



The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island



Reimagining Church

freshexpressions.ca


1

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.

Reimagining Church 5

2

The Sessions

- Session 1: ***Brave New World?***
- Session 2: ***What 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***

3

Matthew 7: 24 - 29

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

4

4

For Discussion:

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



5

5




6

6

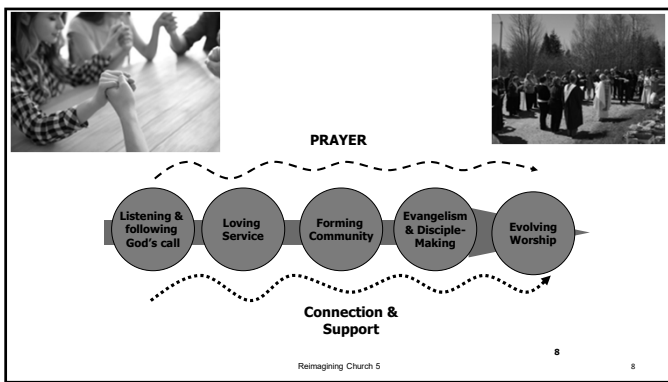
what is a fresh expression of church?

“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



7



8

(Lots of) Other Ways to Create a Fresh Expression





9

So.... How do we begin?



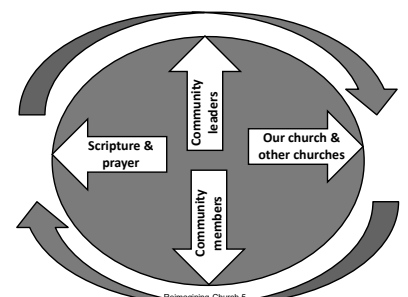
freshexpressions

listening for mission

10

10

360 listening





Reimagining Church 5

11

11

Where do we start?

1. Include outreach to your neighbourhood in the church's weekly prayers. 
2. Add a budget line to your church's budget for local outreach. 

12

12

3. Do a survey of the congregation and ask: "What gifts do you have that might be used in ministry outside the church?"

- friendship,
- hospitality,
- speaking a second language,
- internet skills,
- financial expertise,
- working with children,
- making connections between people



13

13

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

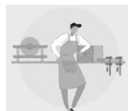
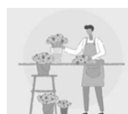
- "How might a church serve this community?"
- "Are there times in the year when you need volunteers for a service project in the community?"
- "Would you let us know if and when there are issues you would like us to pray about for you?"



14

5. Do a survey of people on the streets and store 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?"

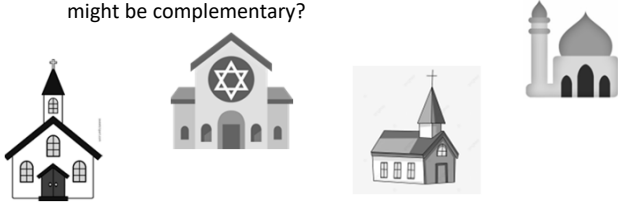


15

15

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?



16

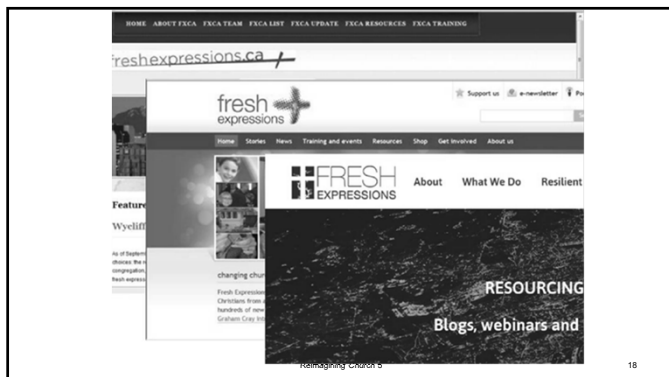
16

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!



17

17



18

18

Time for Reflection

19

19

We believe in God
The one who reveals new life when all seems dead.

We believe in the New
In the incarnation, which renews the face of the earth.

We believe in Christ
the pledge to us of Good's promise of new life.

We believe in the New
in the possibilities in our midst that challenge us to see with new eyes.

We believe in the Spirit
whose power within enables us to make things new.

We believe in the New
the new heaven and earth coming to birth before our eyes.

20

20

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?
- What resources do you need?

21

21

Prayer

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


God 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.

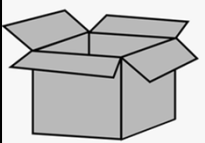
Amen.

Reimagining Church 5
22

22



Getting "Out of the Box"



23

23

For Discussion

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

24

24


Evaluation

What are we measuring to define “success”?


25

25


Time for Reflection – The Examen



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?



26

26

Prayer

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, that we may always find joy in dreaming your dream into reality.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

27

27

Next Week

- No lecture stuff
- Time to “work”
- Time for discussion
- Brainstorming, planning, ideas for financing and finding other resources

28
