



NCP NOW: Missional Incubator [Missional Incubator | National Capital Presbytery](#)

The Missional Incubator is entering the third year and there is good news and learnings worth sharing.

First, some learnings worth sharing:

- Set time in your schedule to intentionally dream. The Missional Incubator is not right for every church, but every church should be intentional about loving people through engaging the community on their terms and their turf. Discovering how best to do this takes time. Pastors and sessions should consider how to create a plan that allows key leaders space and time to dream. Freeing key leaders from the tyranny of the urgent monthly or quarterly and might need to be worked into the budget.
- God is surprising and still working. My greatest take away from working with the churches and the pastors in the missional incubator is that the Holy Spirit is alive and well. Together we are learning to trust God in the work. Psalm 127 says if we can learn to trust God in the work, we will realize we are beloved and sleep well at night.
- Find intentional talking partners. The secret sauce of the Missional Incubator is not the content but the intentionally focused conversations about the mission of the church we serve with people who are not a part of our local church but care about our mission. There is power in honest feedback and encouragement.

Second, some good news:

- We are adding a new cohort this Fall made up of Mark Harper (Takoma Park Presbyterian Church), David Douthett (Waterford Presbyterian Church), and Jerri Fields (First Annadale Presbyterian Church).
- Fourteen of our churches are in various stages of the “messy middle” of a new venture. The messy middle is the time when ventures are beginning but not fully launched.
- The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has created a pilot with the National Capital Presbytery’s Missional Incubator to help our churches through the messy middle and successfully launch. The BoP will cover full dues for five pastors in the missional incubator for three years. Dues will be at a reduced rate for up to five years if needed. The first two churches to be accepted into this pilot are John Calvin Presbyterian Church and Clifton Presbyterian Church. This has allowed John Calvin Presbyterian Church to hire a designated staff person to oversee “The Community Studio” and Clifton Presbyterian Church to move their director of “A Landing Place” from part time to full time. We are very grateful for this pilot.