

Ten Dollar Club



North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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God's Stirring

By Rev. Hope Ledbetter-Bock



Rev. Hope Ledbetter-Bock
Associate Director of New Faith
Communities & Clergy Life

The notes app on my phone is filled with partially written notes to myself about ideas, big questions, goals, or dreams that I jotted down between meetings or while out on a walk. Some of these thoughts seemed significant when I wrote them, but now, looking back, they feel nonsensical. Others I still ponder, wrestle with, and dream about to this day.

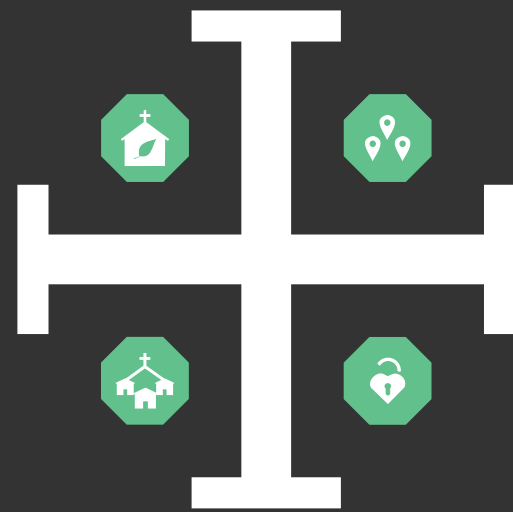
Day centered on the Fresh Expressions Movement. As I sat in both rooms, I found myself wondering how much of starting Village Church Rolesville or launching these Fresh Expressions originated from half-written notes about ideas or dreams that came as a fleeting thought. As you read Leah and Tyler's reflections, I encourage you to consider your own half-written dreams or ideas. Where might God be stirring within you to co-create new spaces for new people to gather into communion with Jesus Christ?

This month, we're celebrating both the chartering of Village Church Rolesville and an inspiring Common Learning



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PLANTERS
with your prayers for communion to be celebrated
in new ways in their lives and in their communities.

- | | |
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*An order of laity and clergy dedicated to embodying
apostolic hospitality for new people to be gathered
into communion with Jesus Christ.*

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Fresh Expressions

DAY OF LEARNING

By Leah Wiebe-Smith



New Faith Communities and Center for Leadership Excellence Partner for a Fresh Expressions Day of Learning

Can you imagine...?

Imagine worship that doesn't match our expectations of Sunday mornings in sanctuaries lit by a mix of stained glass and sunshine, and pianos playing familiar hymns that repeat in our minds even as we spend the remaining day at the grocery store and meeting with friends. While the connection with deeply held traditions of worship we hold closely is Church for many United Methodists, if we have the imagination, we have the potential to reach new people for Christ, people who may not find the same joy and comfort in sanctuaries, narthex gatherings, or Sunday school rooms that we do.

Connecting with Jesus can (and should) spill out in unexpected places and in ways that perhaps do not align with a worship order or the United Methodist Hymnal. The Fresh Expressions movement, which focuses on new expressions of church, is only limited by our imagination and should be guided by the interests and desires of our community. A Fresh Expression can be meeting over dinner and having conversations about how to pray, sharing scripture as part of a yoga class, or biking on a sunny day and discussing who God is. Essential in this interaction is our connection with new



people in new ways and spaces so they can explore faith and build community.

Pastor and United Methodist Fresh Expressions leader Michael Beck spent a day with over 125 clergy and laity gathered, sharing about the inherited church (think stained glass and hymns) and the emerging church (think dinner church and tattoo parlor church), to encourage us to create a blended ecology, where we celebrate and support both forms of church. In a world where we are faced with dichotomies of either/or decision-making, a both/and understanding and practice are liberating. Beck

challenged our UM leaders to listen to the community before jumping in, using our imagination, and then trying a Fresh Expression.

Though a blended church ecology may feel foreign to those of us who find comfort in a church service, the emerging church, focused on Fresh Expressions of acceptance and embracing new ideas, can be a safe harbor for new people to engage with faith. We can choose to lean into the movement in our contexts. We have a role and responsibility to help others explore faith and to disciple others. After all, what does Jesus call us to do? +

Live Like Family

LOVE LIKE JESUS

By Rev. Tyler Williams



"Discipleship begins with relationship and moves at the speed of friendship." If that's true, then Village Church Rolesville has chartered in God's perfect Kairos time. On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Village Church Rolesville was constituted as a United Methodist Church in the North Carolina Annual Conference, transitioning from being a campus of Wake Forest United Methodist Church to being in a cooperative parish model. Charter members from Village Church Rolesville and supporters from Wake Forest UMC gathered with Bishop Shelton, Director of New Faith Communities, Tim Catlett, and District Superintendent, David Joyner to liturgically mark and celebrate in worship this exciting new chapter.

After everyone left and all was quiet in our church space, I found myself overcome... kneeling in prayer giving God thanks over and over again. I gave God thanks for something that started in a living room. I gave God thanks for God's faithfulness,

creativity, and patience. I gave thanks for my family. I gave God thanks for old leaders and new leaders--those whose commitment helped us get going and those whose new enthusiasm will help propel us forward. I gave God thanks for strong, collegial relationships with Donald Warren and Jim Littleton. I gave God thanks for a conference and leadership that has a passion for co-creating new spaces for new people to be gathered into communion with Jesus. I gave God thanks, trusting that this constituting will be yet another Ebenezer marking God's faithful and creative presence in our lives together as Village Church Rolesville—a Jesus centered, mission-driven, inclusive United Methodist Church whose mission is to live like family and love like Jesus! +



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