



NEXT  CHURCH

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

- 50,730** users visited our website
- 645** people signed up for our email updates (our total: 3,980!)
- 675** people attended our National Gathering
- 556** users watched the National Gathering via live stream
- 65** individuals participated in the second-ever Trent@Montreat
- 560** people downloaded the Field Guide for Cultivated Ministry
- 1,200** copies of the Field Guide for Cultivated Ministry distributed at the National Gathering and General Assembly
- 160** ruling elders across the Charlotte Presbytery engaged in our first-ever elder symposium
- 43** leaders participated in our second-ever community organizing cohort

WHAT IS NEXT CHURCH?

NEXT Church is a network of leaders — church members, ruling elders, youth leaders, educators, pastors, seminarians, and professors — across the Presbyterian Church (USA) who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful, and more agile. We are a movement seeking to strengthen the relational fabric of the PC(USA) so that our congregations are strong and healthy enough to be sustained, effective, faithful participants in the transformation of our communities toward the common good.

We focus our efforts around:
supporting and equipping congregations;
developing leaders; and
strengthening connections across the denomination.

As we carry out these efforts, we are trying, quite imperfectly, to be about the work of inclusivity and reconciliation. One example began three years ago, when we made an intentional decision to develop our leadership team into a group made up of at least 50% persons of color. It took three years and a lot of hard work, and we did it. We are just now starting the real journey: how to be together in ways that are just, honoring everyone around the table.

In recent months the Strategy Team leadership of NEXT Church has been called into work that is at once powerful and painful. We acknowledge that, entangled by the evils of racism and white supremacy, we hurt others even when we don't mean to. In light of this, we are working to reassess our priorities, in both the processes and outcomes, even as we remain committed to NEXT Church's mission. As leaders, we are all in different places; we feel a need for both urgency and patience as we grow together. In the coming year we are looking for ways to invite the larger NEXT Church community into this ongoing work. We believe it is important work for the church at large.

2018 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS SUPPORT & EQUIP CONGREGATIONS CULTIVATED MINISTRY

Are the number of worshipers and “giving units” the most important **measure of impact and success in ministry**? In a time when those traditional metrics seem out of touch with reality, Cultivated Ministry gives us a way to undertake ministry with a clear and purposeful understanding of how our activities contribute to God’s mission in the world.

Published with support from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School, the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, and Wayne Presbyterian Church, the **Field Guide for Cultivated Ministry: Bearing Fruit through Theology, Accountability, Learning, and Storytelling** is available for free on the NEXT Church website. Cultivated Ministry begins and ends with theology, with our belief that God is intimately engaged in the world and has called us to bear fruit that will last. In this work to which we are called, we practice **mutual accountability** to God and to each other and commit ourselves to constant **learning and reformation**. At every step, we listen for good news of God’s redemptive work through **storytelling**. As stewards of God’s good creation, it’s up to us to step forward in faith. It’s up to us to practice Cultivated Ministry.



Our presbytery has been awarding grants to new worshipping communities (NWCs) — some of which are no longer “new” — with practically no oversight or accountability. Based on Cultivated Ministry, the presbytery’s evangelism team created a “cultivation plan” for these NWCs. On a six-month cycle, each NWC develops learning questions in five areas of ministry (outreach, worship, discipleship, service, finances) and a plan to evaluate the questions and report back. This provides mutual accountability between the NWCs and presbytery while moving new ministries forward. It’s been a meaningful evaluation and strategic planning tool for my own NWC, The Joyful Feast.

**John Vest, visiting assistant professor of evangelism
Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA**

2018 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS DEVELOP LEADERS NATIONAL GATHERING

Our 2018 National Gathering took place February 26–28 in Baltimore; our theme was “**The Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying, and Rising in a Wilderness Church.**” Throughout Scripture and the history of God’s people, the wilderness is a place of radical change and reliance on God’s unwavering care. At the National Gathering, we asked how the church can embrace a wilderness identity in pursuit of the hope, resilience, clarity, and resurrection so often found there.

We gathered in worship together four times, intentionally moving through the paradoxical experience from Isaiah 35 of living, dying, rising, and living again. We heard the Word proclaimed by **Billy Honor, Jennifer Barchi, and Kathryn Johnston**, but also by Soulful Revue, a NEXT Church choir, and the Eutaw–Marshburn Elementary School Choir. We were challenged with keynotes by **Jonathan Walton and David Leong**. And when we weren’t gathered together in the same room, we each participated in a variety of engaging workshops which encouraged us to consider intergenerational ministry, congregational change, anti-racism work, and so much more. Recordings of our time together in plenary are available in the resources section of our website.

I attended a National Gathering for the first time in 2018 and had the opportunity to be a workshop presenter. It was amazing. As a participant, I enjoyed every minute of the event. From the opening sermon with Billy Honor to the closing sermon with Kathryn Johnston, both messages played an intricate part in my spiritual formation for the year. They shaped how I did ministry in my own church. My biggest takeaway from attending the National Gathering was the sense of community and networking. I felt inspired by so many people in my workshops. As a presenter, I was so appreciative by the feedback and graciousness I was given. I cannot wait until next year!

**Shani McIlwain, deacon
Faith Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC**

2018 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS DEVELOP LEADERS TRENT@MONTREAT

The second-ever Trent@Montreat was held April 16-19, again sponsored by five different organizations with a common interest in equipping and nurturing future leadership of the PC(USA): Montreat Conference Center, NEXT Church, Second Presbyterian Church (Roanoke, VA), and Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The conference networked peers with coaches in addressing practical areas of new ministry. After shared worship and brief presentations by leaders, participants divided into peer tracks that focused on a specific competency such as preaching, staffing, conflict, finances, pastoral care, and Christian education. The tracks were led by experienced practitioners with demonstrated competency in that area.

Trent@Montreat was different from other conferences in that it was centered on small peer groups rather than convocations. Further, participants did not “retreat” from local work but instead brought their work with them. The conference was also made affordable for pastors with little continuing education resources.



The early years of ministry are a time of big changes and challenging transitions. You've completed seminary and answered God's call, but now what? How can you thrive — not just survive — in ministry? Honestly, I arrived to Montreat tired and discouraged. But I didn't leave that way. Trent@Montreat is not just another conference or retreat. It's a life-giving experience of targeted learning and relationship building. I connected with mentors, nerded out with colleagues, and had my spirit renewed for effective ministry. Trent@Montreat helped me to take the next step as a leader and equipped me to better serve Jesus in the local church context. My advice to you? Make Trent@Montreat a priority. When it's offered again, drop everything and go.

Patrick McElwaine, pastor
Clemmons Presbyterian Church, Clemmons, NC

2018 PRIORITIES & CELEBRATIONS DEVELOP LEADERS ELDER SYMPOSIUM

On a Saturday morning in January, NEXT Church hosted more than 160 ruling elders from across the Charlotte Presbytery for its first-ever elder symposium, designed to equip and connect elders for leadership in the church. Elders chose a specialized track of ministry in which they were able to gain wisdom, share ideas, and discover solutions while connecting with leaders from other churches who have been called in similar capacities. These tracks were not workshops led by an expert, but conversations facilitated by a team of teaching elders and ruling elders with experience in the topic area.

The tracks were Christian education and formation, worship and music leadership, pastoral care, conflict and leadership, stewardship and finance, personnel and property, strategic planning, youth ministry, hospitality and congregational life, communications and technology, Reformed theology, polity in practice, mission and evangelism, and clergy leadership development. The morning of worship and conversation tracks helped to create a collaborative and hopeful space for elders who share a passion for leading the church.



The NEXT Church elder symposium was instrumental in stimulating the elders from our church. The tracks (conversations, not workshops) were educational and beneficial. The experiences shared by all breathed fresh air into our abilities to view being an elder through an open perspective. Having the opportunity to hear other elders and pastors share of their experiences and missional outreach initiatives provided a deeper sense of trust in God. Because of our participation, our elders' measure of boldness and courage has increased. We better understand the meaning of kingdom building right here on earth.

Darryl Gaston, ruling elder
Smallwood Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC

NEXT CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRATEGY TEAM

CLASS OF 2019

Rev. Adam Fronczek, Knox Presbyterian (Cincinnati, OH)*
Rev. Paul Roberts, Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA)
Ms. Sarang Kang, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (Ann Arbor, MI)
Rev. Bertram Johnson, Middle Collegiate Church (New York, NY)
Mr. Tanner Pickett, Montreat Conference Center (Montreat, NC)
Mr. Glenn McCray, Mount View Presbyterian (Seattle, WA)
Rev. Danny Morales, New Covenant Presbyterian/DOOR (Miami, FL)
Rev. Amantha Barbee, Statesville Ave Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Stephen Smith-Cobbs, Trinity Presbyterian (Herndon, VA)

CLASS OF 2020

Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner, Fourth Presbyterian (Chicago, IL)
Rev. Karen Sapio, Claremont Presbyterian (Claremont, CA)
Rev. Carla Pratt Keyes, Ginter Park Presbyterian (Richmond, VA)
Rev. Glen Bell, First Presbyterian (Sarasota, FL)*
Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, Providence Presbyterian (Providence, RI)*
Rev. Lori Raible, Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)*
Rev. Denise Anderson, Presbyterian Mission Agency (Temple Hills, MD)
Rev. Charlene Han Powell, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian (New York, NY)
Rev. Felipe Martinez, First Presbyterian (Columbus, IN)*
Rev. Dr. Aram Bae, First Presbyterian (Charlottesville, VA)
Rev. Dr. Perzavia Praylow, Fifteenth St Presbyterian (Washington, DC)

CLASS OF 2021

Rev. John Wilkinson, Third Presbyterian (Rochester, NY)
Rev. Tasha Hicks McCray, Mount View Presbyterian (Seattle, WA)
Rev. Andrew Foster Connors, Brown Memorial Pres. (Baltimore, MD)
Ms. Susan Thornton, Los Ranchos Presbytery (Newport Beach, CA)
Mr. Joel Schultze, Westminster Presbyterian (Grand Rapids, MI)
Rev. Meghan Gage-Finn, Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis, MN)
Mr. Carlton Johnson, Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA)
Mads Benishek, Breaking Bread (Princeton, NJ)
Rev. Jeff Bryan, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian (Rock Hill, SC)
Ms. Suzanne Davis, Hopewell Presbyterian (Huntersville, NC)
Rev. Steve Lindsley, Trinity Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Eliana Maxim, Seattle Presbytery (Seattle, WA)

* denotes member of the Coordinating Team

NEXT CHURCH LEADERSHIP ADVISORY TEAM

CLASS OF 2019

Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art (Black Mountain, NC)
Rev. Mark Davis, St. Mark Presbyterian (Newport Beach, CA)
Rev. Christopher Henry, Second Presbyterian (Indianapolis, IN)
Rev. Chad Herring, John Knox Kirk (Kansas City, MO)
Rev. Mindy Douglas, First Presbyterian (Durham, NC)
Rev. Edwin Estevez, Riverfront Church (Wilmington, DE)
Rev. Amaury Tañon-Santos, Synod of the Northeast (Plainfield, NJ)
Rev. Joe Clifford, Myers Park Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Rev. Tom Are, Village Presbyterian (Prairie Village, KS)
Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy, Westminster Presbyterian (Alexandria, VA)
Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana, National Capital Presbytery (Reston, VA)

CLASS OF 2020

Dr. Stacy Johnson, Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ)
Rev. Anna Pinckney Straight, Old Stone Presbyterian (Lewisburg, WV)
Rev. Leslie King, First Presbyterian (Waco, TX)
Rev. Carol McDonald, Northminster Presbyterian (Indianapolis, IN)
Rev. Christopher Edmonston, White Memorial Pres. (Raleigh, NC)
Rev. Kathryn Johnston, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian (Mechanicsburg, PA)

CLASS OF 2021

Rev. Fairfax Fair, First Presbyterian (Ann Arbor, MI)
Rev. Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis, MN)
Rev. Erin Keys, Capitol Hill Presbyterian (Washington, DC)
Mr. Gilmour Lake, Highland Presbyterian (Winston Salem, NC)
Rev. Tony Sundermeier, First Presbyterian (Atlanta, GA)
Rev. Laura Cheifetz, NAPAWF (Atlanta, GA)
Rev. Tom Cramer, Los Ranchos Presbytery (Anaheim, CA)
Rev. Victor Floyd MCC/UCC, Calvary Presbyterian (San Francisco, CA)
Rev. Rosy Robson, First Presbyterian (Richardson, TX)
Rev. Mary Harris Todd, Morton Presbyterian (Rocky Mount, NC)
Mx. Slats Toole, Breaking Bread (Princeton, NJ)
Rev. Flo Watkins, The Avenue Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
Ms. Valerie Young, Synod of the Sun (Irving, TX)

STAFF

Rev. Jessica Tate, Director
Linda Kurtz, Communications Specialist
Rev. Pete Peery, Relationship Developer
Jen James, National Gathering Coordinator

THANK YOU

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



NEXT Church continues in its work enabled by tremendous support from across the denomination. Hundreds of people share their time, their expertise, their wisdom, and their creativity to make each and every thing we do a reality. We are grateful for this collective spirit. More than **130 individuals**, more than **70 congregations**, and several PCUSA-related agencies support the work of NEXT Church financially. We could not operate without their support.

NEXT Church is made up of individuals who come together to create a movement that is hope-filled, honest, challenging, creative, and collaborative. We believe this is what the Body of Christ looks like in the world and are grateful to be part of this community of Good News.



NEXT CHURCH SUPPORTERS

CHURCH-RELATED & CONGREGATIONAL GRANTS

Arlington Presbyterian (VA) • Black Mountain Presbyterian • Board of Pensions • Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian • Bryn Mawr Presbyterian • Burke Presbyterian • Claremont Presbyterian • Covenant Presbyterian (Charlotte) • Covington Presbyterian (Pavilion) • Decatur Presbyterian (GA) • Doylestown Presbyterian • Fairfax Presbyterian • First Presbyterian (Ann Arbor) • First Presbyterian (Asheville) • First Presbyterian (Ashland, OR) • First Presbyterian (Burlington, NC) • First Presbyterian (Charlotte) • First Presbyterian (Columbus, IN) • First Presbyterian (Cumberland) • First Presbyterian (Durham) • First Presbyterian (El Dorado, AR) • First Presbyterian (Lake Forest) • First Presbyterian (Libertyville) • First Presbyterian (Mount Vernon, IA) • First Presbyterian (Sarasota) • First Presbyterian (Spartanburg) • First Presbyterian (Stamford) • First Presbyterian (Tuscaloosa) • First Presbyterian (Waco) • First Presbyterian (Wilmington, NC) • First Afrikan • Foundation of the Carolinas • Fourth Presbyterian (Chicago) • Ginter Park Presbyterian • Grace Trinity (Minneapolis) • Idlewild Presbyterian • Knox Presbyterian (Cincinnati) • Mechanicsburg Presbyterian • Myers Park Presbyterian • National Capital Presbytery • Oak Grove Presbyterian (Bloomington) • Oak Ridge Presbyterian (NC) • Oakland Avenue Presbyterian • Old Stone Presbyterian • Presbyterian Foundation • Presbyterian Mission Agency • Presbytery of Carlisle • Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area • Preston Hollow Presbyterian • Second Presbyterian (Indianapolis) • Second Presbyterian (Little Rock) • Second Presbyterian (Richmond) • Second Presbyterian (Roanoke) • Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian • Shallowford Presbyterian • Shandon Presbyterian • St. Mark Presbyterian (Newport Beach) • St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian (Rancho Palos Verdes) • St. Philip Presbyterian • Third Presbyterian (Rochester) • Trinity Presbyterian (Herndon) • Trinity Presbyterian (Surfside Beach) • Village Presbyterian • Westminster Presbyterian (Grand Rapids) • Westminster Presbyterian (Greensboro) • Westminster Presbyterian (Greenville) • Westminster Presbyterian (Minneapolis) • Westminster Presbyterian (Nashville) • Westminster Presbyterian (West Chester) • White Memorial Presbyterian

NEXT CHURCH SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS



Denise Anderson • Tom Are • Robert Ater • Amantha Barbee • Steve Baron • Glen & Anne Bell • Mads Benishek • Chris Bennett • Mary Berlin • David Bower • Carol Bryan • Jeff Bryan • Daniel Burch • Kevin Burrell • Barbara Cannon • Nanette Casney • Lillian Chapman • Laura Cheifetz • Dwight Christenbury • Steven Clark • Joe Clifford • Cynthia Coleman • Jan Condren • Jeff Courter • Ellen Crawford True • Suzanne Davis • Kim Dawson • Larry Deaton • Lindley DeGarmo • Mindy Douglas • Jan Edmiston • Christopher Edmonston • Shirley Elder • Kerra English • Debra & Eric Fagans • Whitney Fautleroy • Cindy Fisher • Andrew & Kate Foster Connors • Christine Foster • Adam Fronczek • Meghan Gage-Finn • James Galliher • Marilyn Gamm • Jeanne Gay • Leigh Gillis • Kathy Gorman-Coombs • Traci Grier • Barb Hedges Goettl • Tasha Hicks McCray • Elizabeth & Lee Hinson-Hasty • Sandy Irby • Jen James • Kelley Jepsen • Bertram Johnson • Kathryn Johnston & Martha Spong • David Jones • Sarah Dianne Jones • Sarang Kang • Caroline Kelly & Eric Markman • Lori Kosinski • Helen Krone • Andrew Kukla • Linda Kurtz • Gilmour & Nancy Lake • Martha Langford • Celeste Lasich • Steve Lindsley • Clay Macaulay • Gordon & Susan Mapes • Felipe Martinez • John Mason •

NEXT CHURCH SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Carol McDonald • MaryAnn McKibben Dana • Lisa McLennan • Virginia McMillan • Don & Krista Meeks • Margaret Mielke • PJ Miller • Kate Morrison • Todd Muldrew • Elizabeth Neel • Rebecca White Newgren • Jane Nicholl • Manley Olson • Don & Ann Opdycke • Brian Paulson • Don & Linda Peebles • Pete & Margaret Peery • Tanner Pickett • Amanda Pine • Andrew Plocher • Dick Powell • Scott & Pamily Pouty • Brian & Mary Lee Reiff • James Renfrew & Robin Dunnigton • Linda Rice-Johnston • Rosy Robson • John & Julia Royall • Jackie Salinas • Summer Sattora • Joel Schultze • James & Rebecca Sicks • Kathleen Smith • Stephen Smith-Cobb • Mark Sprowl • JoAnn Staebler • Shavon Starling-Louis • Katy & Anthony Stenta • Jessica Tate & John Davies • Joanne Stratton Tate • Debbie Taylor • Erin Thomas • Adriene Thorne • Susan Thornton • Mary Todd • Laurel Underwood • Laura & David Urban • David Van Dyke • John Van Nuys • William Vincent • Janet Wade-Utay • Jenny Warren • Floretta Watkins • Frank Watson • Hillary & Matt Webster • Angela Williams • Janet Winslow • Susan Wisseman • Deb Wright (Pneumatrix) • Fletcher & Anne Wright • Lori Wunder • Carrie Yearick • Rick Young • John Van Nuys • Mark Zimmerly



WHAT'S AHEAD?

THE FUTURE OF NEXT CHURCH

We believe God is always calling us into the future and the organization of NEXT Church is no exception to this calling. In 2017, NEXT Church introduced a confession of faith we call the Sarasota Statement, which speaks to many urgent theological issues of our time. It included these words, by which we are trying to live:

We commit to reject and resist all racist practices, however explicit or subtle. We commit to dismantle white supremacy, including societal structures that maintain and protect white privilege.

- Sarasota Statement, NEXT Church



The leaders on the NEXT Church Strategy Team find ourselves convicted by these words and are working individually and together to unmask white supremacy in our midst and to dismantle it, to the best of our abilities. We are practicing holding space for discomfort to be felt by those who are privileged, and we are practicing holding space for comfort to be felt by those who have long been silenced. These spaces are sacred. This work will continue on in the coming years as we wrestle with what it means for us as a Strategy Team and as leaders in the church. We believe this is important work for the church at large and will be working to invite others to come alongside us and to make this work live within local congregations and ministries.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

THE FUTURE OF NEXT CHURCH

With this grace-filled work of repentance as our grounding, we look forward to the following initiatives taking shape in 2019:

The 2019 National Gathering - WOVEN TOGETHER, Stories of Dissonance, Sacrifice, and Liberation; Seattle, March 11-13. We look forward to learning from Tali Hairston and Jennifer Harvey, worshiping together, and engaging in workshops. We are grateful for the hospitality of the Seattle Presbytery!

Cultivated Ministry - We are developing additional training and implementation resources as Cultivated Ministry becomes alive in ministry contexts. Thanks to the Presbyterian Foundation for a grant to deepen this work.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage - We are leading our first pilgrimage learning opportunity to Israel and Palestine. Our hope is that participants will gain greater biblical insights for preaching/teaching and develop insight into one of our world's most vexing struggles for peace and justice. Significant financial support from Covenant Presbyterian Church makes this trip possible.

NEXT Steps Coaching - We continue to find coaching to be a powerful tool for leadership development and recommend working with a NEXT Steps coach. We are also looking forward to a pilot program that will combine the best of individual and group coaching around adaptive leadership for transformation. We are grateful for this partnership with National Capital Presbytery and Holmes Coaching Group.

Community Organizing - We are thrilled to offer our third cohort of community organizing training in fall 2019 alongside Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and Metro IAF.



NEXT CHURCH

c/o Village Church
6641 Mission Rd
Prairie Village, KS 66208

NEXTCHURCH.NET • INFO@NEXTCHURCH.NET
FACEBOOK.COM/NEXT.CHURCH • @NEXTPCUSA