**2025-26**

**1001 New Worshipping Communities**

**Apprenticeship Cohort Application**

Leaders of new worshiping communities face the daunting challenge of creating something new that is both contextual and transformative. We want to help. 1001 New Worshiping Communities offers several different training and support mechanisms to enhance your experience and help you and your team start strong – with the support you need to thrive.

**If you are currently leading an NWC and would like more support or are exploring a call to be a part of this movement, we encourage you to apply to our apprenticeship cohort**. Apprentices receive a stipend for five hours per week of study totaling $3600 over the nine-month program, as well as:

* the accountability to start something new, and training to help you do it;
* training and discernment in new worshiping community work as a part of a diverse cohort of colleagues that meets annually in person and weekly on zoom;
* monthly one-on-one coaching from a coach experienced in the inauguration of new ministries;
* access to national leaders to help you navigate the dynamics and opportunities involved in starting ministries that are both contextual and transformational.

**Applications are due March 15, 2025 and are reviewed on a rolling basis.**

The nine-month national cohort members meet for conversation, training and discernment via Zoom every Thursday from 12-1:30 pm EST, beginning September 4, 2025. Prior to launch of the cohort, apprentices typically gather once on zoom during the summer to meet one another and share stories of their calling.

If you are interested in being part of a future apprenticeship group, we’d love to talk with you. Please contact our program director the Rev. Sara Hayden at [sara.hayden@pcusa.org](mailto:sara.hayden@pcusa.org)

**Who might be a good fit for this program?**

Nine-month apprenticeships are located in the context in which the leader feels called to live and work; it is usually near their current residence but doesn’t have to be. Apprentices have clearly identified a call to contextually-relevant, missional leadership and are either convening a group (NWC or less formal) prior to application, or on the cusp of doing so, and plan to do so during the apprenticeship.

This program is open to people at any stage of the life. We have had many NWC leaders as well as college students, seminarians, seminary grads, pastors, and other professionals apply and meaningfully take part. Our goal is to invest in leaders ‘where they are’ and assist them in developing the projects that are emerging locally. This is not a general non-profit incubator, but an incubator that assists those who are led and affirmed in their calling to offer new communities of faith centered on the way of Jesus Christ.

**What’s next?** All applicants for the program will be notified by May 1, assuming they applied by the deadline, and will receive a letter detailing important dates and program details.  Participation of accepted applicants is contingent upon successful background check completion.

**Application for 2025-2026**

**Email completed materials to:** [sara.hayden@pcusa.org](mailto:sara.hayden@pcusa.org)

**Personal Information:**

Name: Date of birth:

**Address:**.

City: State: Zip:

Phone: E-mail:

College you attend(ed): Grad year:

Seminary you attend (if applicable): Grad year:

\* Please note: All 1001 apprentices will receive an invitation to a special 1001 NWC leader retreat during the cohort year. Costs for the retreat will be covered by the program. All program participants will also take part in our regular Thursday cohort meetings, from 12-1:30 EST, September 4-May 15th.

**Questions:**Please answer the following questions and be as clear and concise as possible:

1. Why are you interested in a church planting apprenticeship? If you are currently leading a NWC or starting a ministry, please tell us about it.
2. What do you hope to give and receive from this experience?
3. Tell us about some relationships or connections you have with people outside the church. Or, tell us about some interests, passions, or hobbies you have that are not church-related.
4. Describe an experience you have had recently collaborating with others. What challenged you? What did you offer? How did you grow?
5. In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the development/journey of your faith.
6. Provide an example of something you have started. Why did you start it? How did you go about it, and whom did you engage? What obstacles/challenges did you need to overcome? Has this project continued?
7. Have you ever intentionally facilitated someone’s (or a group of people’s) faith development or awakening to God? Describe that experience.
8. How did you pivot as a leader during the year?
9. What do you do on a regular basis to maintain spiritual growth?

List prior work experience: Dates worked: Type of work:

(CV or résumé attachment is acceptable)

**Letters of Reference**

**Please attach 2 letters of reference describing your suitability for this apprenticeship. The second letter should come from a friend, co-worker, or peer who knows you well.**

Signature: Date: Print Name: