



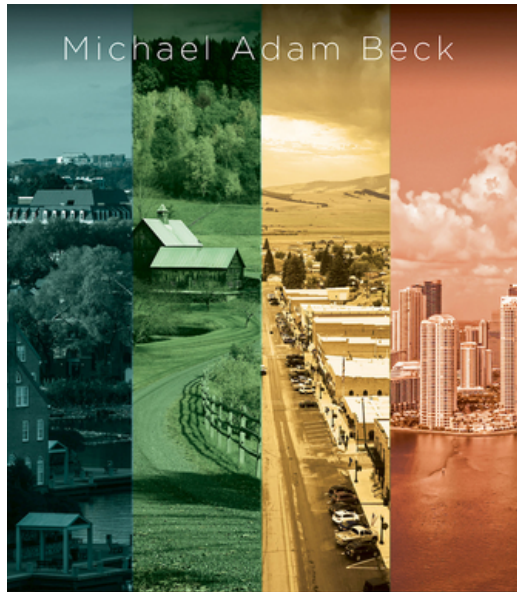
Renew, Reconnect, Revitalize

Discover the Power of Fresh Expressions

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March 31, 2026



Bibliography



AN ECUMENICAL
FIELD GUIDE FOR
FRESH EXPRESSIONS

Beck, Michael Adam. *An Ecumenical Field Guide for Fresh Expressions*.
Abingdon Press

Beck, Michael Adam. "A Changed Mission Reality: Six Major Shifts"

Wesleyan Pathways for Ministry Course:
Missio Ecclesiae: Fresh Expressions and the
Blended Ecology of Church

What is Fresh Expressions?

A form of church for our **changing culture**, established primarily for the benefit of **those who are not yet part of any church**.

Reclaiming the apostolic way of being church from within the rhythms, places, and cultures of the emerging context. These are forms of church that are:

1. **Missional** - Birthed by the Holy Spirit to reach not-yet-Christians
2. **Contextual** - Seek to serve the context in an appropriate form to the people in it
3. **Formational** - Focused on making disciples
4. **Ecclesial** - A full expression of the “church” not a stepping stone to an inherited congregation



Key Components of Fresh Expressions



Discern what God is already doing and join in God's activity.

Prioritize belonging before believing.



Create safe communities where people can be known and loved **regardless** of what their religious convictions may or not be.

Believing comes along at the pace of grace for each person, or maybe not at all.

The First Fresh Expression

Jesus'
Ministry Was
Oftentimes in
the Fields



The first Fresh
Expression was
cultivated by Jesus.

Jesus and his disciples were a community of the disinherited, living under Roman subjugation. They were a people seemingly forgotten by the religious system of their day.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

-Matthew 9:36 (NRSV)

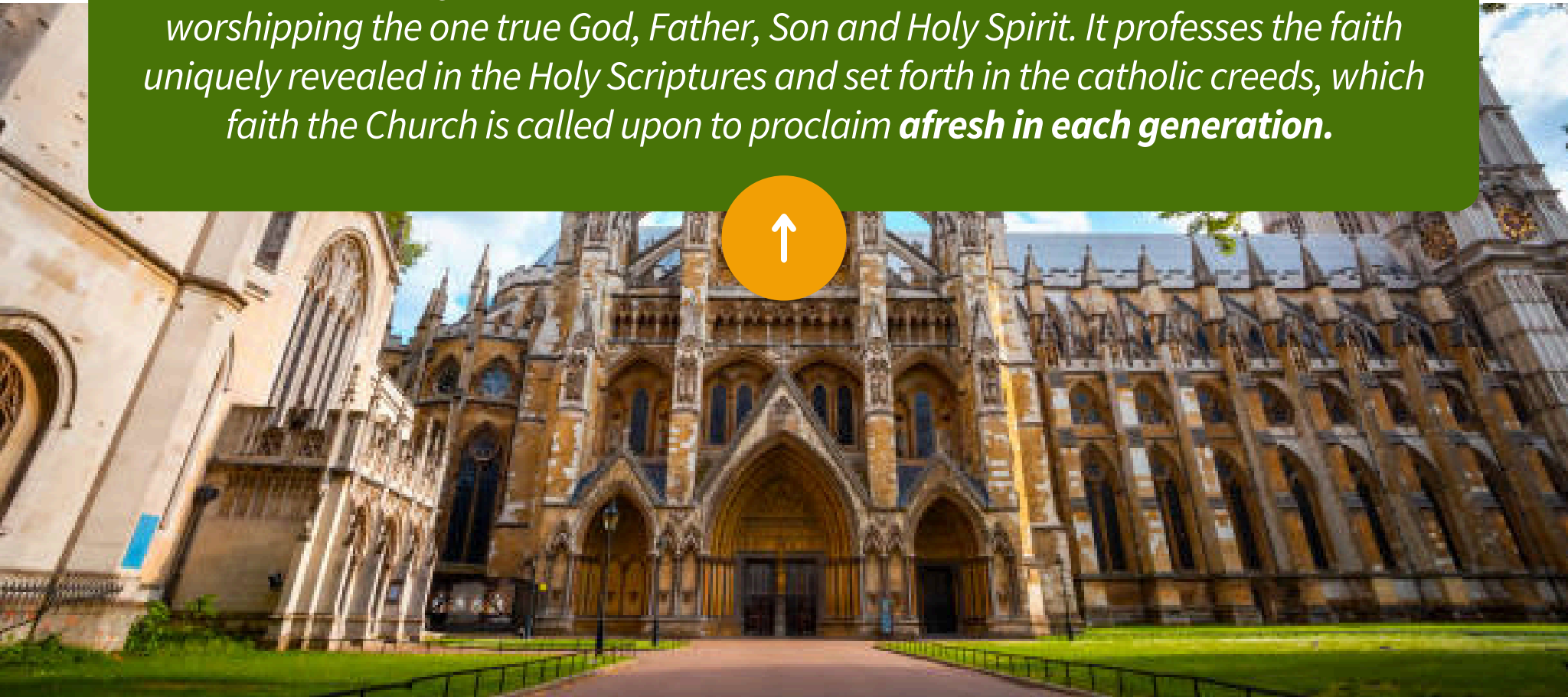


A Brief History

of Fresh Expressions

The term “Fresh Expressions” emerged from the following statement found in 2004's “Mission Shaped Church (MSC)” produced by Bishop Graham Cray and team.

*The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim **afresh in each generation.***



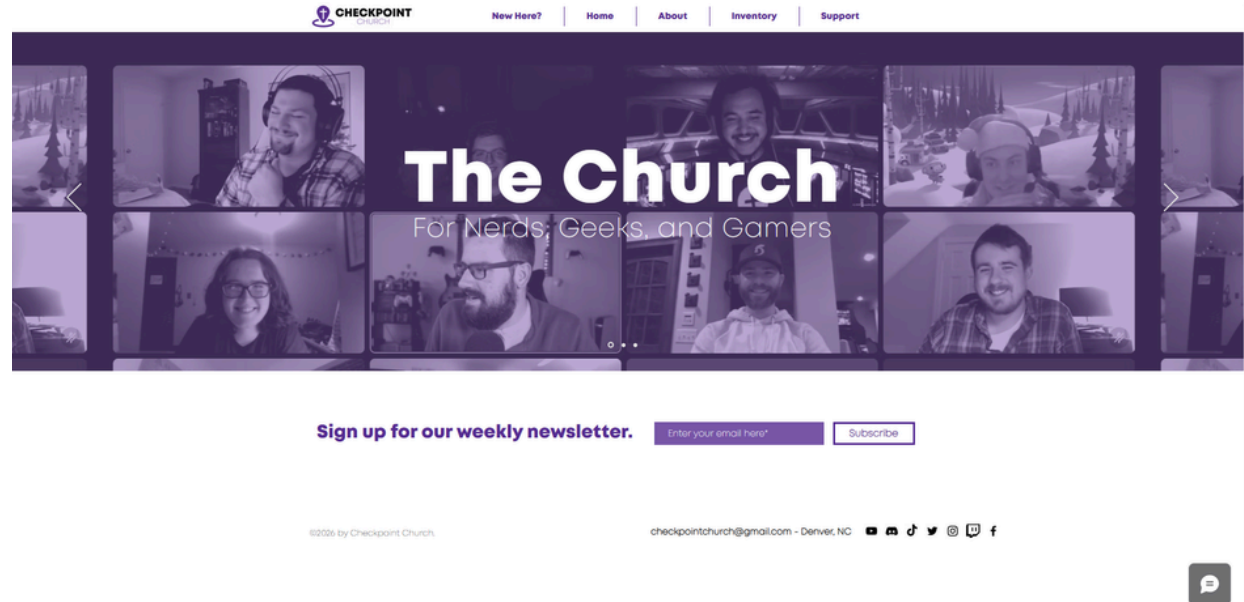


Example: Burritos & Bibles



Oftentimes Birthed from Passion

We are regularly present where people are gathering and forming community: the gym (pickleball church, yoga church), digital spaces (Check Point Church, video game church), the tattoo shop, dog park.



Where some places you already gather with others that could become a Fresh Expressions opportunity? Put it in the chat.

Why Fresh Expressions?

“A Changed Mission Reality: Six Major Shifts” by Michael Beck
(2023)

1. **Economy: From Dead Presidents to Bitcoin**
2. **Family: From Beaver to Brady Brunch to Modern Family**
3. **Religion: From Christendom to Pantheon**
4. **Technology: From Morse Code to Virtual Reality** [Another shift is happening to Artificial Intelligence]
5. **Neighborhood: From Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood to Neo’s Matrix**
6. **Church: From Constantine to North American Imperial Cult, Back to Caves**

***There are some people who will only be reached through innovation.**

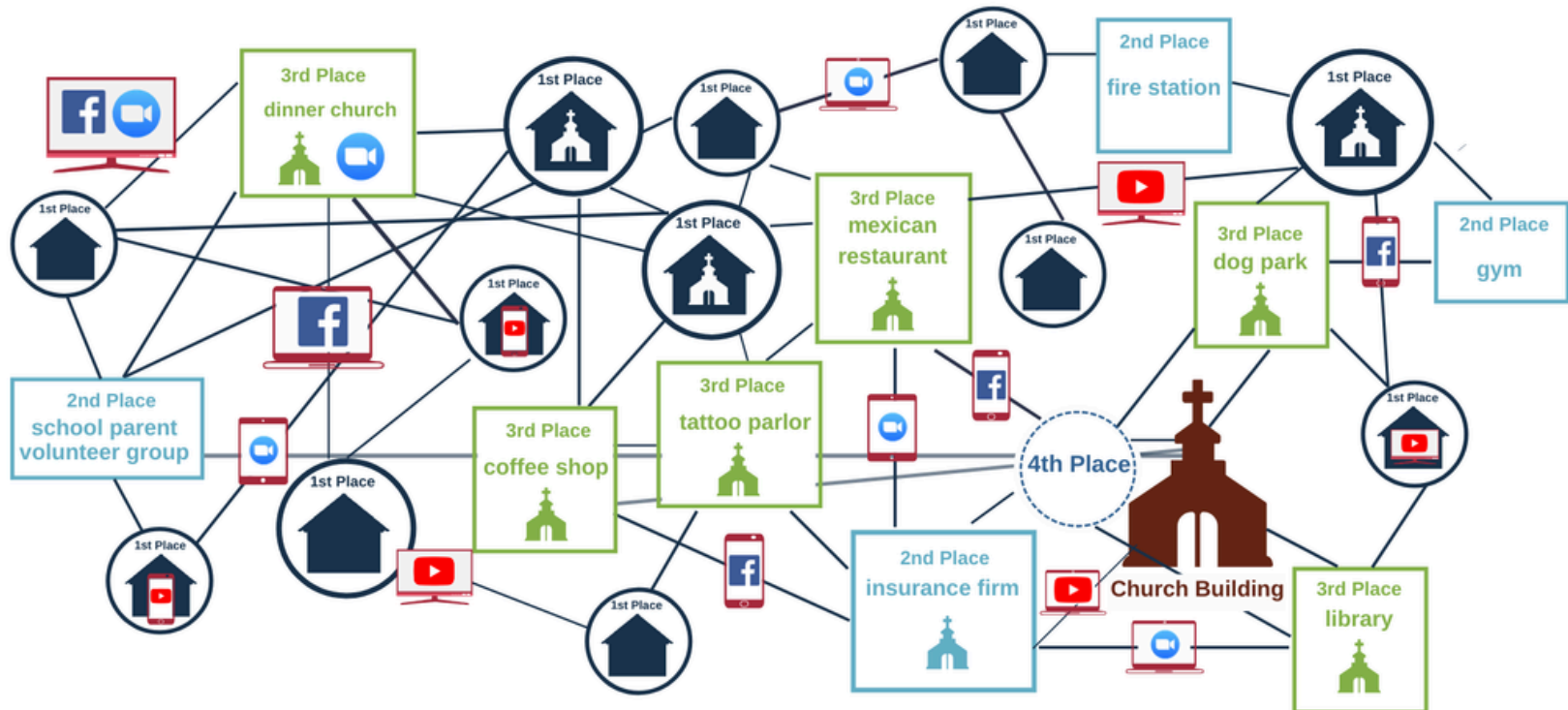


Is Fresh Expressions Doing Away with the Inherited or Fixed Church?

St. Mellitus Lincoln Harvey, Anglican theologian & professor = “Mixed Economy”/Michael Beck = “Blended Ecology”

The church as stationary and emerging - two modes dancing together making room. Fixed and fluid. The result - MORE TRANSFORMED LIVES!

THE BLENDED ECOLOGY ECOSYSTEM



Where Do We Start?

How do Fresh Expressions begin?



Stages

01

Listening

Listen to God, the inherited congregation, and larger community. Double listening meaning tuning ears to God and context.

02

Loving & Serving

Find ways to be with the people in our community, loving and serving them with no agenda.

03

Building Community

Repeat patterns of “witness” until loving and serving grows into authentic community.

04

Exploring Discipleship

Here the group begins to intentionally explore the Christian faith. Formal (intentional conversations) and social learning (sharing rhythms of life).

05

Church Taking Shape

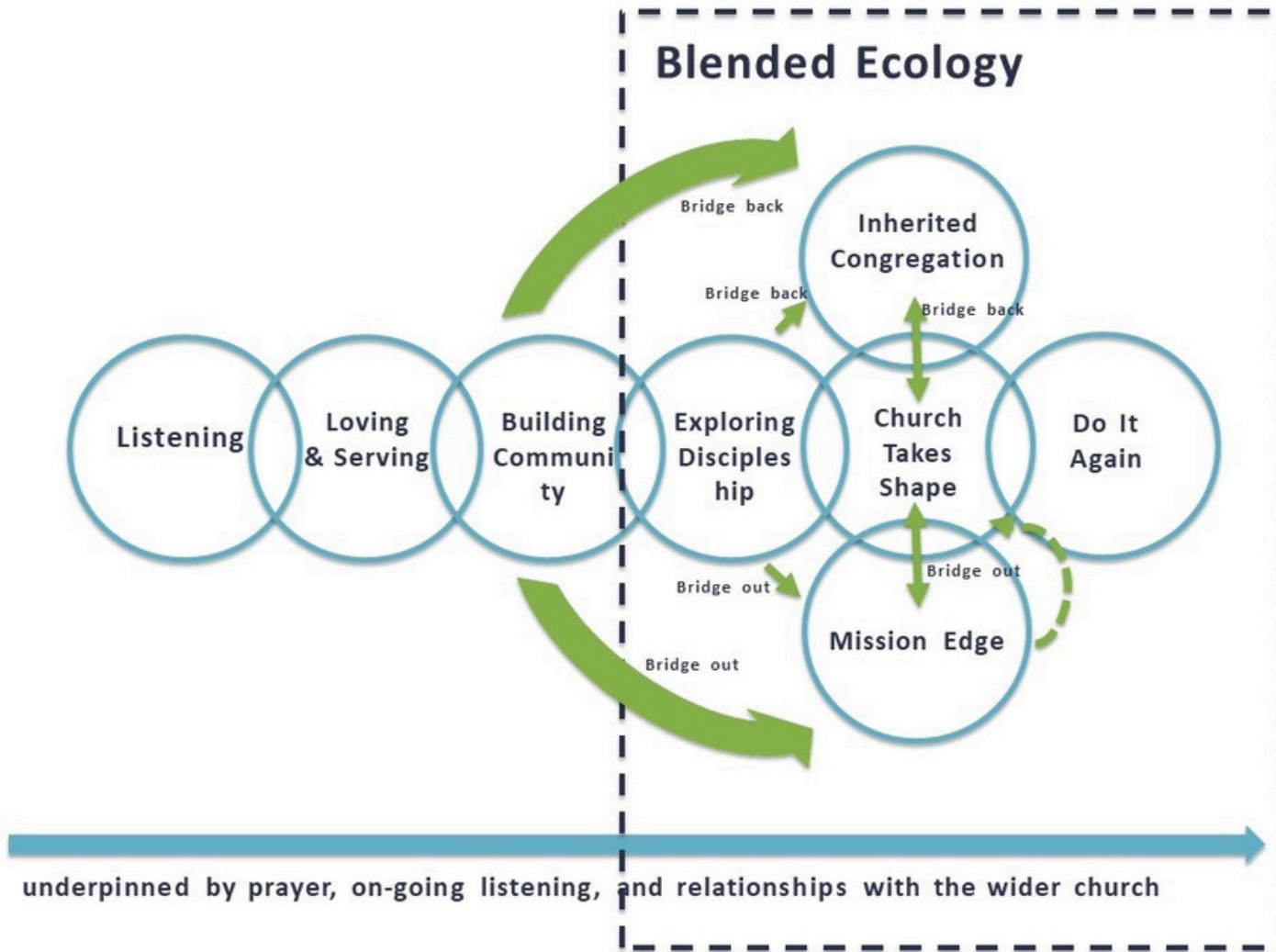
People are begging to enter and sustain a relationship with Jesus Christ.

06

Do It Again

Multiply. People see what’s already been done and want to do it themselves.

Fresh Expressions Stages



*Adapted from the Diocese of Leicester

What Do We Need?



The Holy Spirit

The Trailblazing Spirit

The Spirit always goes ahead of us and **is already intimately involved** in the life of every person we encounter. The Spirit is at work in the lives of people beyond the church walls, inviting us to join what God is already up to. The Holy Spirit is missional. The Spirit operates outside the bounds moving on the missional edge, bringing forth community among division, and enabling humanity to share the very agape of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is forming one authentic, diverse, peaceable community from all the peoples of the earth. The world is our parish. The Holy Spirit will empower us to be the Church where the people are.

The Holy Spirit never forces some cultural perspective on another group of people, but emerges out of who and what they already are. This is incarnational living, not the colonial, attractional, and propositional form of Christendom.

Forming a Team

Three Essential Roles for a Fresh Expressions Team

1. **Adventurers (UK Version is Pioneers. The US Version is Adventurers)** - People who are passionate about mission on the edges. People who are excited about advent or the arrival of something new.
2. **Supporters** - People who are passionate about supporting and releasing adventurers.
3. **Permission Givers** - People who use their role to foster the release of adventurers and to influence the system to be more willing to experiment.

Fresh Expressions can be created, led, and sustained by clergy or laity. It is our Wesleyan tradition to affirm the priesthood of **all believers**. John Wesley knew the Church needed an army of dedicated laity to adapt to merging changes of society to reach the people of the fields.

You need a Core (solid followers), Fringe of the Core (new to life of church, possible member, but in tune with community life and landscape), and Fringe (people of peace who may not be Christian, but open the doors to relational networks in community).



*The Good News!
Bishop Easterling has given us permission to experiment!*



TO BE A GOD- SHAPED CHURCH

We must be diverse, seeking and sending, mobile and stationary, attractional and emerging, fresh and vintage.



Thank you!

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