

## FRESH EXPRESSIONS: A Collective for Learning and Practice

Have you or your congregation ever wondered:

- What might God be up to in our neighborhood?
- What are some faith communities doing to meet God's people beyond their walls?
- What might the Spirit be bubbling up to the surface around me?
- How might God be calling us to wonder, explore, and experiment together?
- If you answered "yes" or even "maybe" to any of these questions, then come along with us!

Together, the synods of ELCA Region 4 are creating an intentional space to wonder and explore together. Congregations and leaders of the Southwestern Texas Synod, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, Central States Synod, Nebraska Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, are invited. Together we will embark on a collective experience to explore "Fresh Expressions" as a model for reaching people who are right outside our church doors.

Over the course of six months (4 meetings), disciples and congregations will gather together as a cohort online via Zoom to journey with and learn from the Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck, Director of Fresh Expressions for the United Methodist Church. These monthly sessions will provide a practical toolkit, training, and resources for those who are willing to experiment with Fresh Expressions.

The theory behind Fresh Expressions will be shared in practical ways. More than just a seminar or workshop, this is an initiative designed to be an equipping, empowering, and sending experience! This is for anyone, but especially for all who consider themselves adventurers and pioneers, and those who love to experiment and try new things.

Trainings will take place on the following Saturdays, 1-2:30pm Central Time:

- October 18th, 2025
- November 15th, 2025
- January 10th, 2026
- February 7th, 2026

As this is something meant to be experienced together, each participating congregation is expected to send **at least** two lay members (but more may come!). Rostered ministers can also attend. The goal is to equip as many disciples as possible. Our synod's conferences may want to participate together, to explore what new Fresh Expressions God might be bringing forth in our synod's larger ministry context.

### Register Today!

Due to a very generous grant, this opportunity couldn't be more affordable, so please take advantage of it! Cost is just \$30 per congregation. This includes as many participants from your congregation who are interested, but all participants are expected to participate in all cohort meetings. (Note: registration provides an opportunity for access to "seed grants" if you decide to experiment with Fresh Expressions).

God is surely up to something! Let's explore, imagine, and experiment together!

If you have questions, please contact Brother Chris Markert at [dem@swtsynod.org](mailto:dem@swtsynod.org).



*The Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck,  
Director of FX-UMC*