

# Ten Dollar Club

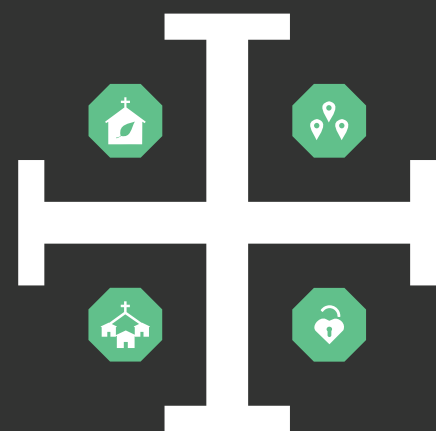


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Spring 2026

# An Expansive Table SET TOGETHER



*by Rev. Dr. Tim Catlett,  
 Executive Director,  
 Office of New Faith  
 Communities*

**One of the most enduring images of God's work among us is the table.**

Again and again, Scripture reminds us that God's table is wider than we expect. "They will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29). Jesus consistently gathered people who had been pushed to the margins and made space for them to belong, to heal, and to be restored to community.

Across the North Carolina Conference, this is the work our new faith communities and church planters are doing every day: co-creating new places and safe places where people can encounter God again—sometimes for the first time in years, sometimes after deep hurt, loss, or exclusion. These communities are not built quickly. They are formed patiently, relationally, and prayerfully, with deep attention to the lived experiences people bring with them to the table.

The two reflections that follow offer a glimpse into that sacred work. Pastor Kelley Finch shares how Mosaic has become an expansive table of healing and belonging, shaped by those who once believed there was no room for them in the church. Revs. Amanda Rigby and Justis Mitchell reflect on the importance of trauma-informed ministry and the faithful listening required to walk gently with people whose stories include religious harm.

Your generosity through the \$10 Club makes this possible. You are helping set tables where grace is practiced, stories are honored, and communion becomes real again—not only as bread and cup, but as a lived experience of God's love among God's people. Thank you for helping us prepare a place where all may come and experience the love of God and be welcomed to Christ's table. ✚

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# Behind Every Faithful Act *is a story*



**By Rev. Amanda Rigby  
and Rev. Justis Mitchell**

## Behind every faithful act of ministry is a story.

As clergy and church leaders, it is increasingly important to be prepared for ministry with people who have experienced trauma or abuse in a religious context. This preparation includes awareness and education, but also intentionality in planning, building networks of referral resources, and creating safe spaces for individuals and communities to heal and receive appropriate care. As leaders, it is our mission and responsibility to meet our congregants/clients/community members where they're at. In our UMC ordination processes, talk about servant leadership is frequent; sometimes this servant leadership looks like stepping into places of deep trauma to listen faithfully and empathetically to the harm that has been done to those in our midst. Harm, pain, and grief are far too common in the world around us, and it is our practical and contextual theology's function to be a counter-narrative of hope to these voices of suffering.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, New Faith Communities planters and practitioners gathered online to engage in a Common Learning Day about religious trauma and mental health in congregations and communities. Rev. Justis Mitchell and Rev. Amanda Rigby offered helpful definitions, topical education, pastoral care implications, and practical tools and resources for trauma-informed ministry and church leadership. Questions and conversations arose about topics like boundaries, symptoms of trauma or mental illness to look out for, and strategies to integrate in ministries of care and support. The collaborative learning that took place in this workshop is one that Rev. Mitchell and Rigby hope will empower faith leaders to boldly, gently, and empathetically enter into tough conversations that don't shy away from the harm that exists around us. Behind every faithful act of ministry is a story; the stories that make us, form us, harm us, and carry us. This workshop invited leaders to recognize how these stories can be beautiful when we choose to hold them together in community with others. +



# Mosaic's Expansive Table Healing the Disciples to Transform the World



**By Pastor Kelley Finch**

When Mosaic first gathered as an idea, the ones who showed up had left the church for many reasons. From LGBTQ+ family members to race issues to accommodations for neurodiversity, everyone was connected by a call to social justice and creating a church that lifted marginalized communities. Within the first month we voted

on three pillars. We provide a Sanctuary (safe space) where we can build Community to Empower each other to be disciples creating positive change in our world. Four years later we are still standing on those pillars and healing the harm caused by churches. We actively focus on healing church harm through our language, worship services, and the use of our space.

With 80% of our families having at least one member falling under the LGBTQ+ rainbow, instead of advertising we are open or affirming, we use the word expansive. Mosaic is an expansive table church where we will build room at our table for everyone and their needs. With guidance from our neurodiverse friends, we explain our terminology clearly. Over the years we have even worked through our liturgy for communion, baptism, and membership not only to make the language expansive, but to clearly define what each part means. Working with those who have been harmed by the church, we try to provide ample space to understand everything about the church.

This led to holding two separate services each Sunday morning. Our first service is called Dialogos. This service has traditional elements in the first half, children's moment, music, sermon. The second part is an open discussion about the sermon or questions about faith in general. While the sermon focuses on the first three parts of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, the discussion opens up the fourth part, experience. We also have a Methodist Moment each Sunday where we talk about what it means to be a Methodist with topics from The Book of Discipline, Methodist history, and the meaning of our traditions (like passing of the peace) before we add them to the service. The second service is a full traditional service and often people attend both.

Finally we wanted to truly live out our mission of healing harm, specifically to the LGBTQ+ community. In October 2025 we began to fundraise and transform our building into a nonprofit coffee shop that will benefit our unhoused and low income LGBTQ+ friends with hopes to complete it in the Spring of 2026. So many in our church and community do not have extended families to help them due to the teaching of many churches. At Mosaic we are not only providing a safe space as a church, but working towards creating a safe community space that actively provides resources for those young people who have been cast out from their non-affirming families.

In four years we have had over 150 people join our community that had not been in a church in over ten years. They now serve on boards, on our worship team, and lead various groups. The power of healing a church can do when it listens to marginalized communities is a blessing to us all. If we continue to follow the words of Amos, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God, the church's reach has no limits. +



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