

## Stadia Workshop 2 @ Exponential 2025

### Rethinking the WHO of Church Planting

---

**Speakers:** Jamison Horton, Michael Carrion, Mozart Dixon

**Session Overview:**

This powerful session challenged church leaders to reimagine *who* is planting churches and *where* they're being planted. With deep experience and authenticity, the speakers explored the urgent need for church planters who reflect the diversity of today's communities and who are equipped to lead incarnationally, contextually, and resiliently. As the demographics of the U.S. shift, this session urged a strategic and Spirit-led rethinking of what effective church planting looks like—and who gets to lead it.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Diversity is mission-critical. The future of church planting must include more women, people of color, and leaders indigenous to the communities they serve—not just white suburban planters parachuting into urban or marginalized neighborhoods.
- Healthy churches require healthy, contextual leaders. Effective planters must understand systemic realities, local culture, and economics, and must be trained in resilience, cross-cultural leadership, and economic sustainability—not just preaching and theology.
- Multi-ethnic churches are beautiful but costly. Jamison Horton shared how his multi-ethnic church in Omaha emerged from a merger with a mostly white church and has grown through hard conversations, discipleship, and building authentic, diverse relationships.
- Don't confuse crowd-gathering with kingdom-building. Michael Carrion warned that transfer growth and high attendance don't necessarily equate to transformational, missional churches. Indigenous presence, long-term investment, and justice-rooted mission matter.
- Economics can't be ignored. Many church plants—especially in under-resourced neighborhoods—face economic challenges. Leaders must be equipped to fundraise creatively, engage in community development, and build sustainable models.
- We need bridge leaders. Future church planters must be capable of leading across lines of ethnicity, class, language, and ideology, and create safe spaces for curiosity, healing, and kingdom reconciliation.

**Notable Quotes:**



**“We walked over Samaritans to have church and left them bleeding on the road.” — *Michael Carrion***

**“My kids won’t be part of a church that doesn’t care about their neighbors.” — *Mozart Dixon***

---

#### **Next Steps with Stadia:**

- Learn how Stadia can help you start thriving, growing, multiplying churches: [stadia.org](https://stadia.org)
  - Have a vision for multiplication but lack a strategy or services? Join a Stadia Vision Trip to see our work up close: [stadia.org/visiontrips](https://stadia.org/visiontrips)
  - Exploring or discerning a call to start a new church? Learn more about how we can help: [stadia.org/discovery](https://stadia.org/discovery)
- 

