

Andrews University

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Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Informed Consent Form

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Title of research project: Six Conversations toward Incarnational Mission and Ministry in the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Introduction:

I am Wayne Erasmus, currently the Church Growth and Advent Mission Director for the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the British Union Conference. I am collaborating with PowerUP (Trans-European Division) Campus Ministry to provide a platform from which fresh and refreshed ministering and worshipping communities might emerge. Since you have expressed interest in engaging around the theme of mission, I would like to invite you to join this research study. The research will span the months of July and August 2021. UK Government restrictions may apply and accommodations to the nature of meeting (Zoom/In person) may be required.

Background information:

Mission work within the South England Conference has shifted over time to focus on new immigrant groups. While the Church continues to grow among recent migrant communities, membership data suggests a stagnation and decline among indigenous and indigenised population groups with post-modern/meta-modern worldviews. Traditional concepts of evangelism reliant on propositional truths find less resonance with such groups and often serve to reinforce unhelpful perceptions of Christianity and of persons of faith. As a result Christianity, and Adventism in particular, runs the risk of losing meaningful connection with the broader British context.

Purpose of this research study:

The purpose of this project is to develop, implement, and evaluate an intentional and contextual model for impacting indigenous/indigenised population groups (many of whom reflect a postmodern/metamodern mindset) within the territory of the South England Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This model will ultimately need to be trialled by potential church planters, in order to test for signs of effectiveness.

Procedures:

The project moves through six group conversations of approximately 90 minutes each. Each conversation is focused on a particular dynamic of the missional lens and is intended to open up space to reflect meaningfully on each dynamic. The conversations are styled to be somewhat informal, with both presentation and collaborative elements playing a role. Individual interviews will be conducted after the conclusion of the six-conversation journey and will be led by the principal investigator.

Possible risks or benefits:

There is no overt risk involved in this study. There is also no direct benefit to you. It is possible that the conversations may engage themes that evoke a sense of vulnerability for some participants. The results of the study may help to form a platform from which to engage incarnational and contextual mission in the UK, while also assisting and informing the preparation pathways for future UK based Church Planters.

Right of refusal to participate and withdrawal:

Participants are sought on a voluntary basis and are free to disengage at any point in the process, however, it should be noted that disengagement may have an effect on the conversational dynamics. It may be difficult for new participants to join part way through the journey which is somewhat predicated on a collective experience and a journeying process. You may also withdraw any time from the study without any penalty or any loss of benefit to which you are otherwise entitled if you had completed your participation in the research.

Confidentiality:

The information provided by you through interview will remain confidential. No one except the principal investigator (Wayne Erasmus) will have access to it. Your name and identity will also not be disclosed at any time. However, the data may be seen by an ethical review committee and will eventually be published in a Doctor of Ministry thesis and possibly elsewhere, but without ever giving your name or disclosing your identity. Please note that one of the course experiences will include participation in a final audio recorded conversation within a group setting. Audio recording will also extend to simple oral interviews (individual) which will be transcribed.

Available Sources of Information:

If you have further questions about the research or your rights as a participant or if would like to receive the results of this study once it is completed, you may contact principal investigator (Wayne Erasmus) through the South England Conference, 01923 656518 ext. 518 or by mobile phone 07521391487 or email werasmus@secadventist.org.uk. The research project advisor (David Penno) is also available to answer any questions you might have and can be best reached via email: penno@andrews.edu . You may also contact the Institutional Review Board at Andrews University about this study (irb@andrews.edu).

AUTHORIZATION

I am aged 18+ and have read and understood this consent form. I volunteer to participate in this research study and understand that I will receive a copy of this form. I voluntarily choose to participate, but I understand that my consent does not take away any legal rights in the case of negligence or other legal fault of anyone who is involved in this study. I further understand that nothing in this consent form is intended to replace any applicable legal obligations.

Participant’s Name (printed): _____

Participant’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

Principal Investigator’s Signature: _____

Date: _____