

2021
Fall Report



Our Vision

We want to unite, equip, and amplify a Jesus-centred movement.

Our Identity

We're a relational network that develops and supports future-ready leaders and churches, equipping them to make more disciples and transform their communities in our post-Christian culture.

We describe ourselves as a **Jesus-centred** community with a **centred-set** paradigm.

Jesus-centred means we see God most clearly in Jesus, interpret Scripture through Jesus, and centre our lives around Jesus so we can live out his way of love.

Centred-set means that while our beliefs matter, so does the orientation of our hearts toward Jesus and how we relate to one another. Our individual and collective movement toward Jesus at the centre is what unites us as a network, even in our differences.



“We’re at a crossroads as a church. We need a broader network and access to Jesus-centred resources to help us navigate it successfully.” -Waterville Community Church, a Jesus Collective Church Partner in Ohio

In so many ways, this polarizing and confusing cultural moment really is a crossroads for our churches and communities. And we need so much more than sound doctrine and right answers to navigate it well. We need an alternate paradigm that transcends our polarized perspectives and a blueprint for navigating tension and loving those with whom we disagree. We need brave spaces for honest questions and lasting formation in the character of Jesus. We need real life practices that respect and sustain diverse communities and foster listening and learning from one another. We need pathways to true peace, justice, and unity. Simply put, we need the Jesus Way.

The challenge of growing disciples in an increasingly post-Christian world has been amplified by the stress of a global pandemic. Yet perhaps the obstacles we face offer big opportunities for us to partner with God in new and important ways. History has shown us that the church strengthens through adversity because God’s grace is enough, and his power is made perfect in our weakness. He’s doing something new, but do we perceive it?

(Cue the celebratory stuff!) Amidst this challenging climate, God is exceeding our expectations on all fronts. Over the last year, we welcomed our first Church and Individual Partners from across 12 different countries and equipped churches and leaders with multiple new high-quality resources and development experiences spanning spiritual formation, theology, preaching and teaching, racial reconciliation, and more. We incorporated the Jesus Collective charitable entity and made strides toward developing a digital platform where we’ll build community, share resources, and host transformational learning experiences for our collective. (But don’t take my word for it — be sure to read some of the stories in this report!)

The future is full of possibilities. We’re grateful to be forming a rally point for the growing Jesus-centred movement, but we sense a call to sharpen our focus and boldly go further in the coming years, equipping hundreds of churches and thousands of leaders in practical ways to implement and sustain the Jesus-centred way in their context — so they can make more disciples, transform their communities, and reach more spiritually curious people. This is our work, our rally cry, our mission as a collective.

Consider this a warm invitation to join us in this Kingdom adventure.



Matt Miles, Executive Director

On behalf of the Jesus Collective leadership community

A Snapshot of Our Collective.

Whoa, God is on the move. True to form, he's surpassing our expectations and doing more than we could ask or imagine. Let's catch a breath and celebrate some highlights from the last year.

Partnership

Partnership is the relational backbone of our collective — the churches, ministries, and leaders at the heart of the Jesus Collective community.

- **25 Churches & 60 Individuals** are active or onboarding as Partners in our first year, in 12 countries and five continents, representing a range of denominations and traditions.
- **We launched seven new Partner Hubs** in 2021 as a primary vehicle for ongoing connection and equipping among groups of Partners, including our first regional Hub on the west coast and our first international Hub experiment in the UK.
- **We held our first annual Partner Summit** in May, coming together as Partners to celebrate and discern vision and direction for Jesus Collective.



“Now, more than ever we need to stand together to share Jesus’ uniting message of Love.” -Frank Allen, Lead Pastor at The Tab, Lethbridge, AB

Leadership Formation & Events

We're committed to forming and equipping Jesus-centred pastoral, ministry, and marketplace leaders, preparing them for transformational leadership and mission in a post-Christian culture.

- **Over 1,300 leaders** engaged in a live Jesus Collective development experience on themes such as Jesus & Racial Reconciliation, What Makes a Church Jesus-Centred, or Jesus-Centred Theology Essentials.
- **68 leaders** have completed one of our three original six-week, cohort based Online Learning Collectives (OLCs), including Exploring the Jesus-Centred Way in a Polarized World and The Inner Life of an Effective Leader. Our Spring 2021 OLC featured the debut of our own digital learning platform. Technology for the win!
- **Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary** is now offering Masters level credit for our OLCs, and feedback scores are remarkably positive for these transformational learning experiences.



“[The Online Learning Collective] created a learning environment that was not only safe, but brave.” -Christine Gerber, Lead Pastor at The Meeting House, Brampton, ON

Resource Curation & Sharing

We consistently hear how hard it is to find high quality, Jesus-centred resources. That’s why we produce, curate, and distribute high quality ministry tools and resources that help churches and leaders learn and practice the distinctive Jesus Way in their communities.

- The beta version of our digital Partner Platform offers a source of community, resource sharing, and cohort-based online learning.
- We’ve had 30,000+ podcast downloads, equipping leaders with ways to apply Third Way leadership in a polarized world, and 19,000 new visitors have checked out our website so far in 2021.
- Our [Theology Circle](#) formed in 2021 to provide theological direction to our network and resources for the movement, including our blog which launched earlier this year.
- We produced [On Earth as in Heaven](#), a three-part teaching series in partnership with The Meeting House.
- Our livestream conversation about [How Centering on Jesus Changes Everything](#) received 12,000+ views.
- 187 church subscribers are discipling their kids with [One Story Kids and Youth Curriculum](#) within six months of opening up our new subscription model.
- We hosted two learning exchanges for our Partners to share learnings and challenges around adapting ministry during and post-COVID.
- We’re currently producing a multi-part video series on the fundamentals of Jesus-centred faith for churches and leadership teams — coming in 2022!

“We love the focus on Jesus and the high-quality production. One Story brings such great uniformity to our children’s ministry!” -Word of Life Church, St. Joseph, MO



Investing in People & Governance

- We’re investing in growing our team of leaders trained to lead Partner Hubs and other community experiences.
- Jesus Collective was established as a registered charitable entity in Canada led by an inaugural Jesus Collective Board of Directors, and now we’re establishing a 501(c)3 charitable entity in the US.

The Season Ahead.

In so many ways we're just getting started. We want to boldly pursue our vision while remaining open handed and adaptive to the Spirit's leading through the changing environment around us.

We're grateful to be forming a rally point for community around the Jesus-centred way, but we don't want to rest there. How do we help churches and leaders transform and really live this out? We're sharpening our focus in the next few years on two complementary tracks: equipping hundreds of churches and thousands of leaders to put the Jesus-centred way into practice in their context so they can make more disciples, transform their communities, and reach more spiritually curious people. This is becoming our work and mission as a collective.

Developing Jesus-centred churches and leaders will involve a multi-year process of curating tools, training, coaching, community support, and learning experiences shaped around these goals — including missional, discipleship, theological, and leadership components.

These are some of the exciting initiatives that will support this focus in the next year:

- **Launching new Partner Hubs**, including pilot hubs for marketplace leaders and church planters, additional regional hubs in North America, and international hub experiments
- **Taking our online Partner Platform** from beta to live with new features and launching our Partner Resource Library as a place to curate and share desperately needed ministry and leadership resources
- **Producing special content projects** including two new multi-part video series: Jesus-Centred Fundamentals and Centred-Set Church
- **Investing in new distribution partnerships** for One Story Kids and Youth Curriculum to reach and support more churches with this amazing resource
- **Training more leaders** within our network to host leadership experiences, plant Jesus Collective regional outposts, and support more organic growth in our Partner base



And we have some great events on the horizon addressing key issues defining our cultural moment:

- **Partnering with Global Leadership Network Canada** in Winter 2022 to host a multi-part experience, Making Peace in a Polarized Church, for leaders across Canada and the US
- **Our Partner Summit and Unite 2022 Global Gathering** at The Meeting House Church in May 2022 themed around the question, "What is a Jesus-centred Gospel, and how does it apply in our time?"

Our Collective In Stories.

We call ourselves a collective because we're a relational community made up of some pretty incredible individuals and organizations living out the Jesus Way. Here are just a few of their stories.

Finding Jesus-Centred Community

Missio Dei is a church community located in Salt Lake City, Utah. Through the pandemic, they experienced a lot of changes, including an almost entire leadership transition. Jonny Morrison and Heather Thomas, previously associate pastors, are now Co-Lead Pastors together.

"We're not connected to churches outside of our broader network, so that's what began our search," Jonny shares. "We had done all these transitions and ... felt like we were in a new world and wanted some new relationships and partnerships that fit who we are today."

Through their search for a larger community as well as a new kids curriculum, they discovered Jesus Collective and One Story. "There's a handful of things that feel like a deep sense of resonance," says Jonny. "One is the primary unifier of a Jesus-centred network. That feels really important to us, that we would be a Jesus-centred community."



In particular, Jesus Collective's Third Way approach and values offered a space for Jonny and Heather that resonated with the needs of their community. "Being Jesus-centred and even using Jesus-centred language is very helpful as a life-raft for some people who are struggling with what the place of the Evangelical faith is, and it's really helpful in disrupting, deconstructing, and guiding people who are dealing with hurts, traumas, wounds, and religiosity."

Missio Dei became a Jesus Collective Church Partner early this year, and while they're excited to access the coaching, resourcing, and curriculum that comes with that, they're also excited to engage in shared ownership of the network. "One place I feel like we might be able to offer assistance is we just went through a really intense leadership transition and came out the other side kind of thriving," Jonny continues, "I did my dissertation on our leadership transition, so just being able to provide those tools and resources — I would love to do that."

Learning from the Global South

Edem Morny is President of SimplyChrist Ministries and a leader of a small neo-Anabaptist church called The Jesus Community in Accra, Ghana. SimplyChrist Ministries is a movement that has been working for over 10 years to bring Jesus-centred discipleship into a Ghanaian culture dominated by Christendom, so they resonated deeply with our focus on supporting and resourcing Jesus-centred leaders.

“Giving voice to a movement that is taking Jesus seriously on his own terms is an extremely important and timely effort,” Edem shares. “Jesus Collective couldn’t have been formed at a more appropriate time.”

As a Jesus Collective Partner, Edem and SimplyChrist Ministries are excited to both learn from and contribute to the global context of the movement. “Being a Partner enables us to bring insights from the global south in the shaping of Jesus Collective’s approach to propagating a Jesus-centred view of life and Christian community while being encouraged by the experiences and lessons of others from different contexts.”

Edem is also part of our Theology Circle, a group of Jesus Collective leaders joining together to provide theological direction and resources for our network. “My wish is that the Theology Circle can then help with approaches for many Jesus Collective folks to chart a new path towards placing Jesus and his self-sacrificing, other-oriented kingdom at the centre of their faith journeys, as well as that of their communities.”



Developing Leaders

Andrea Tisher is the solo lead pastor of Southwest Community Church in Kamloops, BC. She’s taking part in Transformational Coaching training this fall along with other Jesus Collective Partners as a way to develop her leadership capacity and potentially engage as a future Partner Hub Leader.

“I feel seen, valued, affirmed, challenged, and invested in,” she says about the network. “I have really appreciated (and been pleasantly surprised by) the collective nature of Jesus Collective. I know it’s in the name, but it just shows how rarely things really are reciprocal and invitational. I have felt invited, challenged, but also supported whether I’m able to accept the invitation or not.”

To fellow pastors or churches thinking about joining Jesus Collective, Andrea says do it. “It’s been a breath of fresh air for me and I have only come to appreciate my connections here more and more as time goes on. The ‘shine’ isn’t wearing off. Instead, as I get to know people and have more opportunities to participate, I am discovering that the authenticity goes deep and is contagious.”

Let's Do This. Together.

We're called *Jesus Collective* for a reason. This is a collaborative network comprising the contributions of our Partners and friends on many levels, including finances.

Community and sustainability are both important to us. And we think they go together. That's why we're growing a diverse stream of ongoing contributions from leadership courses and experiences, resource subscriptions, contributions from our Partners, and investments from Kingdom-minded friends and supporters.

Join our Kingdom Builders Campaign

Between now and 2025, we're aiming to raise \$2 million from individual and institutional donors as fuel to help us grow towards a sustainable future. (Think of it as Kingdom venture capital.)

Learn more or join the campaign by donating a one time or recurring gift at jesuscollective.com/invest.

If you share the Jesus Collective vision and want to invest in something that is growing and already creating real Kingdom impact, we invite you to invest together with us.

We've raised more than \$250k towards this goal already!

Your giving helps leaders like Andrea access relationships, training, and resources that influence her church and community in the Jesus Way. (In case you missed it, read more of her story on the previous page.)



"Jesus Collective offered me leadership training as an investment in my development. And they were clear this wasn't coming with strings attached — it's just because they think I'm worth investing in." -Andrea Tisher, Lead Pastor at Southwest Community Church, Kamloops, BC

Who can we reach in the next 5 years?

- **250+ Church Partners** on all five continents, locally rooted and globally connected, better equipped to disciple in the way of Jesus, transform their communities, and reach spiritually curious people in a changing world
- **1,000+ ministry and marketplace leaders** formed in the distinctive Jesus Way, equipped and trained for servant leadership and discipleship in a post-Christian landscape
- **1,000+ churches** discipling tens of thousands of children with world class Jesus-centred kids and youth curriculum
- **People around the world** tracking with Jesus Collective as a credible voice for the movement and a hub for high quality Jesus-centred resources

How will your investment be put to use?

- Helping more Partners join, including international Partners who often can't afford to contribute
- Developing our digital Partner Platform to facilitate community building, resource sharing, and cohort based online learning modules within the network
- R&D and pilot experimentation with innovative ideas (like our new Marketplace Mission Hub)
- Design and development of more Jesus-centred leadership formation courses and curriculum
- Providing much needed training for young and emerging church leaders to effectively reach an increasingly post-Christian society
- Gatherings and events to build momentum, forge relationships, and equip leaders and churches
- Producing world class, multimedia, Jesus-centred resources for churches and leaders
- Supporting legal and marketing costs
- Staff leadership and project management

“More than ever we need to build a church for a new day — pulling the best from our history while finding how we be the church for the present and future. It’ll be great having Jesus Collective Partners to join with along the way.” -Bill Wallis, Lead Pastor at Hope Church, Everett, WA



Learn more or join the campaign by donating a one time or recurring gift at jesuscollective.com/invest.



Next Steps

- Check out upcoming events and learning experiences, apply for Partnership, or find other ways you can get involved on [our website](#)
- [Join our mailing list](#)
- Track with us on social media

