

MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Missional Discipleship

Integrating Discipleship into the Fabric of our Everyday Lives

Reading: *Building a Discipling Culture – How to Release a Missional Movement by Discipling People Like Jesus Did*, by Mike Breen, pages 1-73

“Here’s the thing that can be difficult to wrap our minds around: If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples. Most of us have become quite good at the church thing. And yet, disciples are the only thing Jesus cares about, and it’s the only number Jesus is counting. Not our attendance or budget or buildings. He wants to know if we are ‘making disciples.’

“Many of us serve in or lead churches where we have hundreds or even thousands of people showing up on Sunday. But we have to honestly ask the question: Do their lives look like the lives of the people we see in Scripture? Are we just good at getting people together once a week and maybe into a small group, or are we actually good at producing the types of people we read about in the New Testament? Have we shifted our criteria for a good disciple as someone who shows up to our stuff, gives money, and occasionally feeds poor people?

“If you set out to build the church, there is no guarantee you will make disciples. It is far more likely that you will create consumers who depend on the spiritual services that religious professionals provide.

“For several years now, “missional” has been the buzzword in and around the church. People want to create missional churches and missional programs or missional small groups.

“The thing is, we don’t have a missional problem in the Western church. We have a discipleship problem. If you know how to disciple well, you will always get mission. Always. Somewhere along the way, we started separating being missional from being a disciple, as if somehow the two could be separated...Granted, we should focus on people who don’t know Jesus yet, but Jesus himself gave us the model for doing that: Disciple people. If you how to actually make disciples, you’ll reach people who don’t know Jesus. Because that’s simply what disciples do. That was Jesus’ whole plan. If you disciple people, as these people do mission in their everyday comings and goings, with the work and shaping of the Spirit, the future of the church will emerge.

“It all starts with making disciples.

“Jesus has not called you to build his church... he will build his church. Our job, our only job and the last instructions he gave us, was to make disciples. And out of this we will get the church. Out of this the future will emerge, and out of this will be a missional wave the likes of which we have never seen.” (Mike Breen, *BDC*, 5-6).

Part I. BACKGROUND

A. BIBLICAL REFLECTION

Jesus made the mission of his Church very clear:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go (better: "as you are going") and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Question: In general, how do we currently make disciples and engage in mission at FPC?

Answer: People attend a _____ or presentation on the church campus to receive _____, and individual members sign up to volunteer for outreach _____ or events.

The result: To a significant degree we have

- 1) _____ mission and discipleship from one another, and
- 2) we have bred "_____."

Scripture's account of the early Church: Acts 2:42-47

Notice the simple pattern of UP/IN/OUT they maintained:

- UP = relationship with God
- IN = relationship with one other believers
- OUT = relationship with the world

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (____) and to fellowship (____), to the breaking of bread (____) and to prayer (____). Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles (____). All the believers were together and had everything in common (____). They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (____). Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts (____). They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (____), praising God (____) and enjoying the favor of all the people (____). **The result of this pattern = And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.** (Acts 2:42-47)*

B. THE CALL FOR A CULTURAL SHIFT IN OUR APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP (CULTIVATE) AND MISSION (IMPACT)

1. TAG Report

Weaknesses included:

- Relationships
- Reaching younger adults
- Staff dependence
- Connecting members to meaningful ministry

“The challenge in the future for the people of FPC will be to go into the local neighborhoods and make disciples of people who do not yet know the Lord. This seems to be your primary mission field. This will likely require a shift in balance from a consumer driven (attractional, serving those already “here” or those theologically similar to us) to a local community model (actively missional). This shift will substantially impact the allocation of resources, including time and money.” TAG Report

What the TAG report did *not* include was *HOW* to do this.

- a. How will the church transform itself from a congregation of consumers of ministry to producers of mission and ministry?
- b. How do staff and key leaders move from acting as the primary deliverers of ministry to equippers for ministry?
- c. How can FPC move from a “come to us” mentality to a mindset that is community-centric and excited about engaging non-believers on their turf?
- d. Finally, how can the church address its perceived weaknesses by training its members to make disciples in way that is significant, relational, connective, and meaningful to younger populations who are outside the church?

2. ECO

“Five Important Shifts For Our Future Development as ECO”

by ECO Synod Executive Dana Allin:

ECO-Pres.org/blog/important-shifts-for-our-future-development

3. FPC Strategic Vision Plan

ESSENTIAL MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

Cultivate: We will create a secure spiritual home for God’s people where they can grow and be nourished, supported, and encouraged.

Impact: We will equip our members to serve, engage, reach, and influence our community, nation, and the world with the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

C. SUMMARY

Jesus' strategy for making disciples: Jesus formed his followers into a **community** that met in **homes** and practiced a rhythm of UP/IN/OUT. He also chose from within that community a smaller group of people with whom he spent more time personally discipling.

Within these two orbs of relationships, he created a "missional discipleship culture" or a "Family on Mission."

Question: How can we approximate this same "missional discipleship culture" of Jesus?

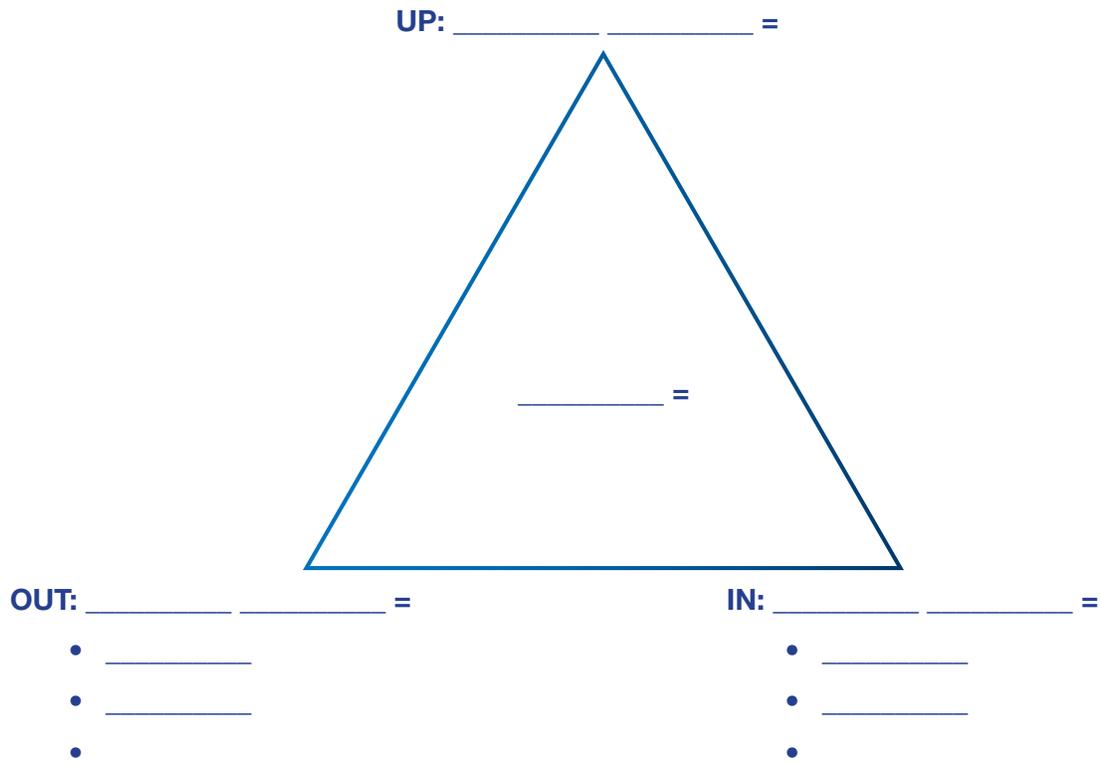
Answer: "_____ Community" and "_____."

Part II. MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES AT FPC: "Family on Mission"

Reading: *Building a Discipling Culture—How to Release a Missional Movement by Discipling People Like Jesus Did*, by Mike Breen, pages 6-8

Family On Mission: Integrating Discipleship Into the Fabric of Our Everyday Lives, by Mike and Sally Breen, pages 49-66

A. THREE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY (__ - __ people)

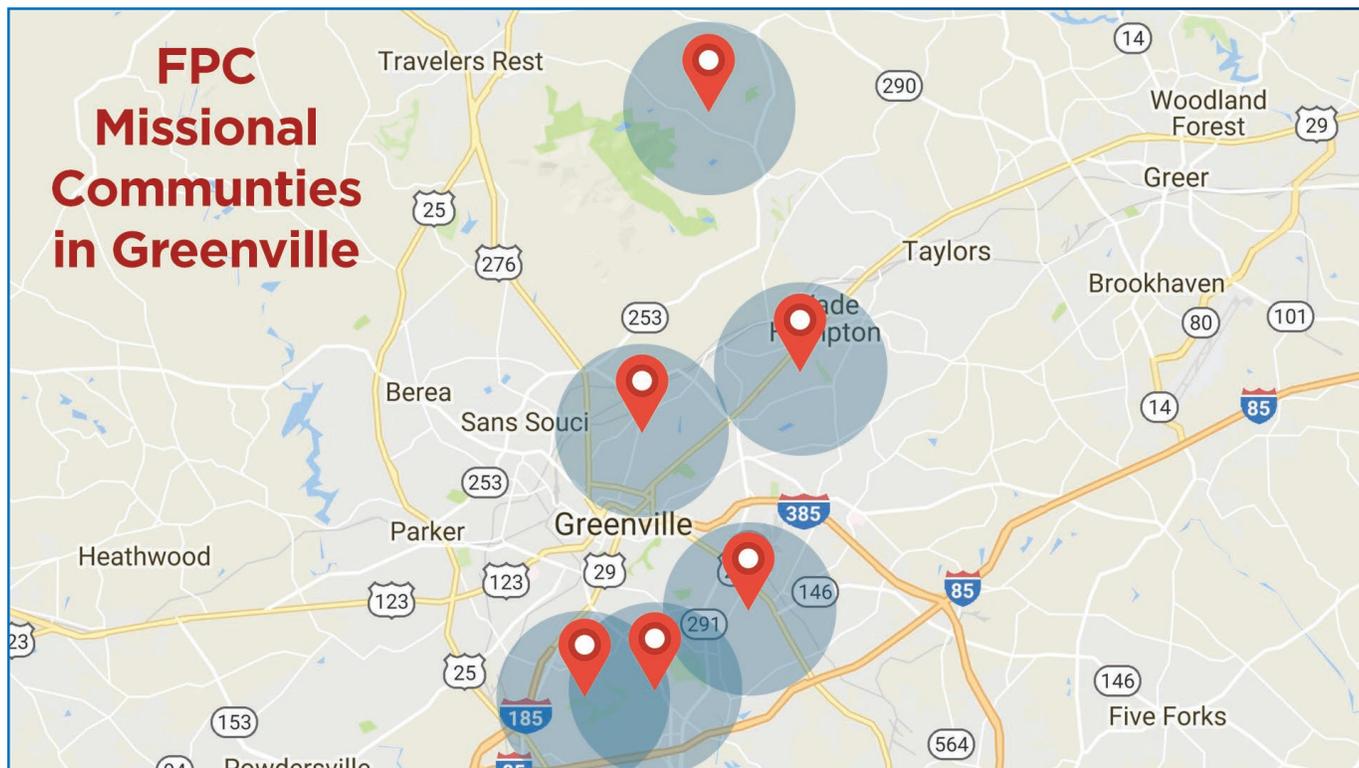


B. MC NIGHTLY FORMAT (2 times per month)

1. Food, drink, enjoyment, and fun (30 minutes). Think “_____,” not Wednesday night church dinner.
2. _____ (15 minutes). Each person shares one thing for which they are thankful since the last meeting.
3. Singing (15 minutes). The style does not matter.
4. Prayer Breakout (20 minutes). Small Groups with 3-4 people sharing/praying around the house). Gather back together in closing prayer.
5. **OR** a _____ found in the Family Book with 10 minutes teaching/10 minutes open group reflection (20 minutes total).

C. CURRENT MC GATHERING HOMES:

- Gary & Dede Hudak (Paris Mountain)
- Ben & Claire Lanz (Gower)
- Todd & Claire Ripley (North Main)
- Jimmy & Nicole Swiger (Chanticleer)
- Eric & Heather Swofford – two MCs (Augusta Street)
- Jason & Jeannette Terry (Botany Woods)



Closing thought: What if the same people you served with on Friday were the same people you laughed and ate with on Tuesday and sat with on Sunday?

Part III. HUDDLES AT FPC

A. THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission reveals that disciple-making is the mission of each congregation.

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples—students, apprentices, practitioners—of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him.” (Dallas Willard, Christian writer)

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:1-2).

B. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

What does it mean to be a disciple?

Translated from the Greek word *mathetes*, a disciple is a “learner; a person who learns from another by instruction whether formal or informal.” A disciple is “not only a pupil, but an adherent, as one who imitates their teacher.” (Strong's Concordance, Vines Expository Dictionary)

C. A HUDDLE IS...

1. A place where 4-8 disciples receive investment, training, imitation, and accountability (i.e., discipleship) from a Huddle Leader.
2. By invitation only.
3. A place for invitation and challenge.
4. Something that is reproduced. At the end of the discipling process (about a year), each disciple is challenged to then disciple a group of 4-8 others and to lead these disciples in a Missional Community. A worthy Return On Investment.
5. A weekly meeting that lasts about 1½ hours.
6. A time when homework is reviewed and processed and discipleship “tools” are taught and modeled by the Huddle Leader. Disciples then apply these tools in their lives and report back to the group. These tools are practical, scriptural principles that are easily memorized via simple, geometric shapes. The shapes are called “LifeShapes.”
7. A high commitment for all the reasons above.

D. WHY A HUDDLE?

“The end result of discipleship is not merely the *knowledge* of all Jesus commanded, but the *obedience* to all Jesus commanded” (Geiger, Kelley, and Nation, *Transformational Discipleship*).

“Growth in grace, wisdom, and character does not happen primarily in classes and instruction, through large worship gatherings, or even in solitude. Most often, growth happens through deep relationships and in communities where the implications of the gospel are worked out cognitively and worked in practically—in ways no other setting or venue can afford” (Tim Keller, *Center Church*).

E. SUMMARY

“What would the church look like if everyone in the congregation used their God-given gifts and talents to equip the rest of the church in such a way that the entire church became more like Jesus? And if the whole church looked more like Jesus, how much more would our neighborhoods and cities look like heaven?”

JR Woodward, *Creating a Missional Culture, Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World*

The Learning Circle

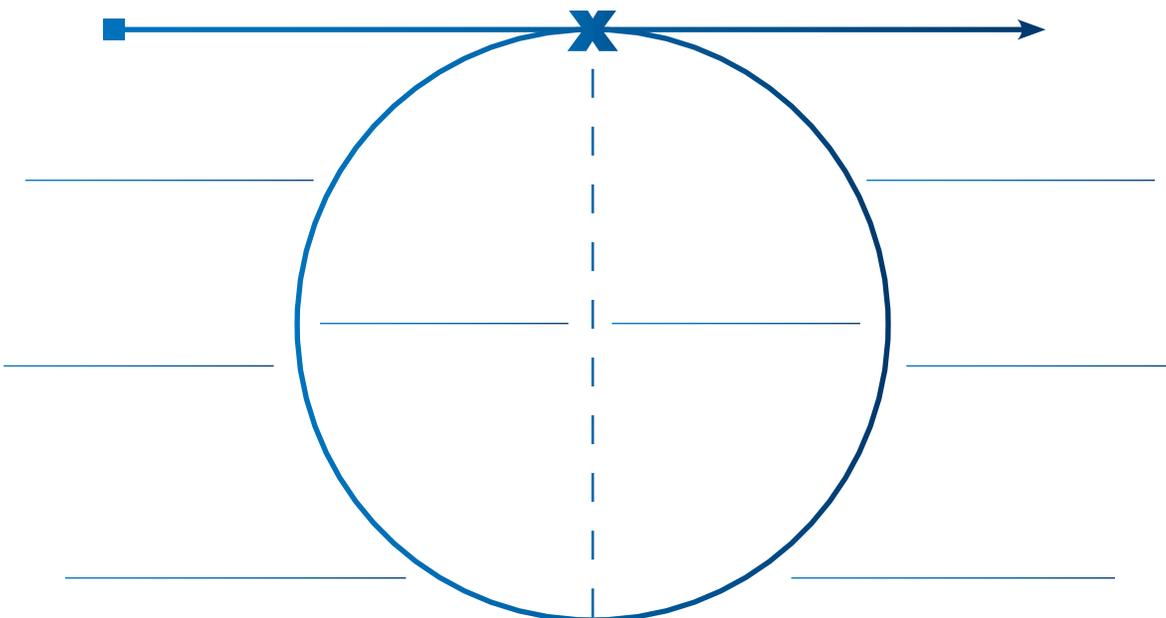
Identifying and Responding to the Voice of God in Your Life

Reading: *Building a Discipling Culture – How to Release a Missional Movement by Discipling People Like Jesus Did*, by Mike Breen, Chapter 6

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”
(Matthew 28:18-20).

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

“The time has come,” He said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15).



Part IV. DISCUSSION

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Session 4

“Missional Discipleship”

August 19/22, 2018

Brian Stewart & Claire Ripley

Reading: *Building a Discipling Culture – How to Release a Missional Movement by Discipling People Like Jesus Did*, 3rd ed., Mike Breen, pages 1-73.

Part I. Background

A. Biblical Reflection

Jesus made the mission of his Church very clear:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore, go and (better: “as you are going”) make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Question: In general, how do we currently make disciples and engage in mission at FPC?

Answer. People attend a class or presentation on the church campus to receive information, and individual members sign up to volunteer for outreach projects or events.

The result: to a significant degree we have:
1) separated mission and discipleship from one another; 2) we have bred “consumerism.”

Scripture's account of the early Church:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Notice the simple pattern of UP/IN/OUT they maintained. Fill in the blanks in your notebook...

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (UP) and to fellowship (IN), to the breaking of bread (IN) and to prayer (UP).

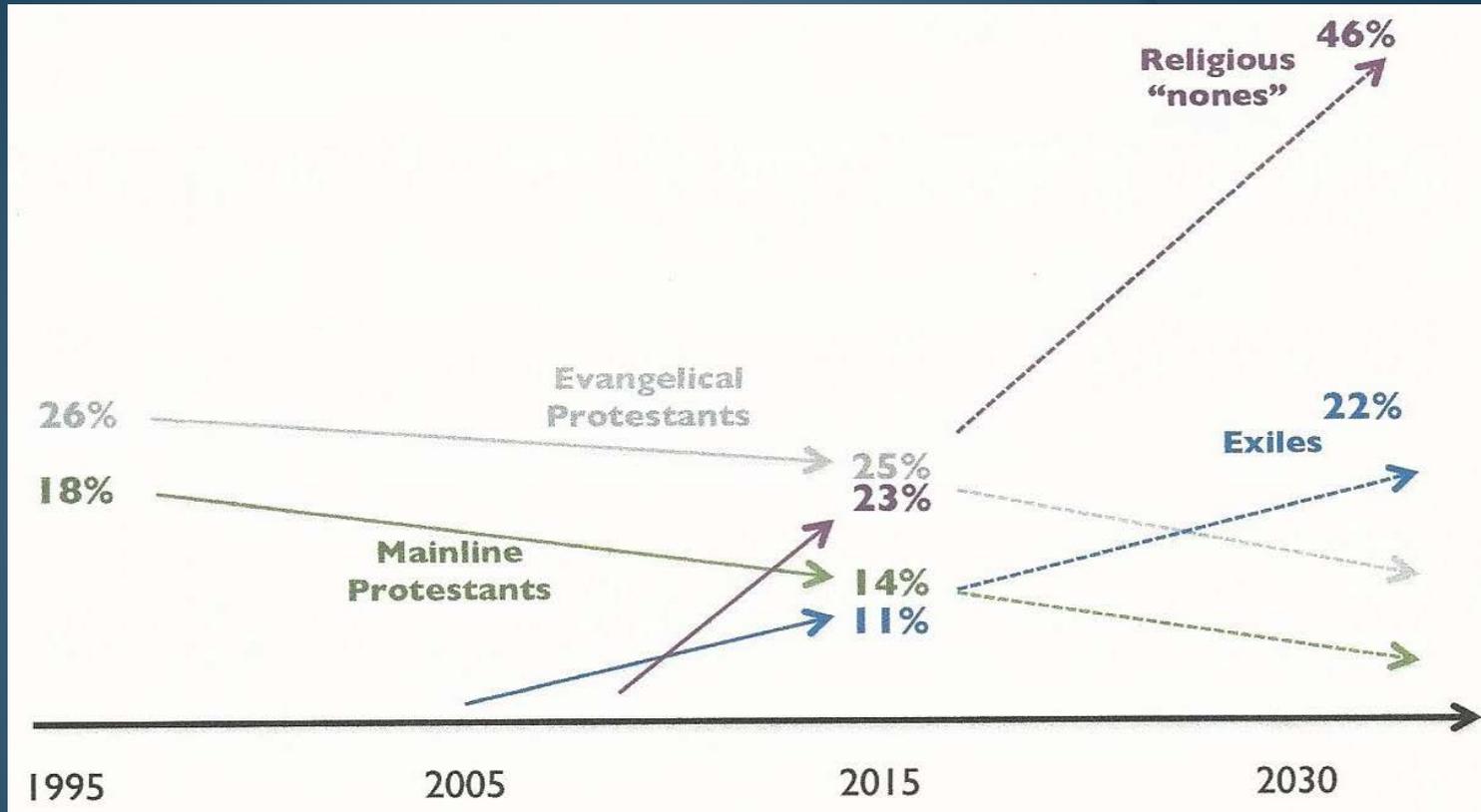
*Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles (OUT). All the believers were together and had everything in common (IN). They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (OUT). Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts (UP/IN). They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (IN), praising God (UP) and enjoying the favor of all the people (OUT). **The result of this pattern = And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.***

Acts 2:42-47

B. The Call for a Cultural Shift in our Approach to Discipleship (Cultivate) and Mission (Impact)

Over the last several years, the TAG Report, our denomination, and our own Strategic Vision Plan, have been asking us to work towards a number of cultural shifts at FPC in the way we form disciples and reach out to our community.

The Rise of the “Nones” (US Census Bureau Data)



The US is experiencing a dramatic shift. Given current trends, by 2030 46% of the US population will self-identify as religious “nones.” Another 22% will be “exiles,” mostly millennials.



TAG

reframe. refocus. reimagine.

Discovery Report to FPC

May 2014

Beginning in 2012, FPC engaged the TAG Consulting firm in a visioning planning process. In 2014, TAG's findings were reported to the church in their *Discovery Report*. The report related a variety of strengths and weaknesses in the ministry of the church.

Weaknesses included:

- Relationships
- Reaching younger adults
- Staff dependence
- Connecting members to meaningful ministry

“Focus group attendees appreciated many excellent and worthy aspects of the church’s ministry – from the ministry to children and the high quality of biblical teaching throughout the ministries of the church...However, all of these programs are experienced more by members than any outsiders. Additionally, those commenting primarily spoke about being on the receiving end of these quality ministries.”

In other words, a majority of the congregants saw themselves as *consumers* rather than as *producers*.
The report continued, urging FPC to a mission beyond itself:

“If FPC’s members do not thrive on a mission that is external in nature, then the current path is simply unsustainable. There is a subtle and destructive process at work in a consumer-oriented church (even if what is being consumed is spiritual). Without knowing it the church that operates as a provider of spiritual products sets in motion an endless cycle of production that, in the end, cannot be sustained...”

“The challenge in the future for the people of FPC will be to go into the **local neighborhoods** and make disciples of people who do not yet know the Lord. This seems to be your primary mission field. This will likely require a shift in balance from a consumer driven (attractional, serving those already “here” or those theologically similar to us) to a **local community model** (actively missional). This shift will substantially impact the allocation of resources, including time and money.”

“Here’s the key: the members in a mission-based organization are no longer the primary beneficiaries of the organization’s services, but instead the primary means by which the organization accomplishes its mission! And your own backyard is the most logical place for this to occur.”

The TAG report focused on the challenges FPC was facing (The “Attractional Model”)

- 1) A congregational culture in which members unconsciously act as consumers.
- 2) Pastors and key lay leaders who are hired and chosen to deliver ministry to them (80/20% rule).
- 3) A “come to us” mentality that requires non-believers to step foot onto our campus to experience Church through programs and events.

The report only offered broad solutions to these challenges:

- 1) Staff and key leaders should serve primarily as equippers, rather than as deliverers of ministry.
- 2) Members should concentrate on a mission that is more externally focused – one that centers on making new disciples in the local neighborhoods in which they live.

What the report did not include was HOW to do this?

- a) How will the church transform itself from a congregation of consumers of ministry to producers of mission and ministry?
- b) How do staff and key leaders move from acting as the primary deliverers of ministry to equippers for ministry?
- c) How can FPC move from a “come to us” mentality to a mindset that is community-centric and excited about engaging non-believers on their turf?

What the report did not include was HOW to do this?

d) Finally, how can the church address its perceived weaknesses by training its members to make disciples in way that is significant, relational, connective, and meaningful to younger populations who are outside the church?

“Five Important Shifts For Our Future Development as ECO”

By ECO Synod Executive

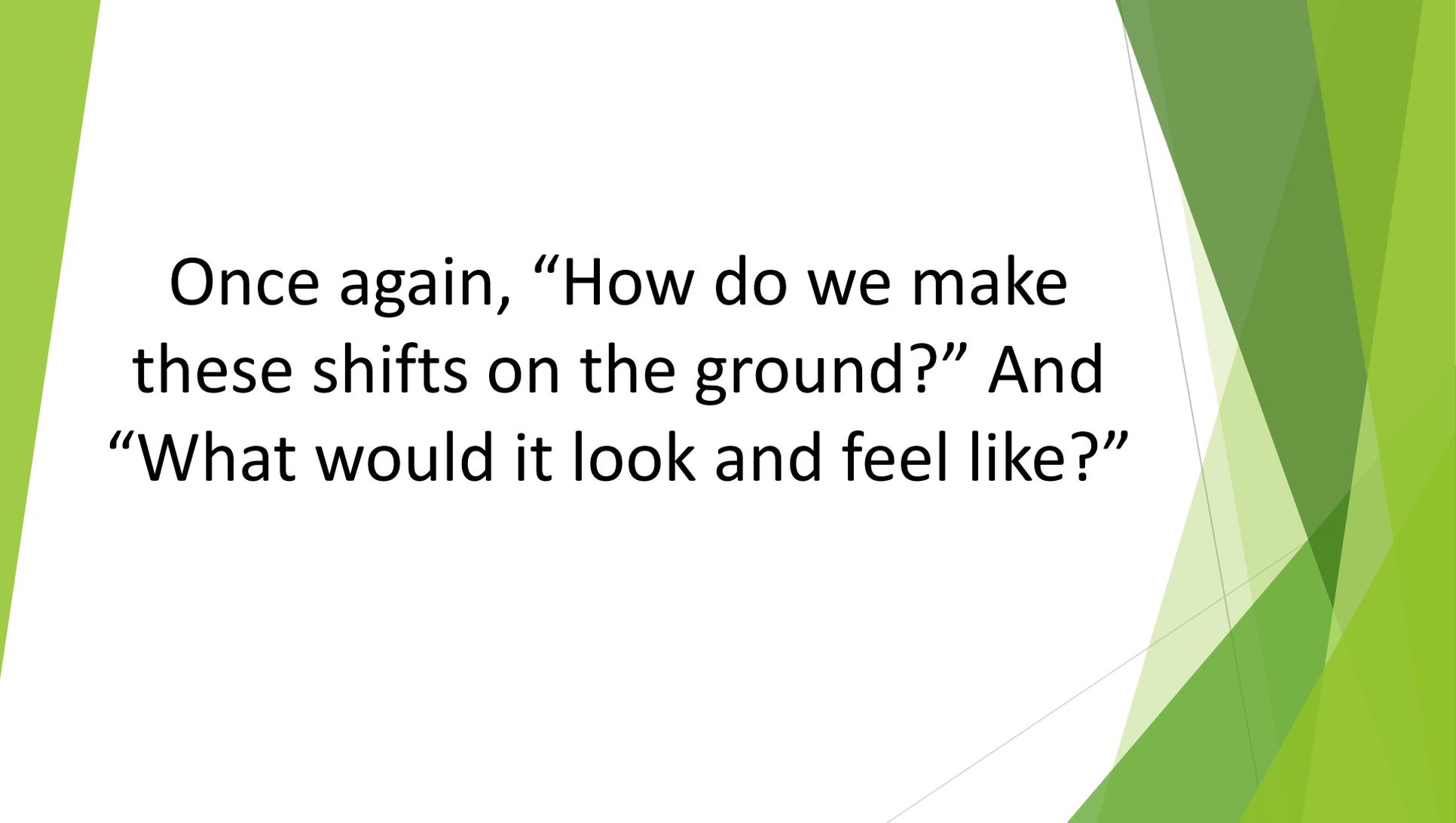
Dana Allin

<http://eco-pres.org/blog/important-shifts-for-our-future-development>

Shift #1—From “Clergy-Centered” to an
“Unleashed Laity”

Shift #2 – From “Safety and Preservation” to
“Risk-taking and Expansion”

Shift #4 - From a “Purely Attractional
Model of Ministry” to “Missional AND
Attractional”

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central white area where the text is placed.

Once again, “How do we make these shifts on the ground?” And “What would it look and feel like?”



**VISION
PLAN 2016**

Worship

BE IN AWE OF GOD

Pursue God through Worship Excellence
Expand & Revitalize Music Programs
Equip Our Congregation to Engage Others
Develop a Strong, Diverse, Relational Community of Worshipers
Explore and Develop a Variety of Worship Styles

Cultivate

BE A SECURE HOME

Promote a Biblical Worldview in All Venues
Become a House of Prayer
Develop Life Groups & Intergenerational Fellowship
Strengthen Marriages & Families
Commit to Learn & Serve

EQUIPPING

THE BODY OF CHRIST TO

ENGAGE

IN RADICAL, GOSPEL-DRIVEN

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Impact

BE AN EFFECTIVE MISSION

Foster Missional Lifestyles and Mindset
Reach & Serve Downtown Greenville & Beyond
Share & Live Our Faith in Our Spheres of Influence
Strategically Expand Our Ministry

Fortify

SUPPORT OUR VISION

Develop & Maintain Welcoming, Secure, & Appropriate Facilities
Exercise Biblical Stewardship of Time, Talent, & Treasure
Build Strong Leadership & Governance Structure
Develop & Approve Academy Strategic Plan
Communicate Clearly & Effectively

Strategic Vision Plan

ESSENTIAL MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

Cultivate: We will create a secure spiritual home for God's people where they can grow and be nourished, supported, and encouraged.

Impact: We will equip our members to serve, engage, reach, and influence our community, nation, and the world with the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

Once again we state what we want to do, but how will we get there? What practical ministry strategies will take us where we want to go?

TAG asked us to go back and look again at how the Scriptures define “church”:

“I have come to believe that individualism, particularly manifested in consumerism, forms the antithesis of community. In order to understand the consequences of individualism in the church, we first must revisit a biblical theology of what God intends for the church.”

(Kevin Ford, *TAG Report to FPC*)

“Ecclesiology”

C. Summary (Back to where we began)

IDEA: Let's look at the Bible and take special note of not only **what** Jesus said to his disciples (information) but also **HOW** he formed them (method) as his followers.

Jesus' strategy for making disciples:

Jesus formed his followers into a community that met in homes and practiced a rhythm of UP/IN/OUT. He also chose from within that community a smaller group of people with whom he spent more time personally disciplining.

Within these two orbs of relationships,
he created a “missional discipleship
culture” or a “Family on Mission.”

Question: How can we approximate this same “missional discipleship culture” of Jesus?

Answer: “Missional Community” and “Huddle.”

Some of us have been experimenting with Missional Community and Huddle over the last eighteen months. It takes about a **year** to prepare someone to lead a Missional Community and Huddle. Currently, about 140 people are involved in MCs and around 70 have been or are in a Huddle.



Part II. Missional Communities at FPC: “Family on Mission”



**A. Three
Essential
Ingredients of
a MC (15-40
people):**

SPIRITUAL PARENTS
SPIRITUAL DEPTH SUBMISSION SACRIFICE

HUDDLE =
training for future
spiritual parents
1x per week (4-6
people)

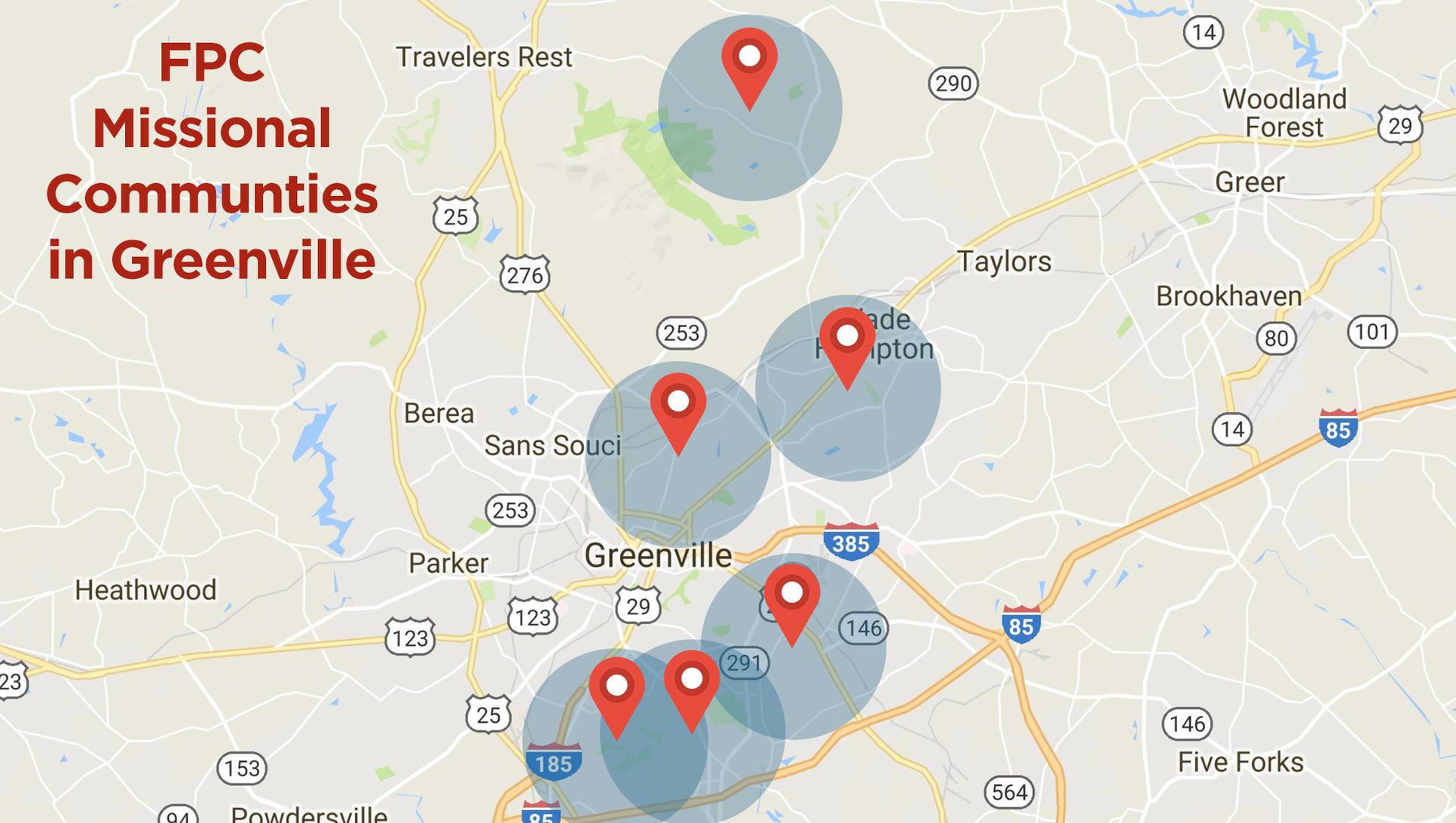
**(OUT) MISSIONAL
PURPOSE** =
• Passions
• Problems
• Possessions
1x per month in the neigh-
borhood or w/non-profit

(IN) PREDICTABLE PATTERNS =
• Stability
• Security
• Identity
2x per month in a home

MC NIGHTLY FORMAT (2x per month)

- **Food, drink, enjoyment and fun** (30 min). Think “party” not Wednesday night church dinner.
 - **Thankful Time** (15 min). Each person shares one thing for which they are thankful since the last meeting.
 - **Singing** (15 min). The style does not matter.
 - **Prayer Breakout** (20 min). Small Groups with 3-4 people sharing/praying around the house). Gather back together in closing prayer.
- OR** a **Family Devotion** found in the family Book with 10 minutes teaching/10 minutes open group reflection: (20 min total).

FPC Missional Communities in Greenville



Closing thought: What if the same people you served with on Friday were the same people you laughed and ate with on Tuesday and sat with on Sunday?

Break time

Part III: Huddles at FPC

A.THE GREAT COMMISSION

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, the mission is laid out before Jesus' disciples:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and **make disciples** (*mathetes*) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Disciple making is the mission of each
congregation.

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as “Christians” will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him.”

Dallas Willard, Christian writer

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

II Timothy 2:2

B. What is a Disciple?

Before one can *make* disciples, he or she must *be* one.

What does it mean to *be* a disciple?

Translated from the Greek word “mathētēs,” a disciple is a “learner; a person who learns from another by instruction whether formal or informal.”

The Vines Expository Dictionary adds that a disciple is “not only a pupil, but an adherent, *as one who imitates their teacher.*”

Becoming a Life Long Learner of Jesus

Those who respond to the call of Jesus are not merely aspiring to learn and master knowledge or certain objectives, but rather are learning *to live a life that imitates Jesus in the power of the Gospel.* Being a disciple means becoming a life long learner of Jesus.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and **learn (*mathetes*)** from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

C. A Huddle is...

1. A place where 4-8 disciples receive investment, training, imitation and accountability (i.e., discipleship) from a Huddle Leader who has themselves been Huddled.
2. By invitation only (Person of Peace Strategy)
3. A place for invitation and challenge.

4. Something that is reproduced. At the end of the discipling process (about a year), disciples are challenged to then disciple a group of 4-6 others, and to lead these disciples in a Missional Community. If you are not willing to make this commitment, please do not say "yes" to a Huddle leader. (ROI)

5. A weekly or bi-weekly meeting that last about 1 ½ hours.

6. A time when assignments are reviewed and discipleship “tools” are taught and modeled by the Huddle Leader. Disciples then apply these tools in their lives and report back to the group. These tools are practical, Scriptural principles that are easily memorized via simple, geometric shapes. The shapes are called “**LifeShapes.**”

D. Why a Huddle?

“The end result of discipleship is not merely the knowledge of all Jesus commanded but the obedience to all Jesus commanded.”

Geiger, Kelley and Nation, Transformational Discipleship

“Growth in grace, wisdom, and character does not happen primarily in classes and instruction, through large worship gatherings, or even in solitude. Most often, growth happens through deep relationships and in communities where the implications of the gospel are worked out cognitively and worked in practically – in ways that no other setting or venue can afford.”

Tim Keller, Center Church

E. Summary

“What would the church look like if everyone in the congregation used their God-given gifts and talents to equip the rest of the church in such a way that the entire church became more like Jesus? And if the whole church looked more like Jesus, how much more would our neighborhoods and cities look like heaven?”

JR Woodward, *Creating a Missional Culture,
Equipping the Church for the Sake of the World*

The Learning Circle:

Identifying the Voice of God in your Life and
Doing Something About it

Reading: *BDC*, Chapter 6

“The **time** (*kairos*) has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent** (*metanoia*) and **believe** (*pisteuo*) the good news!”

Mark 1:15

The Learning Circle



What am I going
to do about it?

What is God
saying to me?

IV. Summary

Will a missional discipleship culture address the weaknesses identified in the TAG report?

- Relationships
- Reaching younger adults
- Staff dependence
- Connecting members to meaningful ministry

Part IV. Questions