



The Gathering Church Planters Lab

The Gathering is seeking to develop 2-3 Site Pastors over the course of the 2023-2024 appointment year. Selected individuals will be employed (FT) by The Gathering during the entirety of the Lab. Upon the completion of the Lab, participants will be in a position to be appointed as Site Pastors of The Gathering and/or another United Methodist Church in the Missouri Conference.

What is the Lab?

A year-long planter development lab intended to prepare the participants as pastors and leaders of future church sites of the Gathering and/or other churches within the Missouri Conference.

Who should apply?

Applicants from all walks of life are welcome to apply. The Lab is designed to prepare participants for pastoral leadership within the United Methodist Church. Applicants will be expected to:

- Have a strong calling or interest in pastoral leadership
- Have 3+ years of pastoral leadership experience
- Have a desire to launch new sites of The Gathering or be appointed to plant in the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Understand and align with The Gathering's position of being evangelical and inclusive
- Relocate to St. Louis, MO for the duration of the Lab (Commuting from long distances will be permissible on a case by case basis)

When will the Lab begin?

The Lab will begin on July 1.

When will participants be chosen?

Participants will be finalized by April 1.

What will I do?

Participants will get both educational training and hands-on experience as pastoral leaders. There will be:

- Weekly group learnings with The Gathering's Lead Pastor Matt Miofsky
- Shadowing opportunities in ministries such as Connections, Worship, Groups, Kids, and more
- Extended time to begin the development of a new church site that includes demographic analysis, relationship building and leadership opportunities
- Potential oversight of specific areas of ministry at The Gathering (based upon fit)

How long is the Lab?

The Lab is a year-long experience that will culminate in participants being placed as pastoral leaders of new sites of The Gathering and/or churches within the Missouri Conference.

Will the new sites be Gathering sites?

The purpose of the Lab is to develop pastors as planters of new churches/sites. Some of those could be future sites of The Gathering, others could be future churches within the Missouri Conference.

When will I know where my new site will launch?

The hope is to have a firm idea of a new site location prior to January 1 of the upcoming year. The purpose of this is to give the participant time to begin preparation and planning for the launch of a new site.

Will I be compensated for my time in the Lab?

Yes, as pastors in training, participants will receive a competitive salary and benefits during their year in the Lab.

Will housing be provided for me?

A housing allowance will be included in the salary and benefits package. As they may be asked to move for a future site location at the end of the program, it is highly recommended that participants find temporary housing in the St. Louis area for the duration of the Lab.