

# Network Group

## Reach First 12



### THE NEED:

⇒ It comes with no surprise that the relationship between the organized church and their communities has rapidly changed. We are long past the days when faith communities could open their doors, create healthy systems of invitation and in turn experience substantial growth. The church is now pressed by the ongoing demands that individuals and families face, coupled with digital engagement. As if that isn't enough, there is the growing reservation of those who are unchurched and de-churched to engage in a faith community at all.

### THE OPPORTUNITY:

⇒ Building Community was the centerpiece of the work of John Wesley, founder of Methodism. Wesley and his partner Francis Asbury, created an indigenous movement framed by an understanding of how churches must be rooted deeply in living in communities. According to his own testimony, Wesley's strategy for creating healthy communities of faith focused on 4 things:

- Trying new things and taking a risk
- Seeing what worked
- Ditching things that failed
- Innovation

⇒ This opportunity is for churches to rediscover what it means to become a part of the fabric of the life of your local community while developing ministries that collaborate and engage your community. The opportunity is found in the development of niche' enterprises that reach individuals and groups of people who are often neglected and ignored by the church.

### Presenter: Paul Nixon

Paul Nixon is the founder of Epicenter Group. He is a pastor, coach, ministry strategist and student of culture. He lives in downtown Washington DC, with an office on K Street. He operates in multiple time zones and cultural contexts each week. An author of eight books, Paul teaches in all sorts of venues from online cohorts to regional seminars to a course at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Paul Nixon was doing multi-site before that was a word. Paul planted one of the earliest campuses of a multi-site Protestant congregation, in the 1990s, a site that grew well past 1000 worshippers a week. Paul has been thinking, coaching and working around issues of multi-site ministry longer than almost any other coach or consultant around. Paul is co-creator of the Readiness 360 tool helping churches measure and cultivate their capacity for multiplying ministry. More than 1000 American congregations have used the 360, with hundreds more coming along each year, generating one of the best databases on church vitality anywhere. (READINESS 360)

Paul has been coach to the fastest growing mainline Protestant church in the United States (Embrace Church Sioux Falls). He also has worked with Urban Village Chicago, City Square Phoenix, After Hours Denver, New Day Bronx, The Loft@Westwood in LA, Valley Praise in Harlingen, Texas. Broken Builders in NYC, RISE in Harrisonburg VA, The Gathering Virginia Beach, West UMC in Mooresville NC, Hope.Gate.Way in Portland, Maine, and many others.

### Presenter: Jon Ball

John Ball has served nearly 20 years as a clergy leader in local congregations and over the last several years has worked in relationship with Paul Nixon to coach other clergy leaders and the congregations that they serve to discover fresh and innovative ways of being church in our current cultural climate. Over the course of his ministry, he has demonstrated a passion for exploring ways that the church can truly and effectively be in relationship with the community that it finds itself while at the same time reflecting the heart of Christ.

John believes that there is a way forward for the church in the midst of waters that can often be murky and frightening. Community engagement and collaboration, coupled with innovation and an eager willingness for exploration and discovery opens the doors for new possibilities and hope.

John is married to his wife Cyndi and is the father of 2 boys (Dylan 18 and Braeden 16). In addition to his role as clergy, he is passionate about providing support to families who have children with special and unique needs as a result of having a child with special and unique needs and being on the autism spectrum.

## This is your invitation to the REACH First 12 Network Group 2019 Session Schedule

### Network Group Process:

During a 10 month process, the following will occur in relationship between the clergy leader and/or lay leader in connection with the faith community.

- ⇒ **Learn** principles of identifying, developing and growing a “Niche Ministry” through the Niche Ministries Foundations Seminar (February 27-28, 2019 at the Michigan Conference Ministry Center)
- ⇒ **Develop** the “First 12 followers” for implementation of the newly formed ministry
- ⇒ **Explore** the current state of the existing faith community
- ⇒ **Assess** the demographics of the surrounding culture
- ⇒ **Identify** an untapped niche’ in the given context
- ⇒ **Strategically** develop a ministry that will engage the identified niche’
- ⇒ **Ongoing** monthly support for the clergy and/or lay leader with a small cohort of other church leaders

### Investment Options:

#### **February 27-28<sup>th</sup>:** Niche Ministries Foundation Seminar

You will learn about principles of discovering, creating and launching a niche ministry. This seminar will also help you develop your “First Twelve Followers” for the identified initiative.

\*Michigan Area Ministry Center 9:00am – 5:00pm both days

**Niche Ministry Foundations Seminar: \$200**

**AND**

**9 - 90 Minute Cohort Coaching Sessions** These monthly sessions will span from March – November 2019 and will provide the opportunity for participants to learn, discover, hone and further develop the particular niche ministry that they have identified to launch within their context. These coaching events will be online ZOOM meetings (unless otherwise determined). Times and dates will be developed after final registrations have been completed.

**9 Months of group, co-hort coaching: \$400**

**Register Now, Register Today!**

**[www.reachsummit.org](http://www.reachsummit.org)**

### **Clergy: DON'T FORGET! Board of Ordained Ministry Grants**

\$400 West Michigan – <http://bom.michiganumc.org/wmc/continuing-ed-renewal-leaves/>

\$1200/Quadrennium Detroit – <http://bom.michiganumc.org/dac/grants-and-funds/>