The 1001 New Worshiping Community Residency

lightshine church – Westlake Village, CA

2019-2020

Applicants are sought for a one-year 1001 New Worshiping Community residency supported by [Lightshine Church.](https://www.lightshinechurch.org/) Located in Westlake Village, California.

Lightshine Church in Westlake Village California. We are a part of the 1001 NWC movement. We started on October 7, 2013 (we just celebrated our 5th year). We are in a beautiful, affluent, family oriented, highly educated, suburban context just north west of Los Angeles. Our ecology is: eclectic, always changing, never boring, risk taking, food and coffee loving, politically and socially active, fun, and mission minded. We enjoy being together in a variety of ways and love being a part of and serving our larger community. We are largely a group of “doers" who take the mission of the church seriously but who are humble, friendly and down to earth.

Lightshine represents something very unique in our more conservative, suburban context. From our inception, we said we wanted to connect with people who do not fit neatly within the church climate around used those who have no connection at all with the church. Our first core value is welcoming diversity and even though our context isn’t racially diverse, we run the gamut of diversity in just about every other way; showing that a diverse church centered around Jesus and Christ’s mission in the world can be held together despite our differences.

A few things that make us unique in this context:

* Bottom up / shared leadership style based on gifts, skills, and passions.
* Kids are included in almost everything we do (try to keep families together).
* Collaborative: very high value on community-based partnerships; including a public school, which is unusual in this area.
* Very highly regarded in the community by social organizations that work with the hungry, poor, and homeless and by the staff of the public school we work with.
* Generosity (time, talent, and treasure) is one of our best qualities. Financial sustainability does not come easily in new church starting, and yet, not one dollar has been spent internally that was supposed to be given away in support of our mission partners. Very high participation from our congregation. Almost everyone participates in something beyond showing up to a Sunday worship gathering.

Responsibilities and Expectations for the Resident: The sky is the limit.

Lightshine Church would be a great setting for someone interested in church starting for a variety of reasons. We are a very mission minded, active, and highly participatory church community that also offers a very wide range of possibilities for a resident. We have excellent knowledge of church starting and are well connected to solid networks like 1001 NWC and Cyclical, Inc. We practice ground up, adaptive leadership and excel at incorporating the ideas of the whole community in moving forward on mission together. We are a very welcoming and diverse community who understands our context and loves to connect well in it. We have a broad range of excellent partners and so offer a wide variety of experiences for a resident. A resident here would be able to participate, learn, and lead in every aspect of who we are. We would be a great fit for someone wanting to plant in suburban context.

We hope to offer a very well-rounded opportunity for a resident. We would offer regular corporate worship and mission opportunities as well as small group opportunities and one on one regular meetings with Rob to help a resident process all that they are learning. We love the connectional nature of our denomination and want to help discerner / starters be better prepared for the work that God may be calling them to.

We hope to learn from the resident as well. We hope to gain new perspectives, creative ideas, and we assume that a resident will help us to better become who God has called us to be because they have shared their gifts and knowledge with our community. We also hope that this resident will help people in our community better know of God’s love in Jesus and help them follow Jesus in every way.

Since we base these decisions on people’s skills, gifting, and passion this would best be left open until we know who the resident is. This resident would be invited to participate and lead in every / any area that was a fit. Examples: working with our community mission partners, tutoring kids, worship leading, preaching / teaching, joining Leadership Team (Session), budgeting, finance, leading small group, social media, e-newsletter, starting something entirely new etc. We will be open to wherever the Spirit leads on this one!

We have the capability to offer a resident the kind of broad experience they need to prepare them to launch something new. I also believe that we would learn from and benefit greatly by hosting a resident and that our people would welcome this person with open arms.

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. We will work with the successful candidate to organize the package to be most beneficial to the resident. The resident will be an employee of Lightshine 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 June 23-26. Applications, including letters of reference, are due by March 15, 2019.

For more information about 1001 New Worshipping Communities, go to: [onethousandone.org](http://www.onethousandone.org/) and contact Sara.Hayden@pcusa.org., or listen to episodes from our new podcast New Way.

For more information about Lightshine, go to: lightshinechurch.org and/or find us on social media.

Selected applicants will take part in the National 1001 New Worshiping Communities Apprenticeship Training program this summer in Kansas City: June 23-26.

Contact information:

Rev. Rob Douglas

rob@lightshinechurch.org

Application Checklist

✓ Cover letter including:

What attracts you to this residency?

What do you hope to gain out of this experience?

What would you offer because of this experience?

✓ Completed application

✓ Two Letters of Recommendation

Application deadline is March 15, or when the position has been filled. Questions? Contact Rob Douglas at rob@lightshinechurch.org or Sara Hayden at sara.hayden@pcusa.org

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

Rob Douglas at rob@lightshinechurch.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.