

## Welcoming Jeff Eddings: 1001 Coaching Associate



### **Don't sweat the details — get a coach!**

Being involved in starting a new worshipping community can be one of the most invigorating places to do ministry in the church, but it can also be one of the most daunting! Having been a pastor for 15 years at [Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community](#), which I helped start, I am well aware of the dynamics of both of those feelings.

That's why I believe coaching is such a valuable resource for the 1001 movement. Our NWC leaders often find themselves trying to sort out 1,001 details in the process of getting their 1001 community up and running!

The coaching relationship provides an important and experienced set of eyes to guide and nurture the NWC leader in the day-to-day work of growing a new worshipping community. The coach becomes a listening presence whose task it is to ask guiding questions rather than to provide ready answers.

Those questions help set priorities and bring focus and clarity to the work at hand. The coach helps navigate the seemingly unending process of discerning the “what's next” of NWC work. With the “Coaching Wheel” in hand, a coach will help process all facets facing any budding NWC. Community building, discipleship, denominational connections, outreach, missional practices, self-care, worship and money matters are components of building a new worshipping community. The coach helps guide and process all these challenging aspects of starting something from scratch. The coach also acts as an important advocate for the leader, as well as providing much-needed encouragement and exhortation when things appear to be mired in struggle and uncertainty.

I am excited to step into the role of coaching associate for 1001 New Worshipping Communities because I know how important my mentors and coaches were for me in my formative new church pastor years.

And I believe that finding the right coach is like finding the right therapist! You need one who you can connect with, who understands the context you are in and the vision you have for your community. In my role, I will take the time to carefully match the right coach with each NWC leader.

My goal is to get as many NWCs as possible connected with the exceptional network of coaches we have serving the church through the 1001 New Worshipping Communities movement. So whether you are just getting started or have been around the proverbial church block a couple of times, it is never a bad idea to get a coach involved in your work and your process. If you would like to get connected or reconnected to a coach, please be in touch!

In this invigorating and challenging work, a coach is not a luxury to be considered, but a necessary and valued companion to journey with you on the way.

God's peace,  
Jeff Eddings, coaching associate  
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