

PLAYING WITH FIRE: A gathering of Missional practitioners and people experimenting with or learning about Missional ministry to immerse ourselves in:

- ◆ **Personal Context** - figuring out who I am, my personal gifts, skills, passions, strengths
- ◆ **Church Context** - who we are as a church/faith community, collectively, a local church's unique calling or *charism*
- ◆ **Community Context** - who we are called to be the Church *with* (not *to* or *for*, but *with*) in our local area
- ◆ **Storytelling** - the importance and power of stories, our stories, our church's stories, our communities stories, etc.
- ◆ **Conversation** - the value of theological conversation for local churches (example of Englewood Christian Church in Indianapolis as told in the book "The Virtue of Dialogue" by Chris Smith)
- ◆ **Funding** - the all-important money question, how do we do this missional stuff and pay the bills, etc.

The weekend will be a combination of panels, group discussion, “open space technology” and prayerful worship.

Everyone is an expert in this field, but some of our featured conversation partners will include:

- ◆ Steve Knight-- Community Architect forTransFORM, a missional community formation network, and a consultant on the Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation
- ◆ Rich McCullen—lead pastor of MissionGathering in San Diego, a church founded by people sick and tired of religion but seeking to connect with the life and message of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Yvonne Gilmore—founding pastor of New Song Community Church in Columbus, Ohio, rooted in spoken word and jazz, with a commitment to ministering to and with people who come to church from board room and jail cell alike.
- ◆ Sandhya Jha—pastor of First Christian Church of Oakland and Director of the Oakland Peace Center, a collective of 40 non-profits dedicated to ending violence in Oakland, an outgrowth of a small church’s commitment to peace.
- ◆ Darrell McGowen—senior pastor of First Christian Church of Fullerton, a thriving traditional church living into its deep commitment to connecting with and serving the neighborhood.
- ◆ And many more!

In addition to the weekend-long gathering, people new to Missional ministry can come early for **Missional Church 101:**

- ◆ Mapping our community—understanding our specific contexts for ministry
- ◆ Defining Missional ministry and understanding how that relates to all of our churches, different as they are
- ◆ Stories from people who are on a Missional journey
- ◆ Biblical framework for Missional ministry

This session will be facilitated by Missional pastors and regional ministers: Darrell McGowen (Fullerton, CA), David Helseth (White Swan, WA), Steve DeFields-Gambrel (Santa Cruz, CA), Sandhya Jha (Oakland, CA)