



An invitation to partner together

Welcome to the conversation!

Here's a summary of what's in this package:

Why Jesus Collective?

- The story and vision behind Jesus Collective
- Who Jesus Collective is 'for'
- How we can advance the Kingdom together

What is our shared centre?

- Our paradigm & core faith expressions

How do churches and leaders engage with Jesus Collective?

- Ongoing engagement principles and options
- Jesus Collective Partnership: Explanation and illustration

Making Jesus Collective sustainable. Guiding financial principles and expectations

Next steps. An invitation to partner together



The (short) story behind Jesus Collective

God is at work raising up a movement. People all around the world are catching a vision for what it means to worship and follow a Jesus-looking God, and advance a Jesus-looking Kingdom. We hear so many personal stories from churches, pastors and ministry leaders searching for a rallying point for this Jesus-centred movement; a place of peer encouragement and resourcing; a place to learn, be developed and equipped alongside like-minded peers; a place to contribute our gifts; a place where we can cultivate unity while practicing and introducing more people to the Jesus-centred Way.

It's all about Jesus. Jesus Collective's roots are in the Anabaptist radical reformation of the 16th century, but we're not hung up on labels. We want to cast a welcome call to like-minded and like-hearted churches, leaders, and ministries from diverse backgrounds and contexts who share a radical commitment – not just to believing and saying the right things – but to putting Jesus at the centre of everything; living and leading like Jesus, sharing the Good News, and discipling others to do the same.

But the movement is fragmented and under-equipped. Uniting and better resourcing this movement can help it bear its most effective witness to a world desperate for the Good News. We have an exciting opportunity to partner with God in shaping and giving voice to the next generation of the Jesus-centred church, and forming and equipping the next generation of disciple-making servant leaders for ministry in an increasingly post-Christian world.

Together we can advance a peaceful, Jesus-centred Way. We want to offer much more than a set of theological distinctives and traditions. Together we can help shape and share a blueprint for healthy, Jesus-centred relationships and discourse, within the Kingdom and for evangelism to the world. Together, we want to model what it means to practice Jesus-centred life, leadership, and ministry. As a centered-set network, we want to offer a space where we are each clear about convictions rooted in the Jesus of scripture, but equally clear that we embrace, seek unity with, and have much to learn from all Christians.

So we set about the exciting journey of establishing Jesus Collective. Together.



What's the vision for Jesus Collective?

We aspire to

Unite,

- Relational emphasis; countering the fragmentation & isolation of this movement
- Safe space of belonging, collaboration, and support for churches and leaders
- We are more effective together – Kingdom unity is a priority

John 17

Equip,

- Developing, curating, sharing high quality Jesus-centred ministry resources
- Forming and training a pipeline of future ready leaders for the movement
- Using technology wisely to break down barriers and connect people better
- 'How-to' practical support; equipping churches and leaders to be their best

2 Timothy 2:2

& Amplify

- Helping make the movement more accessible, visible and cohesive
- A peaceful and welcoming voice for the Jesus-centred Way
- Defined by what we are for, not what we are against

**Matt 28:18-20
John 12 & 14**

a Jesus-centred
movement.

- Shaping solid, well-rooted, Jesus-centred theology and practices
- Rooted in the Anabaptist radical reformation, but not hung up on labels
- Solid convictions. Diverse people from many contexts. Acceptance ≠ agreement.
- Centered-set paradigm; modeling practices of dialogue and inclusion
- Relational peer network; not a denomination

**Matt 7:24-29
1 Peter 1:21**



Who is Jesus Collective for?

This is a relational network for churches, pastors, and ministry leaders who...

Resonate deeply with Jesus-centred values and have a high value for scripture, regardless of context, label or background

Believe that now is the time to bring together and resource this Jesus-looking Kingdom movement

Want to learn, live and share the Jesus-centred way of life and leadership alongside like-hearted peers and churches

Are hungry for belonging, equipping, and formation to support forward-thinking mission & growth in a post-Christian context

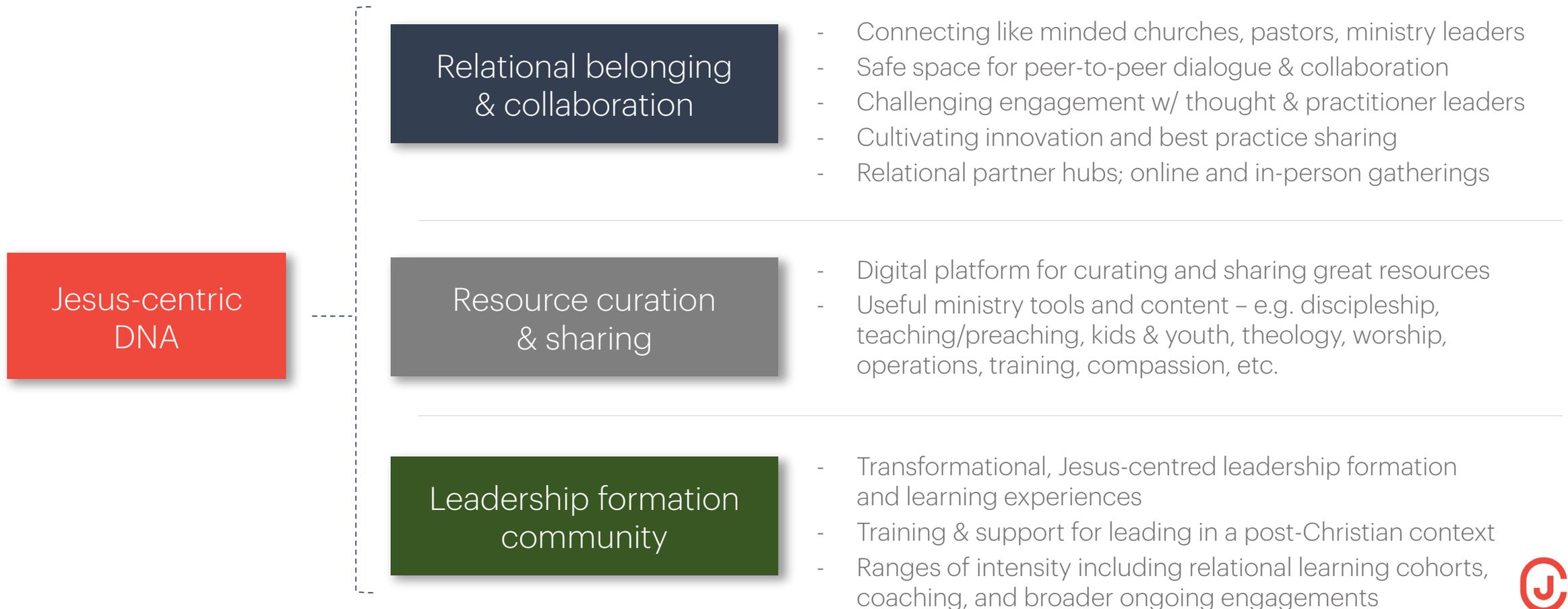
Value learning and best practice sharing among aligned but diverse leaders & church expressions from a variety of backgrounds

Are part of an existing church or ministry that could both benefit from and contribute to the strength of the network



So how can we advance the Kingdom together?

Our research and discernment has pointed us to 3 primary areas of focus:



What is our shared paradigm?

We are a **centred set community**...

We take our shared theological core seriously, but want to go beyond simply 'believing the right things'. We are a relational church network that equips leaders and churches in the Jesus Way. The orientation of our hearts – and our ongoing movement – towards Jesus as the focal point of our faith and lives is what defines and unites us as a collective.

... offering a **third way**.

We are clear in our convictions while creating space for belonging and open discussion. We choose to encourage, listen to, learn from, and unite with each other, and with all Christians, including those with whom we disagree.

WE ARE RELATIONAL. We are communal and collective by design. We bring our real selves to the table and strive to nurture healthy relationships with each other. We move at the speed of relationship.

WE ARE ON MISSION. We desire to equip our churches and each other to turn outward and introduce more people to the Jesus Way, especially those who have not heard the Good News before.

WE PURSUE PEACE. With friends and enemies, and fellow believers from all contexts. We seek to live actively peaceful, hospitable, generous, and reconciled lives. We live simply and focus on the essential. We communicate and behave transparently.

WE EMBRACE GROWTH. Healthy things grow. We seek to grow leaders and expand the Kingdom's visibility, accessibility, and impact.

WE VALUE DIVERSITY. The Kingdom is most fully represented -- and the best ideas are created -- when a diversity of people and voices are included; especially men and women from different ethnicities, traditions, and denominational contexts.



What is our shared centre?

We're all in different places on our journey. Below are the core faith expressions that we are moving toward together as a Jesus-centred community. We invite conversation about these ideas as part of building a relationship with Jesus Collective Partners, vs. using them legalistically to draw hard dividing lines.

Core Faith Expressions

Jesus is Lord.

God is Love.

The Holy Spirit empowers.

We are valuable. | Something is wrong.

Saved by grace. | Faith is following.

Scripture is inspired. | Peace is the way.

We are Kingdom citizens and ambassadors.

* See Shared Centre document for longer version *



Lived Implications

Free will. Human will is freed by God to trust or reject him. Baptism is a symbol of our freely chosen faith.

New covenant atonement. The cross seals a new covenant, offering forgiveness and freedom to everyone.

Evangelism & eternity. We learn, live, and give the Good News to anyone with ears to hear. God is the final judge; we are not.

Equality in ministry. We encourage all mature and gifted believers towards all expressions of leadership in the Church.

Third way. We bring an understanding of sexuality and marriage that aligns with the historic church and Anabaptist movement, while welcoming and learning from leaders and churches with diverse biblical interpretations of this issue. Regardless of where we each land theologically, we are clear about our convictions while seeking unity and peace within our network and with all Christians.



Ongoing engagement with Jesus Collective

How do churches and leaders get involved?

Advisory Council

**Strategic leadership core –
advising on direction and priorities**

Smaller group; likely with rotating membership

Stewards the partnership application process; welcomes in new Partners

Could help shape a governing board over time

Partners

Churches and individual ministry leaders together forming the main relational 'body' of Jesus Collective

Welcomed into covenant through a relational application process

Embrace the shared vision, paradigm and activities of Jesus Collective

Part of ongoing relational hubs for peer development and collaboration

Retain existing identity / affiliations

Participate in and benefit from network activity & encouraged to contribute their gifts and experience

Contribute financially to the ongoing sustainability of Jesus Collective

Friends

See value in associating with or using resources available through Jesus Collective

Varying degrees of relational investment and alignment with the Jesus Collective core (That's okay.)

Attend events, subscribe to a particular resource or set of available resources

Contribute financially for resources used

Also includes donors and supporters



What does it mean to be a 'Partner'?



- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Ministries
- ✓ Pastors*
- ✓ Leaders*
- ✓ Denominations
- ✓ Canada or US

* i.e. not formally representing their church or ministry

For **all** Partners (including church and individual leader Partners):

- All Partners join a relational Partner Hub with other partners -- including regular, facilitated online and in person gatherings
 - Goal of multiplying Hubs over time as scale permits (e.g. ≤ 15 partners in each Hub)
 - Definition and scale of Hubs can evolve to meet partner needs as network grows (e.g. regional, thematic, etc.)
- Invited to complete a comprehensive online profile + full interactive access to searchable Partner profile database
- Use of Jesus Collective digital platform to find and connect w/ other Partners, access resources, training, events, etc.
- Potentially contributing ministry tools/resources, writing, giftings, etc. to support health and growth of Jesus Collective
- Invited to enrol in Jesus Collective leadership formation activities (e.g. online learning collectives) at reduced cost
- Invited to annual Partner retreat to build relationships, cast vision, speak into Jesus Collective direction
- Access to all interactive online engagements and thought/practice leadership sessions – live and recorded
- Passes to any larger scale Jesus Collective leadership gatherings

Specifically for **church** Partners:

- Full access to all church / ministry resources on the Jesus Collective digital platform (e.g. teaching, Kids & Youth, discipleship, training resources. Goal is to build a library of curated resources from Partner churches and other sources over time.)
- Pastors & ministry leaders at Partner churches are invited to participate in Partner Hubs and all Jesus Collective activities
- Enrolment access for Partner pastors & ministry leaders in all leadership formation activities at reduced cost
- 12 hours of individual or team coaching per year from a coach within the Jesus Collective community
- Participate in leadership intern placements with other partners in the network

A closer look at Partnership

**Relational
belonging &
collaboration**

**Resource
curation
& sharing**

**Leadership
formation
community**

Partners are the relational backbone of Jesus Collective:

- All Partners are part of facilitated Partner hubs with ≥ 15 other Partners (see next page)
- Attend annual Partner retreat for relationship building, collaboration, and to speak into Jesus Collective vision and priorities
- Opportunity for Partners to join the Jesus Collective Theology Track for ongoing input into Jesus Collective's theological core and direction
- Complete comprehensive profiles on the secure Jesus Collective digital platform – able to search and connect with other like minded church and leader partners in the network
- Use of the Jesus Collective digital platform to form relational groups with other partners around topics of interest, shared challenges, etc.
- Partners will be listed on the Jesus Collective church directory – searchable by the public on jesuscollective.com
- Invited to participate in Jesus Collective innovation labs – bringing churches together collaboratively to share best practices, solve issues and ideate for mission and Kingdom impact.



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Partner hubs are a primary vehicle for ongoing relationship:

- Ideally up to 15 Partners grouped together in a Hub by region or theme
- Meet every 2 months at minimum; in person gatherings and ad hoc communication as mutually agreed
- Led by rotating facilitators from within the network who are trained and supported by Jesus Collective
- Hubs have a group identity on the Jesus Collective online platform for communication and resource sharing
- Mix of grassroots, local agenda + topics proposed and supported by Jesus Collective
- Opportunity for peer to peer encouragement, support
- Safe space to raise theological issues and missional challenges and opportunities
- Forum for practical collaboration, innovation and best practice sharing
- Regular engagement with a thought leader Sponsor facilitated by Jesus Collective
- Church Partners invited to place multiple pastors and leaders in Hubs as they see fit
- Encouraged to multiply and birth additional Hubs as a means of expanding the network



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Partners can utilize a pool of high quality Jesus-centred ministry resources:

- We are building a digital platform where we aspire to house a searchable database of Jesus-centred ministry tools and resources contributed by churches and leaders within Jesus Collective. The Meeting House will be contributing its resources initially and we are inviting other churches to submit high quality resources to share with the network over time. Resources will be vetted to ensure alignment, quality and usefulness.
- Resource categories to include sermons/teaching series, leadership training, discipleship courses, kids and youth ministry, compassion/peace/outreach, governance and operations. Church Partners will have unlimited access to this resource inventory on the Jesus Collective digital platform for use in their church context.
- Church Partners will also have a full subscription to The Meeting House Kids & Youth Curriculum – a unique, modern Jesus-centred curriculum rooted in Anabaptist values.
- Also includes access to resources and relationships available through other Jesus Collective strategic ministry partners (for illustration only -- currently in discussion with World Vision, Mennonite Central Committee, 24-7 Prayer, etc.)



A closer look at Partnership

**Relational
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Partners have access to a range of leadership formation experiences:

- **Online Learning Collectives** – challenging 6 week, cohort-based development experiences with peer leaders from across North America, including weekly spiritual practices, facilitated small group learning, live Interaction with thought leaders, one-on-one coaching, interactive online forums, curated learning resources. Designed to equip leaders for Jesus-centred leadership and mission in a post Christian context.
- **Monthly Coaching** – 12 hours of individual or team coaching per year from a trained Jesus Collective coach; support for developing ministry plans, navigating issues, discerning vision.
- **Crucible Conversations** – Intentionally pairing needs of Partners with expertise of other Partners to catalyze growth and transformation, especially when leaders/churches are working through challenges or have hit plateaus in their own experience or expertise
- **Interactive Live Podcasts** – Live, online interactive conversations with thought leaders and practitioners; Opportunities to meet other like-minded leaders in the movement.
- Other leadership formation experiences are currently under development.



Expectations of Jesus Collective and Partners

Jesus Collective

- Core leadership team staffed and operated within The Meeting House structure initially, with vision of evolving to be a separately governed entity in time
- Activate and serve the 'Collective' – Gather, respond to and incorporate Partner feedback and input on a continuous basis
- Steward overall administration of network, formal governance, agreed upon levels of support and connectivity between Partners
- Create and maintain an online platform to facilitate the network, administer network shared resource pool, support communications among Partners
- Steward the Partner application and covenant process
- Source and train leaders from within the network to facilitate Hubs, and coaches to provide coaching
- Organize/host Jesus Collective gatherings and events
- Administer financial contributions from Partners; produce transparent financial and operating reports on a regular basis for the partnership base

Partners

- Enter into partnership covenant, including affirming core faith expressions (discerned through conversation)
- Keep existing identity and/or denominational affiliation; encouraged to reference Jesus Collective partnership
- Church Partners: Contribute 1.5% of income towards operation of Jesus Collective, to a maximum of \$25,000 CAD annually. Individual leader Partners: Contribute \$850 CAD annually.
- Seek ways to contribute sacrificially to the network (gifts, resources, mentorship, etc.)
- Help plan / speak into network priorities, gatherings and events
- Some partners may:
 - Serve on the Jesus Collective Advisory Council, but this is not an expectation of partnership
 - Consider contributing resources and content to the shared resource pool, subject to vetting process (e.g. sermons, discipleship resources, training, best practices)
 - Consider being a coach, or Partner Hub facilitator



What does it mean to be a 'Friend'?



- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Ministries
- ✓ Pastors*
- ✓ Leaders*
- ✓ Denominations
- ✓ Canada or US

* i.e. not formally representing their church or ministry

For all 'Friends' of Jesus Collective:

- Part of Jesus Collective community; can find & connect with other Friends and Partners via online platform
- Access to digital resources – choose either 'all access' or specific subscriptions (see examples below)
- Access to all interactive online engagements – live and recorded
- Reduced cost for additional resource or experience subscriptions
- Likely not looking for same degree of ongoing relational investment/involvement as Partners
 - Not a part of relational Partner Hubs
 - Not in attendance at Partnership gatherings

Examples of specific resources / experiences that may be offered to Friends:

- a) Subscription to Kids & Youth Curriculum
- b) Access to teaching/sermons/resources available from Jesus Collective Partner churches or ministries
- c) Enrolment in leadership formation activities/experiences
- d) Individual and group passes to Jesus Collective in person or online gatherings
- e) Subscriptions to other singular resources over time



Intended Evolution of Jesus Collective

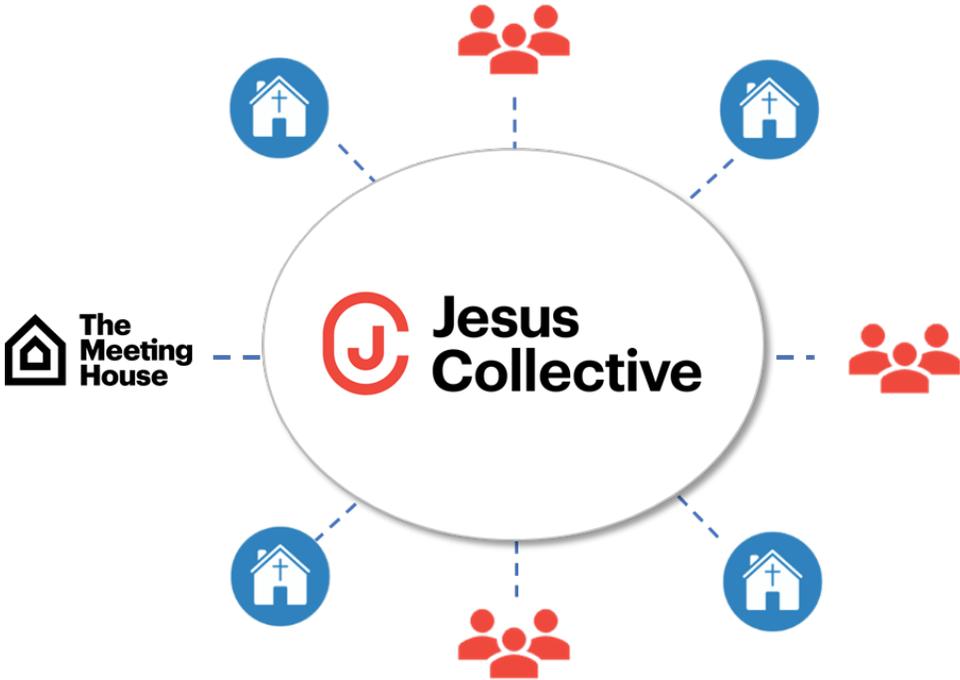
Today

Jesus Collective being birthed within The Meeting House structure and governance



Long term vision

Jesus Collective becomes an independent entity, stewarded and governed by its dedicated partners



Making Jesus Collective Sustainable

Guiding financial principles

- **Sustainable Kingdom Impact.** Sustain and maximize the Kingdom work of Jesus Collective vs. create 'profit'
- **Sacrificial Commitment.** Calling partners to a culture of collective shared ownership and pooling of resources
- **Inclusivity.** Accessible for aligned churches and leaders, including those who can't afford to contribute
- **Transparency.** Open, ongoing reporting and information sharing among committed Partners

Partner Expectations

- Churches: Contributing 1.5% of regular income to the shared resource pool (capped at \$25k CAD per year)
- Individual pastors / leaders not representing a church: flat contribution of \$850 CAD per year
- Partners invited – not expected – to contribute beyond the minimum threshold

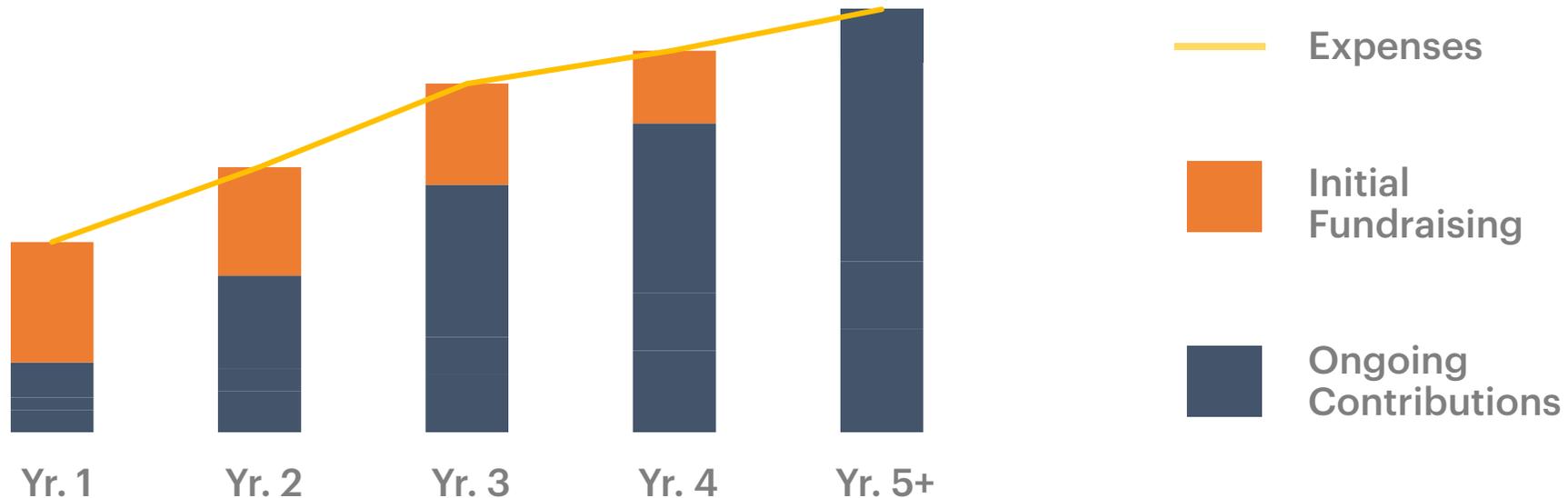
Friend Expectations

- Contributing financially for access to ministry resources
- Fixed annual or one time contribution based on chosen resource or experience subscription



Making Jesus Collective Sustainable

- The Meeting House has invested \$600k in the Jesus Collective pilot and is now raising additional funds from within to support development while the Jesus Collective Partner base solidifies and grows
- Jesus Collective is aiming to raise \$500k from Jesus Collective Partner churches and other donors over the next 2 years to help support the next 5 years of development
- The goal is for Jesus Collective to be self-sustainable operationally and financially within 5 years through a mix of ongoing Partner and Friend contributions and donations



Where do we go from here?

Next Steps towards Partnership...

- This document is meant to provide helpful background and clarity, but we are available to dialogue relationally with prospective partners and/or your leadership teams to unpack questions, and advance the conversation further.
- Interested parties are invited to complete an online Partnership application as a next step. This process includes interaction with Jesus Collective leadership, other prospective Partners, and entering into a mutual partnership covenant.
- We invite you to consider being part of our UNITE 2020 Jesus Collective Launch Gathering May 6-8, 2020 in Toronto, ON, where we hope to introduce and celebrate an initial group of churches and leaders who are in the process of becoming the first Jesus Collective Partners, and welcome others to consider partnership!

In the meantime... Ongoing Pilot Activity

- Testing a beta version of the online platform and profile database to help connect partners together and share resources
- Piloting a second Online Learning Collective in Spring 2020
- Continuing our series of interactive leadership videocasts

Getting organized and launching more widely

We are setting up the appropriate legal entity and structure for Jesus Collective, which we anticipate being ready before officially entering into covenant with Partners and receiving financial contributions. We are targeting fall 2020 to launch Jesus Collective officially and begin Partner activity.

