

10 Additional FAQs

w/ Mark DeYmaz

Church Planter, Teaching Pastor and Directional Leader
Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas

1. Do you know of a network of people who are interested in planting multi-ethnic churches?

Yes; Dr. George Yancey and I founded the Mosaix Global Network in 2004 to catalyze the movement toward multi-ethnic churches in the 21st century by casting vision, connecting individuals of like-mind, conferencing and coaching. Through MGN, you can connect with church planters, as well as those seeking to revitalize churches in decline or transform healthy but otherwise homogeneous churches around the multi-ethnic vision. In addition, researchers and educators, as well, provide additional resources and insight. Visit <http://www.mosaix.info> to get involved.

2. Do you first have to bring someone into church leadership to begin the process of becoming multi-ethnic?

It is essential that churches seeking to pursue the Biblical mandate of the multi-ethnic church empower diverse leadership. The sooner they do this, the better in terms of achieving the dream. For more on this point, see my article in the spring issue of Leadership Journal entitled "Ethnic Blends?" <http://www.ctlibrary.com/le/2008/spring/11.49.html>

3. Is Mosaic an urban or suburban congregation?

Mosaic is located in an area of Little Rock known as the University District. It is not urban or suburban but, rather, it was intentionally placed in a neutral area of the city which requires most of people to leave the comfort of their own demographic or geographic locales to come together as one in this church. It is literally within 5-10 minutes of every demographic group in the city.

4. What are the demographics of Mosaic? What about your staff?

Mosaic is approximately 47% white, 30% black, 20% Latino/Hispanic and 3% non-Latino/Hispanic Internationals. All totaled, men and women from some thirty nations currently walk, work and worship God together as one via Mosaic. In terms of our full-time staff, 3 are white, 3 are black, 2 are Hispanic, and 1 is Asian. Our part-time staff includes 1 from Antigua and 1 who is deaf.

5. What are the demographics for the city where Mosaic resides?

Last I looked, Little Rock is approximately 55% white, 40% black, 4% Latino/Hispanic and 1% Asian. However, the Latino population is probably much higher than what the census people reported, and growing!

6. Would you agree that the core commitments also apply to people groups not necessarily different in ethnicity, but more so in economic or social status, i.e. those formerly incarcerated, etc.?

Yes. As I've said in numerous places, the multi-ethnic vision is one of economic, educational, generational, etc., diversity, as well.

7. Many mainline Protestant churches, those that are predominantly white, are beginning to focus on multi-ethnic churches. Do you feel they're stepping in the right direction and do you feel this will help revitalize their declining membership?

Ummm ... yes! But only if they -- like any other church intent on becoming multi-ethnic -- pursue unity and diversity based fundamentally on the Biblical mandate and practically on the seven core commitments. This is not a social experiment; it's about reconciling men and women to God through faith in Jesus Christ and reconciling local churches to the principles and the patterns of New Testament congregations of faith.

8. What is the source for the statistics you site (i.e. 92.5% churches segregated)?

Research was conducted near the turn of the century by sociologists Michael Emerson and Christian Smith and published in the book that I believe marks the beginning of the movement, Divided By Faith (Oxford Press, 2001).

9. How many political and socially hot button issues do you find yourself fighting?

People come to Mosaic for spiritual growth and encouragement, not to hear me, or any of our other teaching pastors, discuss politics. In our body conservatives and liberals alike find common ground in Christ, extending grace to one another on points of disagreement. Yet, make no mistake: On issues directly addressed in the Bible, such as marriage and life, we do speak the truth in love and just as importantly, with grace and mercy.

10. How do interracial relationships/families factor into the multi-ethnic church?

As you might expect, those who have married another of a differing ethnicity, as well as families who have adopted children cross-culturally, etc., find churches like Mosaic a welcome respite from the all too common and typically segregated church. In the multi-ethnic environment, such individuals, couples and families are thankful to find that they do not stand out in the crowd, that they are not the exception, etc.; rather, it's a place where they are comfortable just being themselves, who God made them to be, without apology or concern.