



NE Georgia Presbytery

Look Up and See!

Hello!

I am Lindsay Armstrong

I am here because I love the church and am convinced that we have a rich future ahead.

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Chin Presbyterian Church

Atlanta, GA





Average number of people immigrating to the U.S. each year?

1 million



Getty Image: Ukrainian refugees enter the El Chaparral border crossing between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego in April 2022.

68% of immigrants to the U.S. are Christian (Pew Research Center)





Presbyterian Mission
**1001 New Worshipping
Communities**

1001

In the PCUSA, 50% of New Worshipping Communities are new immigrant churches



U.S. Census Bureau

+ By 2030...



Because of population aging, immigration is projected to overtake natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) as the primary driver of population growth for the country.





Ten Years Ago...

8 New Worshiping Communities :

- 5 were fellowships from 1990's
- 350 people total
- New leaders rarely attended Presbytery meetings



Now? Count the Stars...

- ❖ 34 New Worshiping Communities
- ❖ 6000+ people engaging in an average week
- ❖ 85% leaders of color * serving at all levels of the denomination
- ❖ 3 churches chartered
- ❖ 10 new worshiping communities involved in a Founder's Cohort

Now...

34 New
Worshiping
Communities

Over 6000
people
engaging each
week

40 NWC
Leaders

- 85% leaders of color
- Serving at all levels of the denomination

Chartered 3
churches

- 10 New Worshiping Communities Involved in a Founder's Cohort







aijcast

led by Marthame Sanders





The Robloxian Christians

Youth-led Online Ministry







- + Are the children and youth in your church agents of ministry, or objects of ministry?
- + What is the difference?

Questions...

- + What does The Robloxian Christians tell us about the capacity of young people for imaginative leadership in the church?
- + What spiritual and faith formation needs of young people is TRC meeting that “real world” churches are not?
- + How do “bricks and mortar” church experiences inform the practices of The Robloxian Christians? Why are “brick and mortar” churches still an important part of Daniel and other members' lives?
- + Is TRC a “real” church? What makes a church “real”? What are the essentials of church?





SpringHouse Ministry Center Minneapolis, MN





SpringHouse Ministry Center is:

- + a new way to be church in the 21st century.
- + more environmentally & financial stable, allowing freedom to do God's mission in new ways.
- + a space where the wider community can meet, renew, grow, and work for wholeness.



“Look toward heaven and
count the stars, if you are
able to count them...So shall
your descendants be.”

Genesis 15:5



And Abram ***believed***,
and it was reckoned to him
as ***righteousness***.

- Genesis 15:5

Discussion

1. “Look up and see.” The call requires that we take our eyes off something in order to see something else.

+

a. What do you need to look away from (at least for a while) in order to see the abundant people, opportunity, and blessing God is bringing?

2. What do you already see?

a. In terms of immigrant communities.

i. Who is here and how can we move beyond welcome?

b. In terms of experimental efforts for those who need to be church differently.

i. What ideas and people with those ideas need to be seen and nurtured?

ii. How can we do it?

c. In terms of possibilities within your own church.

i. Do you need to have creative and courageous conversations?

ii. How can they be nurtured?

3. What does this conversation at our Presbytery meeting make you think? Feel? Want to do?

