

THE 1001 NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY RESIDENCY
THE OPEN TABLE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
2021-2022

Applicants are sought for a one-year 1001 New Worshiping Community residency established by the Open Table KC, in partnership with Second Presbyterian Church and Heartland Presbytery. Applications (including letters of reference) are due March 15, 2022.

The Open Table (one of the PCUSA's 1001 New Worshiping Communities) seeks to be a community of liberation and healing in the Kansas City area. We believe in a community where everyone belongs, a city where all have the power to pursue their dreams and ambitions, and a people who are committed to each other's liberation, until all are at the table together. At The Open Table, we create space for hospitality, conversation, peace, and reconciliation, and we root our theology in contemplation and liberation.

Overcoming our divisions requires open dialogue from many voices, especially those who have historically not been invited to the table, and ones impacted the most by injustice. With that in mind, we curate spaces and experiences presenting new perspectives meant to challenge and inspire, letting us rediscover ourselves and experiment with new ways to engage with our world. God welcomes everyone to the table, no matter where you're from, what you practice, your race, economic status or sexual orientation. In response to God's extravagant welcome, our hospitality extends to all. As a church community we work to be actively antiracist and affirming to people who are LGBTQIA. We gather every second and fourth Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30pm for food, music, and conversation.

Residents who are interested in collaborating with our community will be exposed and immersed in a new worshiping community that is committed to experimenting with ways to be the church in the 21st century. All residents can expect to have many opportunities to engage with the larger KC community, interact with local social justice organizations, collaborate with the Organizer on various large and small gatherings, and empower various Open Table participants to lead through creating discussion groups, social gatherings, and service opportunities. Our community's leadership structure is flat and we operate using consensus. Also, as leaders, we see ourselves as organizers instead of teaching pastors, as we bring in many voices from both inside and outside our community. Our community is eclectic, as we have folks from a variety of socioeconomic, ethnic, sexual orientation, and religious backgrounds participating in our gatherings.

At The Open Table, our core values are community, hospitality, rest, beauty, and justice. We are looking for residents who embody these values. We also don't shy away from speaking about controversial social issues, as we recognize that this is where the church can become a truly prophetic voice in helping both religious and nonreligious people draw the circle wider, creating a more just and inclusive community. Because of these values, we are looking for residents who are drawn to grassroots organizing, have a passion for social justice, and a deep spiritual commitment to loving both friend and enemy. We are also looking for residents who are creative self-starters. Our constant at The Open Table is change, so creativity and adaptability are a plus. Above all, we are looking for residents who are followers of Jesus and want to be co-laborers in the building of the community of God's people on earth.

As the leadership team of The Open Table, we are excited about the possibility of hosting residents for 1,001 New Worshiping Communities. The Open Table would provide fertile soil for developing

the next generation of pastors and leaders. With our consensus-based flat leadership, and our community organizer model for running a new worshiping community, we would be an ideal location for anyone looking to gain leadership experience in a creative setting. Any resident who partners with The Open Table can expect a culture of mutuality and respect. We hope to learn from any resident just as much as we hope to share our journey and experiences with them. Residents at The Open Table would provide us much needed support as we continue to adapt and develop more opportunities for community connection and spiritual formation. We hope to learn new insights about our community from residents, and we hope they learn from our story and systems for an expression of church in the 21st century.

Residents will report directly to the Organizer of The Open Table, and will take part in our leadership team meetings. There will be weekly meetings to discuss short, medium, and long-range goals for the community. At these meetings, there will be accountability for tasks assigned to the residents.