

Introducing “Cultivate”

A movement to Nurture Organic Faith Communities in Northwest Washington



Wild Church 🏡 Pub Church 🏡 Dinner Church 🏡 Bowling Church 🏡 Dog Park Church
Creative Church 🏡 Potluck Church 🏡 Lazy Church 🏡 Gardening Church 🏡 Kayak Church

Do you have an idea for a new ministry experiment?
Would you like to see something new in your congregation or community?

“Cultivate” is encouraging the Church to try something new: experiments in cultivating organic faith communities, new worship experiences, experimental evangelism, raising up a new crop of leaders from within contexts, and preparing the soil in places new growth could occur.

“Fresh Expressions” is a movement that makes space for lay leaders, deacons, and pastors to use both traditional as well as innovative forms of church to live out Christ’s mission. One does not replace the other, but rather creates a mutual benefit for both—a “mixed ecology of church.”

Free resources available to you in NW WA Synod:

- Network of practitioners for support and encouragement
- Coaching
 - For leaders who want to experiment
 - For leaders who want to cultivate experimentation in your context
- Consulting
 - Individualized support and follow up for your experiment
 - Support for creating space in your church for this kind of work
- Connections to other experimental ministries and leaders
- Experiential learning and training events
- Curated books, websites, and other resources
- In the future: micro-grants and other financial support

“Cultivate” is connected to the international and ecumenical Fresh Expressions Movement and is also part of an ELCA “Holy Innovations” project collaboration with NW Washington Synod, Central/ Southern Illinois Synod, Southern Ohio Synod, and Northwest Ohio Synod.

Cultivate Project Vision:

We believe that God is calling forth something new—a Holy Innovation—in how we start new ministries, how we raise up and support people to lead them, and how we connect those innovative ministries to the rest of this church. SAWCs and New Starts are still important, but they tend to be expensive, clergy heavy, and based on 20th century assumptions and expectations. On the edges of the Church as it is, the Spirit is stirring up a desire for new forms of gathering, is raising up new leaders (many of them lay people), and is moving among congregations that long to try new things but don't always know where to start.

We are setting out create a series of experiments that will explore how we might create and nurture Fresh Expressions: new forms of church that are nimble, innovative, inexpensive, and often connect to new, young, and diverse people who don't find a place in the existing church structures. To do this well, we are building a multi-synod network of learning and support for the innovators. We also want to explore how to network and support the existing leaders and communities that can come alongside, learn from, and provide support for these holy innovations.

Project Team:

Feel free to reach out to us to learn more



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Focus area: Supporting
pastors, deacons, and
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<https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/cultivate>
<https://freshexpressions.com/>

Save the Date: September 15-16, 2023 for our next Sacred Spaces Event