**Church Multiplication Forum Summary**

**September 16-18, 2019**

**Dearborn, Michigan**

**Free Methodist Church**

The GWA Multiplication group convened in Dearborn, Michigan as the guests of Mission Igniter (Multiplying apostolic leaders in communities on mission to foster a movement of multiplication). Leaders of the event were Michael Forney, SMC Assistant Supt. and CEO of Gravitational Leadership and Dustin Weber, Executive Director of Mission Igniter. The Free Methodist Conference of Southern Michigan under the leadership of Bruce Rhodes have developed the Incubator for Church Multiplication because Bruce challenged the conference to plant 10 churches in 36 months known as the 1036 plan. The Conference is made up of 36 churches. They conduct these incubator training sessions twice a year.

The Global Wesleyan group was able to fully participate in the training. Persons present from GWA were Alan Robinson (Brethren in Christ); David M. Church (Nazarene); Gary Thornton (Association of Independent Methodist); Mark Bane (Nazarene); Tom Planck (Healthy Growing Churches and Church of God);

Bill Shillings (International Fellowship of Bible Churches); and, Ron Duncan (GWA).

The following topics were presented: Making the Case for New Churches, 4 Fields of Kingdom Harvest; Developing Organizational Mission and Values; Building on a Foundation of Prayer; Identifying the Right Church Model for You; Developing Leaders Cross Culturally, Strategic Thinking, Planning and Systems Development in Church Planting; Developing a plan for an Apostolic Initiative; Developing a Fundraising Plan; and Becoming the Leader God Desires.

The group was also given the opportunity to attend Dinner Church on Monday night at the St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Community Resource Center.

Several major takeaways from the training:

1. The amount of money invested in Church planting initiatives has increased from $38,000 per year, three years ago, to just over $1 million this year because a vision and expectation for every church to multiply. An amazing story!
2. A new church formation process was developed unleashing all the potential options. It starts with an apostolic initiative sent out to start a new community for new people.
3. The utilization of MissionInsite which provides instant access to community information for your church.
4. Redefinition of what makes any of the models “a church”: “Ecclesial Minimum?”

Three interlocking circles: worship(up) love God; community(in) love one another; mission(out) love others.

**Examples of churches in the Mission Igniter Incubator:**

1. Love Detroit-Forge Motown, Urban Life Training Center, Discipleship in the Marketplace and Dinner Church.
2. Michiana is” a network of Micro churches that meet across Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Microchurches are intentional smaller bodies of Christ that focus on incarnationally reaching those who are far from God and not interested in attending a traditional church”
3. “Fresh Expressions of Church is to come alongside local churches, encouraging them to mobilize their people to step outside of church and look for ways they can join God in reaching people who have no interest in attending traditional church”.
4. The vision of the Downriver initiative is to be a network of huddles with the purpose of discipleship through spiritual formation, Mission activity, and relational ministry and mentoring. This is a regional initiative.
5. Evergreen Church-a community gathered and scattered, living out the hope of Jesus in the City.
6. Jiran collective seeks to make Jesus’ love tangible to Arab Refugees. (Side note: one half of the population in Dearborn is of Arab descent)
7. Raven-Brook Recovery Church in Jackson Michigan.
8. Journey of faith Community a new church formed around the missional community model.

All these initiatives and their leaders are part of the ongoing activities of the mission igniter incubator. Mission Igniter leaders Forney and Weber offered their materials to all GWA covenant members and all members attended the “Multiply Intensive Training” at no charge.

The GWA persons decided they want to explore more innovative approaches to church multiplication. Next year the Forum will meet in Tampa Florida April 20-22 and will explore “Fresh Expressions” with Michael Beck and Tampa Underground with Jeremy Stephens.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Duncan