The 1001 New Worshiping Community Residency

The Open Table KC

2019-2020

AN INVITATION

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.

The Open Table (one of the PCUSA’s 1001 new worshiping communities) is a community of peace and reconciliation in a city divided. We offer hospitality and conversation; a place of rest and beauty. Everyone who has imperfections or struggles with deep questions is welcome. Our gatherings are simple and our theology is earthy. We gather for shared meals, songs, and short topical discussions about the intersections of spirituality and life. Our inspiration comes from a first-century Jew named Jesus Christ who birthed a new society in the shell of the old, a society full of outcasts whose faith and actions were wholly integrated.

We curate spaces and experiences meant to challenge and inspire, so we can rediscover ourselves and experiment with ways to care for the world around us. Our gatherings are community sourced so many perspectives can be included, and our hospitality grows out of conversation with those around the dinner table, regularly taking us into the community. We gather every second and fourth Sunday from 6:30 – 8:00pm 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 Curators 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 and beauty. 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 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 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 that 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. We plan to have a second-year resident with 1001 NWC join us for 2019-2020 as they seek to expand upon the experiences they’ve had at the Open Table during 2018-19. The first-year resident will have lots of opportunity to work together with the whole team. Residents at The Open Table would provide us much needed support as we continue to grow and develop more service opportunities and small group offerings. 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 Curator and Assistant Curator, 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.

Financial Support: The total package available for support of this residency is $40,000 for the year, to include salary and at least a $1500 health insurance reimbursement. The Open Table will work with the successful candidate to organize the package to be most beneficial to the resident. The resident will be an employee of Second Presbyterian Church. Residents also will take part in an advanced national training (costs covered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency) with 1001 apprentices and other residents this summer in Kansas City. Applications, including letters of reference, are due by March 15, 2019.

Selected applicants will take part in the National 1001 New Worshiping Communities Apprenticeship Training program this summer in Kansas City.

Contact information:

Nick Pickrell, Curator

816.363.1300 x234

npickrell@secondpres.org

Wendie Brockhaus, Asst. Curator

816.363.1300 x240

wbrockhaus@secondpres.org

Application Checklist

✓ Cover letter including:

What attracts you to this residency?

What do you hope to gain out of this experience?

✓ Completed application

✓ Two Letters of Recommendation

Application deadline is March 15, or when the position has been filled. Questions? Contact Nick Pickrell npickrell@secondpres.org or Wendie Brockhaus wbrockhaus@secondpres.org

 or Sara Hayden at sara.hayden@pcusa.org

Email your completed application and cover letter to the following persons:

Nick Pickrell npickrell@secondpres.org

Wendie Brockhaus wbrockhaus@secondpres.org

Sara Hayden at sara.hayden@pcusa.org

Contact Info

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Education (as applicable) Please complete on a separate page

Work Experience (post-secondary school) Please complete on a separate page.

Church and Community Leadership (post-secondary school) Please complete on a separate page.

Denominational Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tell Us More

Please answer the following questions. Each answer should not exceed three hundred words.

1. What attracts you to this 1001 Residency? What would a fruitful conclusion to the residency look like for you?
2. Provide one theological issue that matters to you that you hope will be shaped and formed by spending time in this residency.
3. Tell us about a time when you had to seek support from someone outside your immediate circle in order to accomplish a project for which you had limited resources.
4. Describe the relationships you maintain with people who are not a part of a church.
5. Describe an instance in which you had to learn a new skill in order to grow in your current role and/or be successful in another role.
6. What draws you to starting new ministries from scratch? What are important components for a new ministry that you have considered inaugurating?
7. Tell us about a new ministry that you have started, or been a part of.
8. What will you contribute to and how will you benefit from this environment?

Cover Letter

Please submit a cover letter with your application that includes what attracts you to this program and what you hope to gain from this experience.

References

Please provide two letters of recommendation from people who know you well enough to address your theological integrity, gifts for ministry, and capacity for personal relationships.

Provide two additional references we can contact. Indicate relationship (pastor, professor, supervisor, mentor, friend, etc...).

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever been convicted of a felony or found guilty of an incident of sexual misconduct? Yes ❒ No ❒

Marking “Yes” to this does not disqualify you from the Program, but we would like you to attach an explanation including offense and date.