



Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church

Training with Michael Adam Beck

Rural churches have always been more than buildings, they have been the spiritual, social, and relational heart of their communities. Yet today, many rural congregations find themselves asking hard questions about sustainability, relevance, and mission in changing contexts.

This interactive training, based on *Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church*, invites pastors and lay leaders to rediscover the extraordinary potential already present in rural places and to learn practical ways to cultivate new Christian communities alongside existing congregations.

Together we will explore:

- A fresh theology of place rooted in the gifts, rhythms, and relationships of rural life
- How to move beyond a survival mindset toward missional imagination and local renewal
- Practical models for starting Fresh Expressions that fit farming communities, small towns, and rural networks
- How inherited churches and new faith communities can thrive together in a blended ecology
- Real stories from rural contexts across the U.S. where new Christian communities are already bearing fruit

This training is not about importing urban or suburban models into rural contexts. It is about listening deeply to the land and the people, recognizing the assets already present, and cultivating new forms of church that grow organically out of rural life.

Participants will leave with:

- A clear framework for contextual mission in rural settings
- Practical next steps for their own congregation or ministry context
- Tools for discerning, experimenting, and nurturing new forms of Christian community
- Renewed hope for the future of rural churches and the communities they serve

Rural places are not forgotten spaces. They are seedbeds of possibility. This training helps leaders learn to tend that soil with faith, creativity, and courage.