

Global Connections Leadership Community Overview

Leadership Network (LN) is pleased to announce the formation of a series of Leadership Communities for innovative churches whose leaders are thinking differently about the future of global mission. To address the changing face of missions, God is raising up churches and leaders of those churches who are painting a different picture of missions...they are telling a different story. They are making the shift from top down to mutuality and partnering...from proclamation of the gospel to a gospel coming in word and deed, from local and global missions being separate to global and local residing under one ministry department. These leaders are the new generation of missional leaders in the iteration of missions from long-term expatriates to long-term commitments with short-term vocational teams. These entrepreneurial leaders have long-term relationships but travel in and out of countries as easily as one drove across town a generation ago. With the flattening of the world and the immediacy and economy of global communication, leaders are figuring new ways to impact the world. Missionaries that try to have a "business cover" are being replaced with business people who are living out the gospel. Single missionaries are being replaced with small groups of people that are living missionally. Innovative, leading churches find themselves partnering, not around denominations but with those who share a like commitment. These leaders are changing the scorecard for what is measured and valued in global missions. *The difference in their thinking is not measured in degree...but in kind.*

Dramatic increased levels of education, technology, and wealth are elevating the potential for many human beings to shape their response to the world. At the same time unprecedented numbers of people live in poverty, experience hunger, wrestle with disease and suffer from mal-education and are without Christ. All around us we see the readiness of individuals across multiple domains of our culture to tackle these huge societal and spiritual issues.

The Leadership Community Experience

We are calling this Leadership Community (LC) the "**Global Connections Leadership Community.**" Leadership Communities (LCs) are small groups of innovators and practitioners, pursuing common ministry outcomes, sharing ideas, developing strategy and benchmarking measurements in the context of authentic relationships. LN discovers emerging ministry initiatives and invites strategic leaders into these communities of peers who are seeking to improve their personal and organizational performance in the focused outcome areas. The Global Connections Leadership Community (GXLC) will gather four times, for a 48-hour experience

over the course of 18 months **beginning in February 2012 in Dallas.** The GXLC will be comprised of church leaders and leaders from the private, public and social sectors of the community who are passionate about changing the world.

The GXLC will be directed by **Eric Swanson.** Eric has directed six Leadership Communities for Externally Focused Churches, four Missional Renaissance Leadership Communities with Reggie McNeal and two GXLCs. Eric has written extensively on the missional focus of the church (*The Externally Focused Church, To Transform a City*, etc) and is a recognized thought-leader in the area of externally focused churches.

Goals of the GXLC

The ultimate goal and outcome of this LC is to accelerate the learning, knowledge and application of innovative approaches to global missions. We serve your vision, goals, and objectives. However, specific outcomes may include the following:

- A significant increase in results per dollar invested
- A significant increase in the number of people served / reached through global missions
- Disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Development of collaborative relationships with innovative church leaders
- Development of new missional, approaches, and resources that serve the "broader church."

Who Can Participate

Churches will be invited to apply for entrance into the GXLC and will be approved for participation based on the following selection criteria:

- Churches must be currently engaged in global missions as an intentional strategic direction
- Churches must be committed to developing a new scorecard for ministry that reflects the multi-dimensional facets of global missions
- Churches must agree to bring a team of 3-5 individuals to each gathering.

Cost

Tuition for the GXLC is \$4,500 (or two annual payments of \$2,500). This covers program fees and most meals for up to five team members for the 18-month experience. Travel to Dallas and lodging are not included.

Contact information for application

Bonnie Randle--Leadership Community Coordinator
(214) 220-5354
bonnie.randle@leadnet.org

Dates: Feb 8-10, 2012, Sep 12-14, 2012, Feb 20-22, 2013, Sep 4-6, 2013