



The Messy Church Course

Why a Messy Church Course?

This Course was developed to teach and in-service lay people and clergy who are looking for ways to reach families in their communities who are not part of a local church. In the past, workshops were effective for training but only to a very limited degree due to the vast distances for travel, the small number of instructors and the availability/cost of providing a training venue and accompanying expenses.

Who is this course for?

- Missional leaders and ministry pioneers exploring new ways of being church in their communities
- Those who are exploring and/or wanting to start a Messy Church in their community
- Current Messy Church leaders and practitioners
- Denominational and church/parish leadership
- Anyone who wants an in depth understanding of the theory and praxis of Messy Church

Course Description

The course consists of six modules focusing on six areas pertinent to learning about Messy Church. We suggest that students work through the modules in order. Everything included in the course relates to Messy Church including how we look at each topic. There are visuals, video clips, lots of concrete examples and links to additional information and resources.

Module 1 Family Faith Formation

Why focus on the family?

Emphasis on inclusivity so the entire Messy Church experience engages all ages.

Explore the value of generations working together.

How to encourage families to explore their spiritual journey together

Challenging assumptions (all ages vs. segregated learning) through church attendance statistics (un-churched, de-churched)

Module 2 Discipleship in Messy Church

What is Discipleship?

Looking at life through a spiritual lens.

How do we make disciples?

How does disciples-making work in the Messy Church context?

Module 3 Evangelism in Messy Church

What is Evangelism?

What prevents people from engaging in evangelism?

Building relationships with Jesus and one another in the Messy Church community.

How does 'evangelism' work in the Messy Church context?

Equipping leaders to lead Messy Churches that will provide opportunities to equip people to grow in faith and follow Jesus.

Module 4 Spiritual Disciplines and Messy Church

What are 'spiritual disciplines'?

What do spiritual disciplines look like in the Messy Church context?

Module 5 What Exactly is Messy Church?

Values of Messy Church
What Messy Church Is and is Not
The Shape of Messy Church
Components of Messy Church

Details of a Messy Church Gathering (Welcome & Gathering Time, Crafts and Activities, Celebration incl. Storytelling, Prayer, Music, Grace, Meal, After Meal Activities, Take Home Activity)

Module 6 Starting a Messy Church – How to get there

Fresh Expressions and Missional Listening
Paradigm Shift: Believe, Behave, Belong
Discernment steps
You've decided to start a Messy Church
Why Messy Churches succeed or fail

Training
Financial Considerations
Succession Plan
Contextualizing

Assignments: Each topic will have a quiz (multiple choice, true/false, open ended questions).

Outcomes: After completing this course, the student will...

- Understand the importance of faith in the family
- Understand the basics of disciple making and evangelism in the Messy Church context.
- Understand how spiritual disciplines apply to Messy Church
- Understand and apply the values, aims and shape of Messy Church
- Discern the need for and establish a Messy Church in their community
- Receive a downloadable Certificate of Completion

Writing Team

Written by clergy and lay people, the course incorporates years of combined experience in leadership in each person's area of their contribution to the course.

Module 1 Family Faith Formation: Rev. Beverly van der Jagt (St. George's Anglican Church, Espanola ON)

Module 2 Discipleship in Messy Church: Ven. Dr. Tim Dobbin and Rev. Ryan Sim (St. Mark's Anglican Church, Brantford ON)

Module 3 Evangelism in Messy Church: Dr. John Bowen, Professor Emeritus of Evangelism, Wycliffe College (University of Toronto) (St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Hamilton ON)

Module 4 Spiritual Disciplines and Messy Church: Rev. Dr. Neil Mancor (Diocese of Montreal, QC)

Module 5 What exactly is Messy Church? Sue Kalbfleisch (Messy Church Canada Team Leader, Ancaster ON,) and Rev. Nancy Rowe (St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown ON)

Module 6 Starting a Messy Church - How to Get There: Sue Kalbfleisch, Rev. Nancy Rowe and Andy Kalbfleisch

With Development Assistance from:

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Link to Course: <https://messychurch.ca/courses/the-messy-church-canada-course>