



## GROUPS FORMING NOW FOR THE FALL OF 2025

### Missional Incubator: National Capital Presbytery

Interested? Contact Brian Clark, Director, to set up an initial conversation.

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*Missional: Loving people. Engaging community on their terms and their turf.*

*Incubator: Space to dream. Growing dreams into reality.*

*Unless it is the LORD who builds the house, the builders' work is pointless. (Psalm 127:1)*

#### OVERVIEW

Mixed-economy expressions of church have been with us since the beginning of Church. Throughout scripture are the stories of how God used shepherds, vinedressers, farmers, accountants, financial planners, tent makers, owners in the textile industry, fishers, and many others to lead and gather God's people.

The National Capital Presbytery seeks a more proactive, intentional approach to establishing new worshipping communities and new expressions of existing churches that will engage people currently unconnected to church. The decline in church membership, the increasing pace of church closures, and the growing disconnect between current ministries and a postmodern culture demand a different strategy. This strategy will need to incorporate a mixed economy ministry that can provide income streams to the mission while increasing opportunities to engage with those who would not be attracted to a more traditional church. **If your church is ripe for this kind of strategy and with the capacity to take this bold step, now is the time to apply to the Fall or 2025**

#### MISSIONAL INCUBATOR

The Incubator's goal is to empower your church to develop contextually informed, thoughtfully integrated, mission-hearted new expressions of the one Church. The Incubator will empower your leadership to develop a robust plan for a compelling business or social enterprise of your church that will engage the community and create collisions with people not associated with your church. The Incubator will give key leaders of your church nine to twelve months and resources to:

- Develop mission plans, including business plans that identify funding and investors.
- Draw on outside experts partnered with the Missional Incubator.
- Create a steady source of contacts and introductions in your community.
- Develop funding sources for a new expression of church paired with a compelling business.

#### WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF YOUR CHURCH:

- Identify a lead person with the drive to develop a plan and the capacity to bring that plan into reality. The lead person is usually the pastor or associate pastor who is positioned to implement, or oversee the implantation of, the plan developed.
- The lead person will spend one day a week (10 AM - 3 PM) with 3-5 others in a cohort of the Missional Incubator. The location of these gatherings will rotate among Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, your church, and the churches of the others in the Incubator.

## WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF YOUR CHURCH (continued):

- The lead person will gather a team of 2-3 people connected with your Church who will meet monthly with the lead as dreamers, conversation partners, discerners, and explorers of this new mission. The team will also:
  - Engage in a regular posture of listening and learning as a missional practice in your local context:
    - Be open to community conversations.
    - Try a few experiments as a process of honing the most viable compelling business plan.
  - Engage in spiritual practices that will support the missional practices.

## HOW THE MISSIONAL INCUBATOR WILL SUPPORT YOU IN THIS PROCESS:

- Equipping in the practices and skill sets needed to explore potential business opportunities, including community listening, networking, and market research.
- Coaching and mentorship in developing a business and mission plan.
- Connection to thought leaders and experts to build skills, strategies, and capacities for this work.
- An innovative environment of peers to generate ideas and feedback loops to support one another in the work.
- Dedicated energy and attention to developing a thorough plan, to include a business plan, mission plan, financial plan, and staffing plan.
- A “Cloud” of experts who would be available for consultation, to include builders, architects, accountants, lawyers, county experts, and more.
- Availability to meet with your team, your session, or your congregation at any time that will help bring along the stakeholders in this process.
- A spiritually vibrant environment to support prayerful discernment.
- A commitment to walk alongside your congregation to bring this plan into reality once the plan has been developed.

## RESULTS: AT THE END OF NINE MONTHS YOU MIGHT DISCERN AS A CHURCH THAT:

- Now **is** the time for this new mission and you begin to implement the plan.
- Now **is not** the time for this mission:
  - The Incubator time revealed the road map for a business that will take 1-2 years to put the pieces together.
  - The Incubator revealed this is not the right mission for our church.

*A vision of a man from Macedonia came to Paul during the night. He stood urging Paul, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” Immediately after he saw the vision, we prepared to leave for the province of Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. Acts 16:9-10 (CEB)*

**Ultimately the Missional Incubator is designed to help your church discover who is God urging you to engage and how can you meet them on their terms and on their turf.**

**so that our churches can grow** 