How Does A Fresh Expression Begin?

Have you heard about Fresh Expressions? In many different places, Christians are stepping out in faith and beginning fresh expressions of church: new or different forms of church for a changing culture. Every fresh expression of church is different. Some are in rural areas; some are in the suburbs. Some are focused around people of certain age groups or life experiences. Some are in schools; some are in homes. Each is a new adventure for the gospel that brings the church closer to people who might not otherwise experience the need for church.

Fresh Expressions often begin when pioneers step back and listen to the needs of their community and the prompting of God. Recently, Fresh Expressions leaders hosted a Pioneer Learning Community retreat, where participants took to the streets to listen and look for where a little stretch of neighborhood or a shopping district might resemble the shape of the Kingdom of God.

As they went out, they walked and prayed, being aware of all they noticed and looking for where God might be at work. They approached individuals in order to find out more about them, and they prayed with them when it was appropriate. They then brought back their experiences to the group and discussed how they might be able to do the same exercise in their own communities.
When they walked the streets, these pioneers met shopkeepers and other people. They noticed pets and kids. They saw where some people had plenty and where others didn’t have enough, and they began to ask why. By putting their observations together back in the retreat setting, the group was able to begin discerning the neighborhood’s story and its needs.

This is how a Fresh Expression begins. How might this sort of activity take shape where you live?

To discover more about Fresh Expressions and how you and your church might explore this in your own community, visit FreshExpressionsUS.org.

You can also watch a video about it at bgav.me/BGAVpioneers.

For more information about how you and your church can be involved with Fresh Expressions, contact:

Chris Backert
National Director
Fresh Expressions US
804.432.5418
chris.backert@freshexpressionsus.org

Several participants of the Fresh Expressions Pioneer Learning Community Retreat