LIVE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CULTIVATING AND NURTURING CONGREGATIONS

Presented by Dr. Timothy L. Bias, General Secretary Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church
2015 Wisconsin Clergy Day
SESSION 2

Why Are We Here?

Live The Fruit Of The Spirit
Cultivating And Nurturing Congregations
The Mission

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

( ¶120, The Book of Discipline, 2012)
Disciple

A Grace-filled Christ follower who puts faith into action
Vital Congregation

A local church fulfilling the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by engaging the core process for carrying out the mission.
Matthew 28:16-20

Why are we here?

• To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
• To make grace-filled Christ followers who put faith into action
Core Process

The Process for Carrying Out Our Mission--
We make disciples as we:

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EQUIPPING WORLD-CHANGING DISCIPLES  UMCdiscipleship.org
--proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;…
--lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;…
nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and others means of grace, such as Wesley’s Christian conferencing;…
--send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and...
continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

(¶122, The Book of Discipline, 2012)
Vital Congregation

The Body of Christ making and engaging disciples for the transformation of the world.
Vital Congregations

• ...are the fruit of discipleship
• ...are engaged in the Mission through the Core Process
• ...are the primary, but not the only means of disciple-making
• …are a sending station for disciples to engage in ministry
• …and, bear fruit in the four areas of focus
The Core Process / Congregational Systems
Congregational Systems

Saddleback Church

- **Fellowship**: knowing
- **Discipleship**: growing
- **Ministry**: serving
- **Evangelism**: sharing
Congregational Systems

Ginghamsburg 3 C’s

1. **Bring**: seeking people into a life-CELEBRATION with Jesus

2. **Grow**: as disciples in CELL community

3. **Serve**: out of our CALL and giftedness
Congregational Systems


(www.COR.org)
1. Glorify God in **Worship**
2. Introduce people to Christ through **Evangelism**
3. Become committed through **Discipleship**
4. Build relationship with others through **Fellowship**
5. Train, equip, inspire & mobilize through **Service**
Congregational Systems

4G Network

Gather

Grow

Glorify

Go
Congregational Systems

3G Strategy

GATHER | GROW | GO
Being **HOSPITABLE**
- Reaching out and receiving all people

OFFERING CHRIST
- Making the opportunity available

Being **PURPOSEFUL**
- Nurturing people in Christian faith/living

ENGAGING in the Community
- Sending people out to live their faith
How do you proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ?
O God, send us the people no one else wants.

O God, help us receive the people You send us.
Being HOSPITABLE

“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory.”

Romans 15:7 CEB
OFFERING CHRIST

How do you lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ?
What would happen if we took John Wesley seriously and began to “Offer them Christ”?
OFFERING CHRIST

The opportunity to make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ will be clear and available.
Being PURPOSEFUL

How will you nurture people in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley’s Christian conferencing?
Being PURPOSEFUL

What would happen if we began to meet in small groups and developed relationships through the practice of spiritual disciplines?
“The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.”

Acts 2:42 CEB
Matthew 28:16-20
Disciples Making Disciples
“Teach them to pay attention to the things I have taught you.”
ENGAGING in the Community

How will you send people into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ to engage in:
healing the sick

feeding the hungry
caring for the stranger

freeing the oppressed
being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and
developing social structures consistent with the gospel?
ENGAGING in the Community

What would happen if we began to develop relationships in the community with local schools, with persons living in poverty, with health care facilities?
Disciples will live out their faith by engaging in service in their local context and embrace the global challenges of extreme poverty and health.
Being **HOSPITABLE**

OFFERING CHRIST

Being **PURPOSEFUL**

ENGAGING in the Community
Matthew 28:16-20

What does the scripture bring to light for you?
• Why are you here?

• Why are you a pastor?

• Why does the church you are appointed exist?

• How do we make disciples of Jesus Christ?
• What are you going to do about what you have heard?

• What steps or actions will your congregation take?