



I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Missional Church Initiative and ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the upcoming 2018-2020 cycle.

The Missional Church Initiative (MCI) is a two-year experience designed to invest in the leadership of your congregation. The entire experience is designed to help your local leaders grow and develop the character and competencies necessary to lead effectively in the work God is asking your congregation to do for the sake of his kingdom. This experience was designed by Reggie McNeal, author of *A Work of Heart: Understanding how God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*, *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church*, and a host of other titles addressing leadership and missional ministry issues.

The Missional Church Initiative consists of four overnight retreats (Friday noon - 8pm, Saturday 8 - 1pm) held in the Danville IL area. Reggie has provided training for a few individuals and the first retreat will be facilitated by Brandon Kelly and Brian Miller. A key component of the initiative will be the team-based learning environment where each participant will be a member of a peer-based learning community.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dates for the retreats: | November 9-10, 2018 |
| | April 12-13, 2019 |
| | November 8-9, 2019 |
| | May 1-2, 2020 |

I'm sure one question you might have is what does this require of us (time, money, etc.)? The Missional Church Initiative requires the following:

- 1) \$500 Tuition per person/seat (\$250 in July 2018 and \$250 in July 2019). Minimum team size includes the pastor plus 3 additional members (Maximum team size is 8).
- 2) A commitment that your team will participate in all four retreats. We would ask that half of the team members attend all 4 retreats, but the remaining seats reserved may be alternated with different members involved at each retreat if that is beneficial for you.
- 3) An official endorsement from your current church/ministry acknowledging and supporting your participation in the Missional Church Initiative.
- 4) A commitment to maintain consistent communication with your team outside of the scheduled retreats. This is a critical piece of the experience – plan on 6-9 team meetings per year outside of the retreats.
- 5) Providing your own transportation to and from the retreats.

Your tuition for this initiative will offset just a portion of the total expense of meals, lodging and programing costs for the retreats with the difference being covered by the Midwest Region Conference (CGGC). You will be responsible for your own travel and expense to and from the retreat location.

We are excited about the way God is at work in our world and we desire to see the Midwest Region Conference become fully engaged in this great work of God. We believe that in order for this to happen, we need to develop leaders and teams who possess the twin traits of godly character and missional competence who also demonstrate a commitment to learning, growing, and risk-taking for the sake of Christ and his kingdom.

You are invited to submit an application to be a part of the Missional Church Initiative. The deadline for application will be **June 30, 2018**. We will limit the number of participants in this experience, so it's vitally important that you apply as soon as possible and before the deadline.

Upon completion of the application process, you will receive final confirmation of your acceptance no later than July 15, 2018 (early applications will receive confirmation within one month of their receipt). At that time, you will receive a personal covenant form (that will need to be signed and returned) as well as other information pertinent to the first retreat to be held November 9-10, 2018.

You will find the following forms/information enclosed with this letter:

Application Form
Frequently Asked Questions

Again, would you begin to prayerfully consider being a part of this experience over the next two years? Ask the Lord to direct your response. Seek his face in this matter.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Travis at the MRC office (260-244-4042).

Thank you for considering this opportunity. We trust that the Lord will use each of us to His glory to bring strength to the church and the gospel to the world. We are praying for you as you seek the will of the Lord in this invitation.

In Christ,

Travis J. Bodden

Pastor Travis J. Bodden, Executive Director | director@midwestregion.org

4534 W. Main Street | Decatur, IL 62522 | 260-244-4042 | www.midwestregion.org