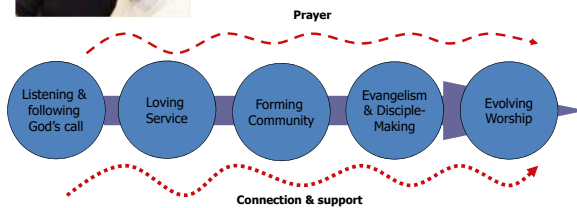
"The attempt to go to where people are, listen carefully to the context and through service form new communities of faith which have the potential to grow into church in their own right."

Bishop Steve Croft



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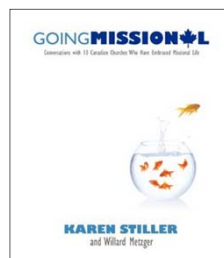
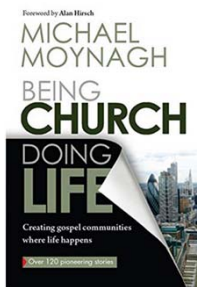
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(Lots of) Other Ways to Create a Fresh Expression



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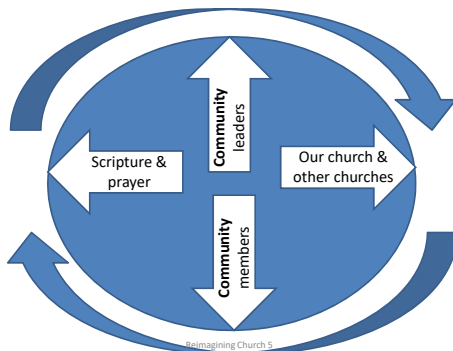
so . . . how do we begin?



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360 listening



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where should we begin?

1. Include outreach to your neighbourhood in the church's weekly prayers. Have a sermon series on mission.
2. Add a budget line to your church's budget for local outreach. Begin with \$500. Announce to the congregation that the money is available for outreach projects, and invite them to submit ideas.

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3. Do a survey of the congregation, asking:
What gifts do you have that might be
used in ministry outside the church? e.g.

- Speaking a second language
- Friendship
- Hospitality
- Internet skills
- Financial expertise
- Working with children
- Making connections between people



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4. Talk to leaders in your community, e.g.
the local MP, the police, the mayor, or
councillors. Ask such things as:

- How might a church serve this community?
- Are there times in the year when you need volunteers for a service project in the community?
- Would you let us know if and when there are issues you would like us to pray about for you?



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5. Do a survey of people on the streets
and street owners in your community.
Ask such things as:

- What do you see as the needs of this community?
- How has this community changed, for better or for worse, in recent years?
- What might a church contribute to this community?



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6. Talk to people in other churches in the neighbourhood:

- How are they involved in the neighbourhood?
- What needs are they aware of?
- Can they see ways in which the different churches' efforts might be complementary?



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7. Discuss the findings with your church leaders, and ask God for direction.

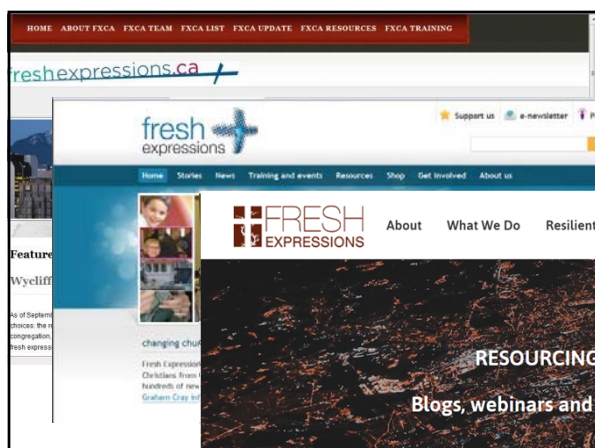
Don't be afraid to start, and don't be afraid to make mistakes.

Make haste slowly!

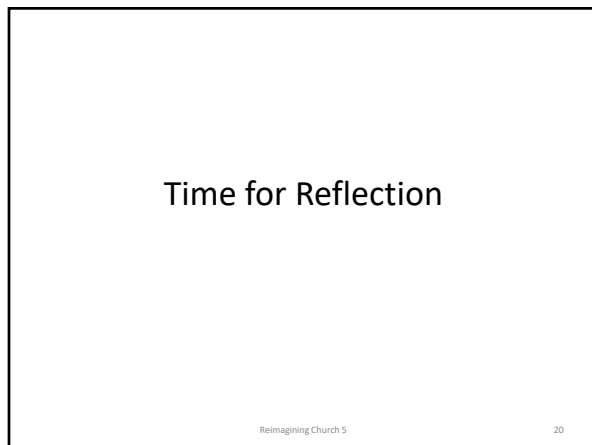


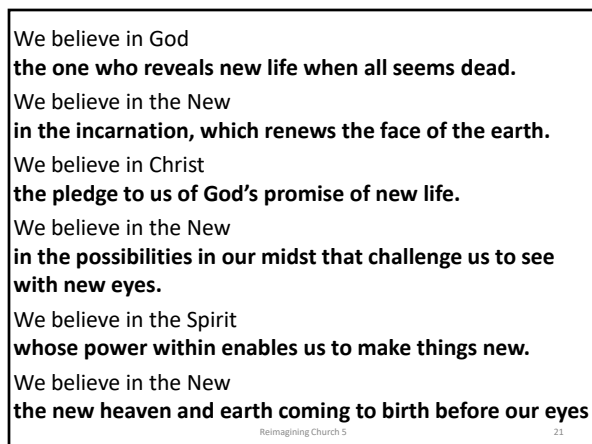
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The View From Here

- What have you learned?
- What might God be calling you to?
- What might the next step be?
- If you have an idea about that, what's the first thing you need to do?

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Prayer

Christ now sits at the right hand of the Creator and calls us into God's future.

His going ahead of us assures us about what is new.

May the Lord who lies ahead of us and beckons us forward teach us to trust the unknown and to embrace new life, now and every day.

Amen.

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Getting "Out of the Box"



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For Discussion

- What have you learned?
- What might God be calling you to?
- What feels exciting about that? Or not?
- What might the next step be for your community?
- What's the first thing that needs to happen to set things in motion?

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Evaluation

What are we measuring
to define "success"?

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the examen

Consolation
Desolation



- When was I encouraged, or touched, or joyful?
- What might God be saying?
- How might I respond?
- When was I troubled, or sad, or angry?
- What might God be saying?
- How might I respond?

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O God who created us, fill our minds with knowledge and appreciation of the dream with which, and for which, you created us.

O God who created us, fill our hearts with courage to take the risks and pay the price that will make this dream come true.

O God who created us, breathe life and energy into our hands, and we will always find joy in dreaming your dream into reality.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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Next Week

- No lecture stuff
- Time to “work”!
- Time for discussion
- Rev. Lisa will join us to help with brainstorming, planning, and even ideas for financing

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