



Greater Milwaukee Synod

What is Faithful Innovation?

This is a process, not a program, in which a group of congregations form an intentional "**learning community.**" Together, those congregations commit to one another in a nine-month learning experience. Through prayer, skill-building, action and reflection they address the pressing questions about the future of God's church. The experience includes three Saturday afternoon workshops, listening experiments, and ongoing coaching calls with synod leaders and trained process coaches.

What will we be doing together?

Gathering for One-Day Trainings

We will gather for three one-day training sessions designed to help us discover together what faithful innovation looks like in each of our contexts.

Monthly Coaching

Every month your congregational Guiding Team will connect in person or via online video to receive coaching and share learnings.

Trying New Actions

In-between trainings each congregation will try out some new experiments designed to help you learn more about what God is doing in your midst and how to join in God's work.

Training Descriptions



Training #1 - Saturday, October 8th, 2022

Tracing God's Movement in Our Lives and Neighborhoods

This first training helps equip participants to listen to God in their local contexts. Participants will dwell in Scripture together, share stories about what God is doing in the life of their local congregation, and notice where God might be at work in their everyday lives. The goal for these practices is to help the participants begin to answer the question, "What might God be up to?"

Training #2 - Saturday, January 21st, 2023

Learn by Doing: Using Action Learning to Discover God's Leading

In our second Learning Community training, we will focus on helping participants use action learning to deepen their exploration of what they think God might be up to. The idea is to help participants "behave their way into new thinking," rather than only trying to think their way into new behaviors. Participants will be given simple action learning experiments to try with others in their congregation.

Training #3 - Saturday, April 22nd, 2023

Sharing Our Learning: Intentional Reflection on Our Actions

Our third training will focus on learning to share what we've learned from the action learning experiments we did. Action learning requires intentional reflection on what was done so we can see what God might be teaching us!

Faithful Innovation Learning Communities Covenant



A learning community provides a space and structure for people to come together to help each other address shared challenges and opportunities.

It is an environment characterized by trust, vulnerability, and distributed leadership which generates and multiplies learnings.

Show Up Bring your whole self to this work. Be real. Participate fully in meetings and activities. Engage the process. Do the work. You are agreeing to full participation in all the meetings and activities associated with this work. You will need to allot time for the 3 retreat trainings, along with monthly coaching calls (1 hour) and leadership learning activities in-between gatherings.

Invest in One Another The relationships developed in a learning community are integral to its value. Listen attentively. Be compassionate toward one another.

Pray Christ is at work wherever two or three are gathered in his name (Mt. 18:20). We move forward with the expectation that God will lead us into the future that God has in mind for us. Prayer helps us to trust the Spirit's leadership and become more aware of God's guidance.

Be Curious There are no easy answers to the primary challenges facing churches today. New discoveries will emerge in unexpected places, including from the margins. Be open to what God might be teaching us in this process.

Be Honest Everyone is facing different challenges in the life of our congregations. Martin Luther said, "A theologian of the cross calls a thing what it is." We need to share our honest concerns, fears, hopes, and longings in order for us to learn from each other and move forward. Pretending we have it figured out won't help us!

Share Your Stories Be willing to share your stories, successes and failures as you go so that we can all benefit from everyone's experience.

Coach Name
