INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BI-DISTRICT TRAINING

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CHAIR, BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP
Intentional Discipleship Plans Should have two basic parts:

• A path from outside the church to Discipleship to Serving
• A path from where the person is on the journey towards perfection
SIMPLE CHURCH

WHY
PURPOSE
VISION
WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

It should be as important as eating!

You don’t eat, you die!

Without discipleship, you are dying a spiritual death!
WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

• NRS Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

- NRS Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

  37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

  Ibid
WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

¶ 120. The Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

MISSION AND VISION

• Mission for the church is defined by scripture and denomination. We do not need to recreate it but we need our congregation to understand it.

• Vision is:
  • How do we do the mission within the context of who and where we are?
  • Understanding who is our neighbor?
  • Articulating our unique ability for being?
  • Answers the question, What would be the outcome if we were no longer here?
DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE

Thom Rainer in *Simple Church* says that we need to define our purpose so that it meets four criteria.

• Clarity
• Movement
• Alignment
• Focus
CLARITY

Ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people.

¶ 120. The Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION

• Disciples are lifelong learners who influence others to serve. Virginia Annual Conference

• Love God, Love Others and Serve the World – Cross Church, Ark

• Our vision for Resurrection is to be used by God to change lives, strengthen churches, and transform the world. Church of the Resurrection, Kansas

• A community of people committed to making a difference in the lives of those in the community and in the world. Floris UMC, VA

• Christ’s Love in Action: Bringing God to People and People to God, Sydenstricker UMC, VA
MOVEMENT

Sequential Steps in the process that cause people to move to greater areas of commitment

Simple Church, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger, 2011, B&H Publishing, Nashville, TN, Page 72
• Connect, Care, Serve – Floris UMC, VA
• Connect, Care, Serve – Church of the Resurrection, Kansas
• Connect, Grow, Serve – Christ UMC, VA
• Worship, Grow, Serve – Virginia Beach UMC, VA
• Connect, Develop, Serve – Sydenstricker UMC, VA

• Searching>Exploring>Beginning>Growing>Maturing (Phil Maynard)
ALIGNMENT

Arrangement of all ministries and staff around the simple process


How do the ministries of your church align with the mission and vision of your church?
FOCUS

Commitment to abandon everything that falls outside of the simple ministry process

UNDERSTANDING OUR ROLE IN DISCIPLESHIP
WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

• “A disciple worships
• Is part of a community
• Commits to spiritual practices
• Is generous and serves
• Is seeking to be Christ-Like”

Dotson, Junius, 2017, Developing an Intentional Discipleship System, Discipleship Ministries, page 26
Being Part of the Body of Christ

Becoming More Like Jesus

Joining Jesus in Ministry

A Life of Worship
John 4:23

A Life of Hospitality
John 13: 34-35

A Life of Opening to Jesus
Matthew 5

A Life of Obeying Jesus
Matthew 28:19

A Life of Service
Matthew 5: 13-14

A Life of Generosity
Matthew 6:24; 25:40

Taken from “From Membership to Discipleship”
By Phil Maynard
Phases of Discipleship

Searching for Meaning
Exploring Christ's Way
Beginning new life in Christ
Growing our walk in Christ
Maturing all of life in Christ

Taken from “from membership to Discipleship”
By Phil Maynard
WE TAKE A VOW

As members of this congregation will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness!

United Methodist Hymnal, 1989, page 38 as modified by the General Conference 2009
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Vows</th>
<th>Dimensions of Discipleship</th>
<th>Membership Expectations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prayers</strong></td>
<td>A life Open to Jesus</td>
<td>Participate regularly in small group study, Bible reading, personal prayer and reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galations 2:20</td>
<td>A Life Obeying Jesus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephesians 4: 14-15</td>
<td>(Intentional Faith Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presence</strong></td>
<td>A Life of Worship</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 12:1</td>
<td>(Passionate Worship)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gifts</strong></td>
<td>A Life of Generosity</td>
<td>Commit to proportional giving to the ministries of this congregation with your time and to moving toward a tithe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proverbs 22:9</td>
<td>(Extravagant Generosity)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acts 20:35</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Service</strong></td>
<td>A Life of Service</td>
<td>Serve in some ongoing way in the local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 25:44-45</td>
<td>(Risk Taking Mission)</td>
<td>Serve in some ongoing way within the church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Witness</strong></td>
<td>A Life of Hospitality</td>
<td>Build relationships beyond the church to witness the love of Christ and invite someone to attend worship at least 3 times a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 15:12</td>
<td>(Radical Hospitality)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A LIFE OF WORSHIP

• How do we invite people to mature
  • Offer scripture and sermon topic ahead of time
  • Have passionate worship experience that incorporates all aspects of how people learn.
  • Offer ways to interact with the worship personally
  • Challenge daily bible reading throughout the year
  • Model as an example mature discipleship
INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN
A LIFE OF HOSPITALITY

• Teach and preach on witnessing your faith
• Help folks develop their story
• Develop an attitude of radical hospitality
• Create opportunities for community interaction
• Develop and teach Shepherding and Mentoring
• Revisit the way you usher and greet people.
• Change your visitor, member language
A LIFE OPEN TO JESUS

• Develop informational materials that tell folks what is available, who is teaching, what they are teaching and how they can connect
• Develop small group leaders
• Preach and teach the Biblical story
A LIFE OBEYING JESUS

• Teach the Bible teachings of Loving God and Loving Neighbor
• Have leadership of the church model that behavior
• Matthew 25:35
• Teach the parables of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37), the Wedding Feast (Matthew 24: 1-14) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), etc.
A LIFE OF SERVICE

• Share and invite people into service in the church. Remove obstacles to new people joining service opportunities.

• Make sure the opportunities are well advertised and explore inviting one on one

• List missional opportunities in a newsletter and/ or the weekly information sheets

• Explore missional opportunities in your neighborhood
A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

• Have a inviting and engaging stewardship program annually
• Gallup’s Strength Finders
• An Intentional Discipleship Plan:
  • Is Contextual
  • Should be simple and easily understood
  • Should take a person from Infancy (Searching) to Old Age (Maturity)
  • Should engage people where they are and invite them to journey further
  • Should have clarity, movement, alignment and focus
  • One size does not fit all
CONNECT > DEVELOP > SERVE

For the sake of discussion we are going to use this simplified path but remember that for each church, this becomes contextual to their vision of the church.
CONNECT

• The first step of any process is how do I connect with the people/audience that I desire to connect with.

• Doing this we need to recognize that there are many different understandings within our neighborhoods and folk are in many different places. Understanding this basic concept is the key to a simple church model.
CONNECT

There should be an intentional plan on how to connect with neighbor and those actively attending.

Connecting with neighbor means that we must learn who our neighbors are.

- The conference has a great tool in mission insite. www.Missioninsite.com
- Learn the demographics and mosaics to understand who, size of population by group and what their desires are.
- Perform surveys – get creative – attach to missional or relational activities
- Prayer walking
- Relational activities
CONNECT

• Develop affinity Groups with common interest for relationship building
• Connect with those who are already in your church
  • Preschool
  • Scouts
  • Home Owners Associations
• Use multiple media ways to connect with your neighbor
VISITOR CONNECTION

Connection with neighbor becomes intensified when they come through your doors:

- Develop a radical hospitality (3 Ply versus 1 ply) approach to welcoming visitors
- Have a greeters who are trained and will engage in a welcoming way
- Have a way of capturing visitor information
- Have a gift for them
- Have a proven intentional follow-up process
  - Letter or communication from Pastor
  - Connection with Laity Shepherd
- Assure the worship service is relevant and passionate
- Make sure signage and greeters are fully able to point visitors to where they want to go
  - Bathrooms and Nursery
ACTIVELY ATTENDING TO PARTICIPATION

• Utilize the concept of Shepherds assigned to visitor to welcome, follow-up and guide.
• Develop an intentional process by which visitors acclimate to actively attending and then become participants.
• Suggest Discipleship Survey and Strength Finders either as a rule or part of New Member classes offered frequently.
• Engage them in small affinity groups or small study groups as quickly as possible.
• Know your groups and where they are on the discipleship journey
  • You do not want to drop a beginner in a mature class
  • Have multiple ways for visitors to gather information (brochures, web site, Face Book)
DEVELOP

• Preach, teach, model and engage in intentional discipleship

• Learn where they are through tools like the Discipleship Survey which is a tool that is free to all churches in Virginia

• There are many resources for Discipleship – use what works in your context
  • I like the Maynard resources, Membership to Discipleship, Discipler, Shift

• Preach discipleship from the pulpit.

• Develop small groups and invite folks into them (small groups = classes, we are Methodist)

• Have materials which can be given out that explain vision, identification of small groups, children, youth and family ministries, etc.
James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. 20 Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. 23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? 26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.
SERVE

• Teach and engage people in the opportunities within the church to serve
• Teach folks that service is a product of obeying Jesus and living into the understanding of discipleship
• Assure there are immediate opportunities for new folks to engage in the ministry of the church
• Constantly provide opportunities for hands on mission in the local community
• Utilize District and Conference resources to provide abilities to serve
PROMOTE THE PLAN

• Make sure there is clear, concise and available documents to let folks know how to engage, how to find out where they are, what their next steps should be, etc.

• Make sure missional opportunities are clear about who to contact and how to engage.
AT THE END OF THE DAY

When we live our lives and stand before Jesus, we are not going to be asked whether or not we have admittance into heaven but rather:

WHAT DID WE DO TO FURTHER THE KINGDOM!

What will you say?