

For many congregations and their leaders, a missional engagement with their local culture represents a fairly significant transformation. The “if you build it they will come” approach to congregational life simply no longer produces what it once did. New patterns of congregational life that feature the “sent” nature of the church will need to be cultivated.

*Dr. Mark Love,
Director of the Resource Centre For
Missional Leadership at Rochester College*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A number of churches of Christ in Southern Ontario as well as Michigan State have expressed an interest in forming a *Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) Cohort Group*. This Cohort Group of between eight and twelve congregations will spend three years in conversation about how to best engage the communities that they are a part of. By joining a PMC you will participate in three Cluster groups each year. Each cluster group is a special way for your congregation to explore who they are, and how they can best serve the people in your community. Through PMC your church can develop:

- A God-centered, Biblical vision for mission;
- A greater sense of God’s activity in their congregation and community;
- Ownership of the mission of the congregation by more members;
- Members committed to and capable of making disciples;
- Both a vision for mission and a practical action plan to achieve it;
- Strengths of the tradition of the congregation;
- Practical skills for managing change and attending to conflict;
- Dramatic expansion of lay involvement;
- A decision-making process for planning activities and budget;
- A faithful and hospitable congregation;
- Relationships with other partner congregations and partners in the broader community;

In anticipation of a launch in 2011, any interested congregations or individuals are invited to meet at the Beamsville Church of Christ building (4900 John St. Beamsville ON) for a two day introduction to the PMC process on Friday October 22nd, and Saturday October 23rd. Dr. Mark Love of Rochester College and Dr. Stephen Johnson of Abilene Christian University will be there to guide us through some reflective exercises and a time of devotion and fellowship that will give you a glimpse of what being part of a PMC is all about.

The session on Friday is for church leaders. Elders, deacons, ministers, power brokers, key stake holders are invited to attend Friday’s 0.5 cluster event. During this time individuals

will be in dialogue about how to best form the church for mission in the 21st century. A strong component for this session will be how Scripture forms the leadership of the church to be Godly leaders. Leaders will be equipped with tools, language and disciplines to lead their churches deeper into the life of God.

Saturday's session is for all interested parties. What takes place on Saturday will be a foretaste of what takes place during the formal cluster gatherings. Churches participating in the 0.5 cluster event will want to invite key individuals to this gathering. During this time participants will be introduced to the practice, *Dwelling in the Word*, and equipped with the necessary tools to discover their own churches and neighbourhoods.

Please email southern.ontario.pmc@gmail.com about your interest in attending.

Noel Walker (noel.walker@gmail.com)
Minister of the Tintern Church of Christ

Nathan Pickard (pickardnathan@hotmail.com)
Minister of the Newmarket Church of Christ

Other Resources:

PMC Tri-fold Pamphlet from Church Innovations:

http://www.churchinnovations.org/01_services/00_pdf/PMC_Brochure.pdf

Rochester College Resource Center for Missional Leadership:

<http://www.rc.edu/pages/rcml/>

Patrick Keifert explains why PMC uses cluster groups:

<http://www.churchinnovations.org/vid01.html>

A video from the Northwest United States Churches of Christ explaining their participation in the PMC is available at <http://vimeo.com/11723600> (password: missio)