



An invitation to continue the journey of discipleship and mission...

Having completed the two-year ReLearning Community journey, our hope and prayer is that your congregation (and especially your leadership team) is beginning to enter into the transformational space you envisioned when you began this journey several years ago. It is exciting to hear the stories emerging from our congregational teams as we have ourselves been on this journey – just a few years ahead of you.

We also recognize that the two years of ReLearning Community has been a space of learning new language and exploring many new ideas. Moreover, just as these ideas are beginning to take shape the two year journey ends!

Our INNOVATE team is committed to continue to journey together with you. Our goal is to create a network of congregations and teams who are seeking to make a kingdom impact across the whole spectrum of discipleship, leadership, community, mission and movement. **This is our invitation to you to join us for Community of Practice set to begin April 2021ⁱ** with a cohort of other congregations who have also completed ReLearning Community.

The goal of Community of Practice (CoP) is to see congregations and teams become centres of:

- **information**
 - As you gain experience through INNOVATE training in discipleship and mission, you become those who are then able to train, resource and equip others using the same methods – whether that is in your own congregation, as part of our INNOVATE team, or in the wider calling of God's mission.
- **Imitation**
 - As you are led through steady, strategic and sustainable change, the integrity of your own journey and story becomes a testimony for other churches and leaders to be inspired by
- **Innovation**
 - Through raising up disciples who are called to be leaders and developing Missional Communities, you are able to multiply faith communities, in line with your vision and calling, to impact your local neighbourhoods and regions.

The strategic aims of Community of Practice are:

- **Training and tactics** – building on your experiences coming out of ReLearning Community (ReLC), the emphasis is much more on tactical application. Some of the same themes are revisited, but there is much more space and expertise given to the nuances and application of these principles to continue building strategically, now that you have a degree of experience in applying content and tools we explored together in ReLearning Community.
- **Establishing and developing** - The application in ReLearning Community is about “how do I start to implement this?” The Community of Practice journey is about asking, “how do I continue to establish, grow and develop both my personal lifestyle and team culture” with respect to the 4 building blocks of Discipleship, Leadership, Mission, and Movement.

- **Planting and multiplying Missional Communities** - We expect that you will have started piloting Missional Communities by the time you finish the ReLearning Community journey. Whether you have or not, Community of Practice provides you the processing space aimed at the multiplication and planting of new Missional Communities. Again, it's about going from starting out and exploring (ReLC) to strategically developing and multiplying (CoP)
- **Conscious competence for multiplying leaders and communities** - As your team begins to experience breakthrough, Community of Practice offers an intentional environment to process what worked/didn't work and why. This is about self-reflection and learning from experience, so that lessons learnt become multipliable across the wider church.
- **Peer networks and partnering** – as well as being a strategic process, Community of Practice is designed to create a relational dynamic between the teams on the journey together with you. Through sharing the learning that each team has done, experience is leveraged for the good all the teams present. This is a space of peer learning & journeying together! Our aim is to give you an experience of, as well as sow vision for relational networks and movements, with leaders and churches collaborating in the long term - relationally & strategically in towns, cities and regions.
- **Shifting the balance of Content/Context** – whereas ReLearning Community had a stronger emphasis learning content to create kairos and stimulate dreams/plans, in Community of Practice more time is given to processing and hearing from one another's contexts. We learn from one another as the principles are becoming more applied and we move further towards "innovation" in the training process.
- **Practitioner experience** – A core principle of INNOVATE is that all of our teachers, coaches, and facilitators are practitioners – we are working at discipleship and mission in our own lives. We emphasise learning from the local story/testimony/lifestyle of both our team and your growing experience. The culture is one of practitioners sharing experience as team and as participants. This means that we intentionally combine inputs with examples and stories from a local context to process in more detail how the principles can be developed across local congregations.
- **Contextualization of the content** - The greater emphasis on peer learning, discussion and innovation (through the opportunity to share stories, discuss key topics/concepts and wrestle with the translations piece) means that over the course of Community of Practice, principles & processes are translated & contextualised into the language & culture of your neighbourhood.

Every neighbourhood deserves a Jesus centred, disciple-making, peace presence. Community of Practice is our commitment to you as a leader, your team and congregation, to continue grow in passionate spirituality, radical community, and missional zeal.

Let's talk about this opportunity!

For more information visit: <https://mcec.ca/relearning-community>

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ⁱ Our hope (prayer) is for an in-person gathering. We are planning for either in-person or online and will determine exact dates in early 2021.