

# Launch 32 Conference

A TWO-DAY MULTIPLICATION CONVERSATION

## 2023 Speakers Bios:

### **Rob Wegner**

Rob is a ragamuffin who lives to love Jesus, his wife, Michelle his daughters - Maddie, Whit, & Bell, and his extended spiritual family in his neighborhood. He's also one of the founding leaders and directors of the Kansas City Underground and serves as the north American Director of NewThing, a global tribe equipping catalytic leaders in every nation of the world who believe in working together to planting churches and advancing the Jesus Mission.



Rob is also the Director of Microchurch Next for Leadership Network. Prior to that Rob was a teaching pastor at Granger Community Church for 22 years in Northern Indiana, and then eight years Westside Family Church in Kansas City. His latest book is *The Starfish and the Spirit: Unleashing the Leadership Potential of Churches and Organizations* is his latest book, which he co-wrote with Lance Ford and Alan Hirsch.

### **Patrick O'Connell**

Patrick O'Connell is the Global Director of NewThing. He is passionate about helping people start new things in the Kingdom worldwide. He also leads the global team at Community Christian Church in Chicago.



Patrick became the Global Director of NewThing in 2013. Since then, he has grown the scope and scale of the organization to serve thousands of people in 45 countries.

Patrick wants to leverage his knowledge, experiences, and understanding of church planting and the Kingdom to help leaders start contextual and Kingdom-focused churches. He believes collaboration between churches is vital for the shift to movement.

Patrick is the co-author of, *Together, Pursuing the Great Collaboration*. He has created tools and platforms to help leaders reproduce at all levels and collaborate, including the

NewThing Movement System. He regularly speaks at conferences and leader gatherings and always takes advantage of an opportunity to join a podcast. Patrick is married to Nancy. He is a new grandfather to Ezra. He likes to run, read and hang out with friends.