

# Residency Retreat

## *Equips Pastors for Greater Impact*



**Church multiplication means more people are reached with the Gospel.**

**Recently**, the SBC of Virginia hosted a retreat for pastors who are using church residency programs to train future church planters and pastoral leaders. The Send Network Virginia team organized the retreat in Fairfax, Virginia, just before the Send Virginia Summit. Pastors from about 25 churches gathered to share their expertise, exchange ideas, and strengthen one another in their mission to develop leaders.

In its second year, the retreat fostered a strong spirit of camaraderie and mutual encouragement. Its aim was to showcase proven residency training models, particularly from churches with more developed programs. Three key presentations highlighted diverse approaches:

### 1. Crosslink Community Church

Mark Simpson and Rob Spencer of **Crosslink Community Church** in Harrisonburg walked attendees through their three-year development plan. The plan prepares members to be sent out on church planting and revitalization teams.

### 2. Bonhoeffer Haus

Jesse Fury, Executive Director of Bonhoeffer Haus in Roanoke, shared how a partnership between four local churches has formed a residential internship focused on holistic discipleship and leadership development among young adults.

### 3. Impact Church

Brandon Hembree, Church Planting Pastor at **Impact Church** in Fredericksburg, presented how their church planting environment serves as a real-world lab for developing leaders through hands-on experience.

These presentations offered practical insights and transferable tools. Churches of all sizes benefited from shared content, processes, and lessons that would otherwise take years to develop independently.

The retreat concluded with a powerful message from Travis Ogle, Executive Vice President of Send Network. Drawing from the book of Acts, he emphasized that godliness and sacrifice are essential for a genuine Gospel movement. His challenge reminded everyone that developing leaders is not just strategic, it's sacrificial, and that our ultimate dependence is on the Lord.

While participants left with valuable content, the most meaningful takeaway was the realization that we are stronger together. ■

**The informal conversations, shared meals, and mutual support reinforced A KEY TRUTH: multiplication happens best when we break out of isolation and collaborate as a family on mission.**