

1001 resources offer NWC leaders road map to sustainability



A key tenet of the 1001 definition is that new worshipping communities are “developing sustainability in leadership and finances.” As we reach the halfway point of our 10-year goal to plant 1001 New Worshipping Communities, many communities are at the stage where sustainability in finances is a real challenge. In response, the

1001 team is implementing a program to help leaders attract funding partners from outside of their communities.

“Most of our communities get their financial start from the grants available through 1001,” said Vera White, coordinator of the 1001 initiative. “However, by the time the grant money is gone, many leaders find that their communities have not yet reached a point of sustainability through internal giving. So to bridge the gap, we need to find creative ways to attract alternative funding.”

To help prepare NWC leaders for the financial sustainability challenge, the 1001 team has contracted with consultant and trainer Scott Gore of In-Fusion Consulting Services to conduct donor development training. Gore has a proven track record in donor development from his work with para-church organizations such as Young Life, The Navigators, Bridges and others.

Initially, Scott will mentor five leaders through a five-month intensive process that will give each the tools and skills to be successful at donor development. This initial work will also act as a trial run to help 1001 develop resources such as a roadmap, templates and scripts to teach and coach NWC leaders to raise funds for their worshipping community. Such tools and skills will be important for many in developing sustainable communities.

During 2018 Scott also will conduct donor development training at several 1001 regional conferences. Financial sustainability, however, is about more than donor development. That is why this training kicks off an expanded season of financial sustainability focus, including reasonable budgeting, the development of internal stewardship and effective mission interpretation. During this time, 1001 mission engagement adviser Jon Moore will work with NWC leaders on a wide variety of tactics and strategies for sustainability.

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