



Fresh Expressions: An Interview with Michael Beck

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. We are starting a new theme on discipleship, church planting, and multiplication! In this episode, we heard from Michael Beck, who pastors Wildwood United Methodist Church in Wildwood, Florida, and St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Ocala, Florida, and is the director of re-missioning for Fresh Expressions US, cultivator of Fresh Expressions for the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, and adjunct professor for the Doctor of Ministry program at United Theological Seminary.

Key Resources

Michael has two key resources that will help you to engage in mission and reach people in your neighborhood:

1. *Deep Roots, Wild Branches: Revitalizing the Church in the Blended Ecology* by Michael Adam Beck: https://www.amazon.com/Deep-Roots-Wild-Branches-Revitalizing-ebook/dp/B07P2L2PM4/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Michael+adam+beck&qid=1597953259&sr=8-2
2. *Contextual Intelligence* by Leonard Sweet and Michael Adam Beck. Available by late September.

Wildwood United Methodist Church

Michael Beck was sent as a missionary pastor to Wildwood United Methodist Church in Florida. He started by finding a small team in the established church to evangelize the neighborhood by showing the love of Jesus.

Revitalization describes internal changes. **Re-missioning** is joining in with mission that the Holy Spirit is already doing in the neighborhood. It feeds back into the community to transform the church.

The established church, also called the **inherited church**, is the church of the past that we love and honor. The emerging or **Fresh Expression** churches are the new forms of church that reach people outside of the church walls. Both are important and valued. When sent from the inherited church to start Fresh Expressions, new people bridge back to inherited church services. This is called a **blended ecology**. It is a “both/and” rather than an “either/or” strategy.

Fresh Expressions is the vehicle they use for re-missioning the church. It is releasing active Christians to start new expressions of church. These are hobbies and activities in which they are already engaged.

Wildwood has 14 Fresh Expressions. Examples of Wildwood Fresh Expressions: yoga church, Burritos and Bibles, tattoo church, dog park church, and 3.1 runners church

Check out what these Fresh Expressions look by clicking on the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZxX7hCPd2s&t=87s>

I want to hear from you! Don't forget to e-mail your questions, comments, and testimonies at jonhunter@churchdoctor.org. Check out thesendmovement.com to apply for discipleship training for SEND Young Adults (18-29) or SEND+ (29+) or for coaching opportunities.