

BODY LIFE BASICS

A Masterplan for Building Holistic,
Transformational Disciple-Making Communities



LifeSpring
NETWORK

SEMINAR WORKBOOK



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Jason brings a diverse background of leadership to people and organizations with whom he works, executive life coaching, Christian studies, athletics and finance. He is a sought-after speaker, seminar leader, mentor, life coach, and consultant. He has experience in church planting, serving as the lead pastor in two church plants, and mentoring and consulting with church planters. He served on the staff of Stanwich Church in Greenwich, Connecticut for six years. During this time he developed the Omega Course and his life-coaching ministry, which Stanwich Church commissioned him to share with the church at large through the creation of the Life Spring Network. Since 2009 he has worked part-time with Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle, IL. In addition to his work at Trinity, he has been commissioned to lead the LUKE project which is revitalizing Lutheran congregations in the city of Chicago.

Jason earned a B.A. in Business Economics and in Organizational Behavior and Management from Brown University, where he was captain, pre-season All-American, and all-Ivy team member of the football team. He is also a national and Olympic trials qualifier and former school record holder in the discus. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Theological Seminary, is a graduate of the Arrow Leadership Program and has completed the course work for his Doctorate in Christian Leadership at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is currently engaged in further theological studies through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

Jason is the author of the Omega Course, Delta Course, Creating a Connection Culture Seminar, Body Life Basics Seminar, Unity in Marriage Seminar, Renew Refresh Refocus Retreat, C.O.R.E. Small Group L.E.A.D.E.R. Seminar, Omega Mentor Training Seminar, Empowered Servanthood Seminar, Making Cent\$ Seminar, Leading the Omega Experience Conference and *Beyond Self-Help: The True Path to Harnessing God's Wisdom, Realizing Life's Potential and Living the Abundant Life (Xulon)*.

Jason is a co-founder and partner of E Pluribus Partners, a Greenwich, CT based think tank and consulting firm focused on helping organizations create connection cultures. He serves as a consultant and life coach to many corporate executives and pastors, helping them to create engaging organizations. Jason is a contributing author to *What Managers Say What Employees Hear*. He is also a co-author of the best-selling books, *Fired Up or Burned Out* (Thomas Nelson) and *Connection Culture* (ATD Press).

Jason's wife, Jen, is also a graduate of Brown University with a B.A. in Psychology, as well as Boston University with a Masters of Social Work. She is active in several ministries, especially those relating to youth and families. Jason and Jen have four children.

Body Life Basics Seminar Workbook: A Masterplan for Building
Holistic, Transformational Disciple-Making Communities

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Our Mission, Faith Functions, Life Process, Global Goals, Ministry Teams,
Our Organism, and Shepherding Structure diagrams; and the 7 Values of
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The background of the slide is composed of several rectangular blocks of color. On the left, there are three vertical blocks of varying shades of green. On the right, there is a large, abstract illustration of a tree. The tree's canopy is rendered in shades of yellow and light green with dark, thin lines for the branches. The trunk and roots are depicted in darker green and brown tones. The overall style is artistic and modern.

Decision-Making Flow Chart

Why Are You Here?

Objectives of Body Life Basics

1. To clarify God's mission for our lives and how He intends for us to live together.
2. To understand what it means to be the church and function in the Spirit together.
3. To understand how the Body Life Basics process enables your church to make wise decisions to live on mission with God.
4. To help you understand and enter into covenant membership in a Christian community.

Romans 12:1-5

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Discussion Time:

1. Where do you see yourself conforming to the patterns of the world?

2. How is God currently transforming your life?

3. Why do you need other people intentionally involved in your life to help you grow Spiritually?

Our Decision-Making Flow Chart



Decision-Making Flow Chart

In an effort to reach the world effectively for Jesus, we have sought Godly wisdom and structure in order to be efficient and well understood. We have tried to conceptually discipline ourselves to be organized and thorough and yet to be flexible enough to change. Since God is calling us to engage our enemy in spiritual warfare for the lives of people, we have chosen to look at our mission from a military view point. We will use the decision-making flow chart to guide our thoughts and our actions as we strive to reach out to our city and beyond with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some definitions which might help in understanding our decision-making flow chart are:

Reconnaissance – in military science, the act or process of obtaining information about an enemy area, the troops in it, etc., by examination or survey. This is the task of continual forward thinking (in order to avoid being caught off guard or falling into a rut). It involves getting information which will be useful in future planning. It includes studying new data in the light of past performance so we may continually evaluate ourselves.

Mission – a sending out or being sent out with authority to perform a special duty; specifically, (a) the sending out of persons by a religious organization to preach, teach, or proselyte - the special task or purpose for which a person is apparently called in life.

- **Vision** – the ability to perceive something not actually visible, as through mental acuteness or keen foresight; as in, “his breadth of vision made this project possible.”
- **Values** – in sociology, acts, customs, institutions, etc. regarded in a particular, especially favorable, way by a people, ethnic group, etc. - to think highly of; to esteem; to prize; as in, “I value your friendship.”
- **Purpose** – that which a person sets before him/herself as an object to be reached or accomplished; aim; intention; design.
- **Faith** – A statement of faith is a statement of the core beliefs of a religious group. A typical statement of faith is said to be a non-comprehensive summary of the core beliefs of a particular faith within a tradition (or traditions). Even religious organizations without affiliation will use a statement of faith for identification and definition.

Functions (being the church) – In Biology, it is the physiological activity of an organ or body part. The action for which a person or thing is particularly fitted or employed. Something closely related to another thing and dependent on it for its existence, value, or significance: *Growth is a function of nutrition.* In the military, this relates to objectives or to achieve a final set of actions within a given military operation.

Decision-Making Flow Chart

Life Process (Strategic Philosophy) – Typically describes **the act of taking something through an established and usually routine set of procedures to convert it from one form to another**. Biological processes are made up of any number of chemical reactions or other events that results in a transformation. Strategy—The science of planning and directing large scale operations, specifically (as distinguished from tactics) of maneuvering forces into the most advantageous position prior to actual engagement with the enemy— a plan or action based on this.

Global Goals (S.M.A.R.T. B.H.A.Gs) – A goal is a projected computation of affairs that a person or a system plans or intends to achieve—a personal or organizational desired end-point in some sort of assumed development. Many people endeavor to reach goals within a finite time by setting deadlines.

S = Specific, M = Measurable, A = Attainable, R = Realistic, T = Timely
B = Big, H = Hairy, A = Audacious, G = Goals

The term **Big Hairy Audacious Goal** (“BHAG”) was proposed by James Collins and Jerry Porras in their 1996 article entitled *Building Your Company's Vision*. A BHAG encourages companies to define visionary goals that are more strategic and emotionally compelling.

Many businesses set goals that describe what they hope to accomplish over the coming days, months or years. These goals help align employees of the business to work together more effectively.

Specific – A specific goal has a much greater chance of being accomplished than a general goal. To set a specific goal you must answer the six “W” questions:

*Who: Who is involved?

*What: What do I want to accomplish?

*Where: Identify a location.

*When: Establish a time frame.

*Which: Identify requirements and constraints.

*Why: Specific reasons, purpose or benefits of accomplishing the goal.

EXAMPLE: A general goal would be, “Get in shape.” But a specific goal would say, “Join a health club and work out 3 days a week.”

Decision-Making Flow Chart

M**asurable** – Establish concrete criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set. When you measure your progress, you stay on track, reach your target dates, and experience the exhilaration of achievement that spurs you on to continued effort required to reach your next goal.

To determine if your goal is measurable, ask questions such as.....How much? How many? How will I know when it is accomplished?

A**ttainable** – When you identify goals that are most important to you, you begin to figure out ways you can make them come true. You develop the attitudes, abilities, skills, and financial capacity to reach them. You begin seeing previously overlooked opportunities to bring yourself closer to the achievement of your goals.

You can attain almost any goal you set when you plan your steps wisely and establish a time frame that allows you to carry out those steps. Goals that may have seemed far away and out of reach eventually move closer and become attainable, not because your goals shrink, but because you grow and expand to match them. When you list your goals you build your self-image. You see yourself as worthy of these goals, and develop the traits and personality that allow you to possess them.

R**ealistic** – To be realistic, a goal must represent an objective toward which you are both willing and able to work. A goal can be both high and realistic; you are the only one who can decide just how high your goal should be. But be sure that every goal represents substantial progress. A high goal is frequently easier to reach than a low one because a low goal exerts low motivational force. Some of the hardest jobs you have ever accomplished actually seemed easy simply because they were a labor of love.

Your goal is probably realistic if you truly believe that it can be accomplished. Additional ways to know if your goal is realistic is to determine if you have accomplished anything similar in the past or ask yourself what conditions would have to exist to accomplish this goal.

T**imely** – A goal should be grounded within a time frame. With no time frame tied to it there's no sense of urgency. If you want to lose 10 lbs, when do you want to lose it by? "Someday" won't work. But if you anchor it within a time frame, "by May 1st", then you've set your unconscious mind into motion to begin working on the goal.

Decision-Making Flow Chart

Our Organism (Coordinated Servanthood) – This involves bringing the different elements of a complex activity or organization into a relationship that will ensure efficiency or harmony. We do this by organizing and facilitating the various levels of our servant leaders to act together in a smooth, concerted way.

Tactics (Our Calendar - what we do) – The art and science of the detailed direction and control of movement or maneuver of forces in battle to achieve an aim or task. The maneuver used or plans followed to achieve a particular short-term aim.

Logistics – The science of movement, supplying and maintenance of military forces in the field. The management of materials flow through an organization, from raw materials through to finished goods. The branch of the military science having to do with moving, supplying, and quartering troops. This involves creating and maintaining policies and procedures which facilitate the healthy functioning of our community and helps us track and analyze our progress. **Getting the right resources, in the right places, at the right times, for the right reasons.** We need to ensure that we steward properly the resources God has entrusted us with and track our progress.

Discussion Time

1. Why is it so important for any community of faith to have clarity on all eight aspects of this decision-making flow chart?

2. Could you explain its importance to someone new to our church?

3. Which aspects of this flow chart are most intriguing to you? Why?

Decision-Making Flow Chart

[illegible]

The background of the page is an abstract artwork. It features a large, solid green rectangular area on the left side. On the right side, there is a vertical strip of artwork with a textured, painterly style. This strip contains a tree-like structure with a thick, brown trunk and several thin, dark, curved lines representing branches or roots. The colors in this strip are primarily yellow, green, and brown, with some white highlights. The word "Reconnaissance" is written in a white, serif font across the middle of the green area.

Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance

In Matthew 10:16, Jesus said “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Jesus calls us to be proactively searching and listening to what is happening in our world and be prepared to react as God leads. We do this by continuously being on guard to spot emerging opportunities and threats.

No organization does this better than the military. In military science, **“reconnaissance”** is the word used to describe **the ongoing process of obtaining information about an adversary’s activities**. This is the task of **continual forward thinking** in order to avoid being caught off guard or falling into a rut. It involves identifying information that will improve the quality of decision-making and the effectiveness of actions undertaken.

In ministry, most of our reconnaissance efforts will involve speaking with our personal mentors, pastors in our area, small group leaders and leaders of religious organizations with whom we are affiliated. In addition, we will strive to learn continually and challenge our thinking by reading relevant articles and books, attending conferences and taking classes.

Another source of our reconnaissance will be the people in our church. We believe in the priesthood of all believers and in encouraging them to share their thoughts and experiences with us as we strive to be obedient to God’s mission. This information is likely to be the most relevant because it comes from individuals who know our ministry, our local community and the broader region in which we operate.

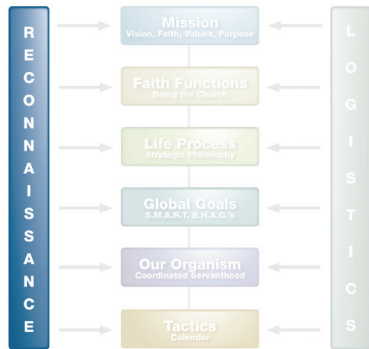
Seeking the knowledge of people in our relational world and doing regular research to discover the trends that affect our corporate life and ministry is essential to follow Jesus’ command to be as shrewd as snakes. Reconnaissance helps prepare us to do battle with Satan: “for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12 NIV).

Here are some factors to consider in doing a strategic reconnaissance.

S.W.O.T. Analysis

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

Reconnaissance



Demographic trends and market segments emerging in your area

- Ethnic
- Stage in life (generational)
- Vocation
- Avocation
- Economic status

Location: urban, suburban, rural

- Neighborhoods
- Density of people and housing
- Where people gather

Economic and Financial Environment

- Church's support base
- National, regional and local economic trends and outlook

Competitors: presence and outlook for other religions and belief systems in your area

Government

- Zoning changes
- Educational institutions including quality of education, attitudes toward Christianity
- Presence of institutions of higher education

Partnership Opportunities

- Other churches and Christian organizations
- Other social sector organizations
- Schools
- Local government

Local Media

- Attitude toward Christianity
- Individual advocates and adversaries in the local media
- Opportunities to improve media relations

Reconnaissance

Scenario Analysis

1. Consider the above SWOT analysis.
2. Identify the two most important opportunities and/or risks to our church.

3. Create four scenarios from #2.

4. Have teams identify how our church should respond based on each scenario.

5. Have the group vote on the most likely scenario and proceed to make plans assuming that scenario will occur.

Discussion Time

1. Why is it so important for our church to be continually forward-looking and to be ever aware of the various changes happening outside the church walls?

Reconnaissance

2. Let's do some reconnaissance right now. As you think about our church and our community, name one:

Strength _____

Weakness _____

Opportunity _____

Threat _____

Disciple-Making Statistics

Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples” in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Unfortunately, surveys by the Barna Group, the Willow Creek Association and others conclude that true disciple-making is at dangerously low levels. Some facts that jump out of the research include the following:

- Fewer than 20 percent of believers have any specific and measurable goals related to their personal spiritual development.
- Fewer than 10 percent of believers possess a Biblical worldview as the basis for their decision-making or behavior.
- The behavior of Christians (divorce, use of pornography, etc.) does not differ significantly from that of non-Christians.
- Less than 10 percent of Christians feel equipped and are being used by God to introduce people to Christ and disciple them to maturity.
- Few churches have a well-conceived model of discipleship that they implement, and little is done to motivate and facilitate their congregants' development effectively as genuine, fervent followers of Christ.

Maximum Faith – Distribution of Adults Along the Transformational Journey

Adapted from *Maximum Faith: Live Like Jesus*
by George Barna, 2011

Justification

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Stop #1 – Unaware of Sin - 1% | |
| • Stop #2 – Indifferent to Sin - 16% | Cumulative 17% |
| • Stop #3 – Worried About Sin - 39 % | Cumulative 56% |
| • Stop #4 – Forgiven for Sin - 9% | Cumulative 65% |

Reconnaissance

Religion

- Stop #5 – Forgiven and Active - 24% Cumulative 89%
- Stop #6 – Experience a Prolonged Period of Spiritual Discontent - 6 % Cumulative 95%
- Stop #7 – Experiencing Personal Brokenness - 3% Cumulative 98%

Sanctification

- Stop #8 – Choosing to Surrender and Submit Fully to God: Radical Dependence -1% Cumulative 99%
- Stop #9 – Enjoying a Profound Intimacy with and Love for God - .5% Cumulative 99.5%
- Stop #10 – Experiencing a Profound Compassion and Love for Humanity - .5% Cumulative 100%

Discussion Time

1. Does it surprise you to see the current statistics on real disciple-making in America? What stood out to you the most?

2. In looking at the 10-Stops research, where would you put yourself on that continuum? Perhaps you could consider a range of 3-5 stops that you vacillate between.

Reconnaissance

Myths and Problems

The majority of Christians believe the following myths, and churches are beset with the following problems which hinder true Disciple-making!

Myth 1: Self-centered faith - “God helps those who help themselves” (according to Barna Research, the most quoted non-biblical “Bible” verse in America among adult and teen believers); therefore we can self-help our way to Christlikeness.

Problem: *Most Christians have not been trained in how to submit to God and abide in Christ well enough to know that this quote does not come from the Bible. Because of this, most Christians are living in and through their own guidance and power. As a result, their experience of the abundant life and their witness to the watching world are diminished and they don't experience the power of the Holy Spirit moving through them.*

Myth 2: Independent faith - My relationship with God is a private matter, including my sins, so I will stay out of your business and I expect you to stay out of mine.

Problem: *There is a reluctance by many Christians to enter into Biblically functioning covenant community and make a commitment that they perceive may limit or interfere with their lifestyle or plans.*

Myth 3: Minimalist Faith - I will mature as a Christian by going to worship services, praying and reading my Bible once in a while.

Problem: *Biblical truth is often presented in isolated (topical) form without a good understanding of how it fits into the Christian life as a whole, promoting the compartmentalizing of the Christian's life. Also, there is an assumption that the appropriation of Biblical knowledge by itself will lead to spiritual maturity. This rhythm of engaging one's faith produces baby Christians who believe in inspiration and education, and turn to God when they feel that they need Him, but experience very little transformation and training in righteousness!*

Myth 4: Religious Faith - Jesus is our Savior but doesn't really require us to relate to Him as the Lord of our lives. We are all just doing the best we can to be “good” people.

Problem: *The church community typically focuses on making converts rather than making disciples. People who don't live under the authority of God as their Lord:*

- *tend to believe that they can produce good on their own and*
- *use God for the purposes of salvation and blessing rather than living in and through Him.*

Reconnaissance

A true disciple would know that only God can produce real good in this world, that apart from God we can do nothing good and that there are no good people, only people through whom God does good as we live by faith in Him.

Myth 5: Mercenary Faith - It is the job of professional clergy to do the work of ministry and the “priesthood of all believers” is not practical or a good thing to encourage at our church.

Problem: *We are not “equipping the saints for the work of ministry” and commissioning everyone to serve the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, the work of ministry falls to a few faithful people who usually are “paid to be good”. Therefore, programmatic ministries where we influence many people simultaneously is generally considered the method of choice. Personal one-on-one discipleship appears to be too time-consuming, energy-consuming, and inefficient.*

Conclusion

The Church as a disciple-making community is broken and in desperate need of renewal. Christians need to be trained, mentored and equipped to address all of these myths and problems and more. We need to revolutionize the church by developing it into a Spirit-led, disciple-making community.

Barna research identified nine substantial obstacles that seem to prevent individuals and churches from having a more satisfying discipleship experience. Among the barriers to spiritual growth are:

- The tendency to focus on Bible knowledge but not character development;
- The lack of a clear and specific idea of what meaningful discipleship is;
- Unrealistic expectations regarding the role of small groups in the disciple-making process.

Reconnaissance

Discussion Time:

1. Which myths and problems are most descriptive of you personally? Why?

2. Which myths and problems are most descriptive of our church community? Why?

Reconnaissance

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The background of the page is composed of several rectangular blocks of color. On the left, there are three stacked blocks of varying shades of green. On the right, there is a vertical strip containing an abstract illustration of a tree. The tree's canopy is rendered in shades of yellow and light green with dark, thin lines for branches. The trunk and roots are depicted in brown and dark green. The text "Our Mission" is centered over the green blocks on the left.

Our Mission

Our Mission

What are We Doing?

Vision

Connecting people in our town and beyond in real loving relationship

Faith

with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit,

with each other in contagious Christian Community,

Values

and with their calling of servanthood in the world.

Questions:

Do you understand how the four aspects of our mission come together to create and reinforce our mission of Connecting with Christ, Community and our Calling? How would you explain it to others?

Purpose

Our Mission

Connecting people in our town and beyond in real loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, with each other in contagious Christian community, and with their calling of servanthood in the world.

Our Mission



Acts 1:7-8

“He [Jesus] said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Our Mission

What are We Doing?

Vision



Our Vision

To penetrate every neighborhood and sector in our town and beyond with an interconnected (Networked) contagious Christian community (Beacon).

Vision – the ability to perceive something not actually visible, as through mental acuteness or keen foresight; as in, “his breadth of vision made this project possible.”

Beacon - An incarnational presence of the Kingdom of God (contagious Christian community, fellowship) that points people to Jesus Christ. See Matthew 5:13-16.

(noun) any light for warning or guiding. A lighthouse. A hill station or tower from which signals are given.

(verb) to shine brightly, as a beacon; to serve as a summons or a guide.

Network - A system of fellowships (churches) and inter-fellowship ministries. Functioning together to accomplish a similar mission for Kingdom advancement.



Our Mission

Discussion Time:

1. Does this vision make sense to you?

2. Do you see how it is clearly commanded in Scripture?

3. How do you see God using your life and our church to accomplish His vision for us?



Statement Of Faith

Apostle's Creed

We believe in the traditional Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed.

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven*

Our Mission

*and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen*

About God the Father

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

*Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2;
2 Corinthians 13:14*

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He ascended to heaven's glory and is the only mediator between us and God. He will return to earth again to consummate history and reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14, 15;
1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13*

About The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian, gives us the gift of saving faith in Jesus Christ, and provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1

Our Mission

About Us

We are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character and have fellowship with Him. Mankind is the supreme object of God's creation but we defied God by sinfully going their own way. This attitude separates us from God. Since then, all human beings are born with a sinful nature. Although we have tremendous potential for good, we are marred by our disobedience toward God in thought, word, and deed, called "sin." Empowered by the Holy Spirit, believers are to submit their lives daily to God and through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit pursue Christlikeness through His sanctifying training in righteousness.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2; Romans 12:1-3, Romans 7,8

About Salvation

We believe, as a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from God, that salvation comes only through God's grace, and that God's grace must be received personally by faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift from God to us. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works; only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and judgment, and only believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

About Eternity

We were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 2:25; John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46

About The Bible

The Bible is God's word to all people. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

Our Mission

About The Church

Life is not meant to be done alone. God calls believers to join together as brothers and sisters in Christ and live together in covenant community as a local expression of the family of God. Believers are called to use their God-given abilities, resources and spiritual gifts to build one another up to full maturity in Christ. These local churches, although autonomous in their decision-making and accountability before God, are called to cooperate together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God (the Church).

Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 12:46-50; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 4:8-11; Galatians 6:1-10

Discussion Time:

1. What questions do you have about the meaning of any of the phrases within the Apostles' Creed?

2. Which of the statements of faith stood out to you the most?

3. Are there any that you disagree with and why?

Our Mission



Values:

in sociology, acts, customs, institutions, etc. regarded in a particular, especially favorable, way by a people.

Our 7 Values

7 Values of Abundant Living (the 7G's)

These are the core values that govern our relationships with God and one another in the Church. We believe these values represent the guidance of God for our communal life together that can only be lived out personally and corporately in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Guidance *is necessary in order to carry out God's will.*

We depend upon God's leadership (or guidance) in our lives which is available through the Holy Spirit. We all need regular devotional and prayer times to connect with God in solitude. We seek the will of God through prayer, Bible study, circumstances, and the Church. We acknowledge the reality of spiritual warfare, where the battle is raging in the heavenly realms, and commit ourselves to praying so that God might use us to battle against the forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). Pray for yourself, your family, your community, people in authority over you, the sick, the poor, the crippled, the needy, etc. We show our need for God and our desire to grow our relationship with Him and others when we pray. It is through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that God uses our lives to influence others. We respect the spiritual authority and guidance of those God has placed in positions of authority and servanthood in our lives to help lead, guide and shepherd us along our journey of faith, and commit to seeking out their guidance as well. This includes the principle of maximum connection to God.

Grace *is God's bridge to us and our bridge to others.*

We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ – and this not from our own works – so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8). Christ-followers understand and have individually received Christ's saving, sustaining, and enabling grace. Our focus is on the resurrected Christ and His Spirit who saves us, is at work changing us, and empowers us to do God's will. Therefore, we are gracious and patient with people in our relational worlds that, like us, are on a journey of faith. As God's ambassadors, we reach out and share His grace with people He brings into our relational worlds and help them grow in faith. We believe in relational evangelism and believe that the Gospel is best shared person-to-person through the power of community. This includes the principle of authenticity and being real.

Our Mission

Growth *is a process toward full maturity in Christ.*

We recognize faith as a process and are committed to challenging ourselves and others to grow to maturity. Maturity means taking hold of all that is Christ (Philippians 3:12) and through His enabling Spirit, doing works of service which move us toward the goal of life. This goal is being the fullness of Christ in us (Ephesians 4:12), pleasing Him in every respect (1 Thessalonians 4:1). We need to surround ourselves with mentors and partners who will love, challenge and provide guidance to us as we grow in faith. We desire to be diligent students of Scripture, and allow God's truth to be impressed on the very fabric of our lives. We look at our lives holistically, and allow the mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and social dimensions of our lives to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. As we mature in our faith and God entrusts people to our care, we will strive to be good mentors to the people in our lives who look to us for guidance and discipleship. Leaders will strive to be submitted to those they lead and will also have regular discipleship and accountability times with their mentors. This includes the principle of discipleship chains.

Glorification *of God is the goal of our lives and our church.*

We lead lives of worship and bring glory to God in all we do when we humbly follow the guidance He provides. Excellence brings glory to God, so we submit ourselves to God's guidance so that He can work through us. We will strive to increasingly submit our lives to God and live lives of humble submission to His will. We will participate in regular times of worship where we can submit ourselves to God and refocus our lives on His Lordship. God calls us to be a royal priesthood of believers who go to Him for guidance and empowerment, and we will be held accountable for the way we live our lives both personally and corporately (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:13; Romans 14:12). As God's saints, we will strive to live lives of submission to God and identify our lives with Him. This includes the principle of being before doing.

Mission

Groups of Biblically functioning community provide the optimal environment for life change.

We are committed to living our lives together in groups where both the vertical (you and God) and horizontal (you and the world) components of the Christian life will be lived out and growth is optimized. Christ calls us together as a people belonging to God (1 Peter 2:9), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), established in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24), who in community are to show forth His praises (1 Peter 2:9). God desires that we learn from one another's diversity. Therefore our groups should be willing to be diverse in every way: ethnically, racially, culturally, sociologically, economically, etc. Differences and diversities easily divide, but we are called to follow the Master in our microcosm of God's kingdom. We are commanded to live lives of humility, patience, love, and forbearance (Ephesians 4:2) as Spirit-people through whom His fruit will be seen in community. The fruit of the Spirit cannot be seen apart from community (Galatians 5:22). We each need to become a member of a small group and a local fellowship (local expression of the family of God, local church). By entering into covenant relationship with others, we are placing ourselves in the optimal environment to experience life change. We will strive to live out the "one anothers" of Scripture together as God's family. This includes the principle of unity in diversity.

Gifts of divine empowerment are given to all believers to grow God's church.

We are committed to discovering our spiritual gifts and passions and using them to serve and build up the Kingdom of God. Like our Master, we don't come to be served but to serve, and to give our lives for one another (Mark 10:45) in love (John 15:12) and unity. We do this so that the watching world will believe that such a One as Jesus in reality did come (John 17:23). God calls us to use the gifts, talents and resources that He has given us to help build up His church. We are all called to serve in general and in specific ways. Our general calling of servanthood includes getting involved in service projects with our community and striving to model Jesus Christ's life of servanthood. Our specific calling of servanthood is where God has uniquely gifted us to build up His church. We are all created for a purpose, and God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift so that we all might contribute to the building of His church.

Mission

Good Stewardship *is the loving response to our gracious God.*

We understand our relationship to God and this world as that of stewards or managers, and we strive to be good stewards of our whole lives as God leads us. Christ-followers realize that they have been bought with the price of Christ's blood, and that everything they are and have belongs to Him. In light of this, we live as managers or stewards of all that God entrusts to us. We view our time, talents, and treasures (life itself) as precious resources which need to be faithfully managed according to God's will, principles and priorities. In response to Christ's abundant giving, we increasingly submit our resources to His Lordship and display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness. We are willing to share the resources God has entrusted to us as He leads (Luke 16). This includes following God's priorities for living and managing our lives in balanced and God-honoring ways. Where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also (Matthew 6:21). As God leads, we will also accept and strive to faithfully serve in leadership positions within the body of Christ. People are God's most precious resource and the pinnacle of His creation, and therefore, we will take the overseeing responsibilities in our lives seriously. We will strive to lead and guide others with gentleness and respect.

Praying the Lord's Prayer and the 7 Values of Abundant Living Into Our Lives!

Glorification – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Group – your kingdom come,
Growth – your will be done,
Gifts – on earth as it is in heaven.
Good Stewardship – Give us today our daily bread.
Grace – Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
Guidance – And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Discussion Time:

1. Do the 7 Values of Abundant Living make sense to you? Are any confusing?

2. Which of them stands out to you the most and why?

Our Mission



Our Purpose

Definition of Purpose – that to which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; aim; intention; design.

To live out Jesus' great commission and commandments, realize the manifold wisdom of God and grow a great church.

The Great Commission

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 will be with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commandments

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:37-40

Realizing the Manifold Wisdom of God

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:10-12

Growing a Great 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

Our Mission

A great commitment to the Great Commandments and Great Commission will realize the manifold wisdom of God and Grow a Great Church! The Seven Values of Abundant Living and Contagious Christian Community (Acts 2:42-47)

Acts 2: 42 - 47	Value
42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching	Growth
and to the fellowship,	Group
to the breaking of bread	Grace
and to prayer.	Guidance
43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.	Gifts
44 All believers were together and had everything in common.	Good Stewardship
45 Selling their possessions and goods they gave to anyone as he had need.	
46 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, 47 praising God	Glorification
and enjoying the favor of all of the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.	Grace

Committing to our Purpose

**A Great commitment to
the Great Commandments
and the Great Commission
will Realize the Manifold Wisdom of God
and Grow a Great Church!**

Our Mission

Discussion Time:

1. Do you see how our purpose is clearly commanded in Scripture?

2. Which aspects of our purpose and which Scriptures stand out to you the most and why?

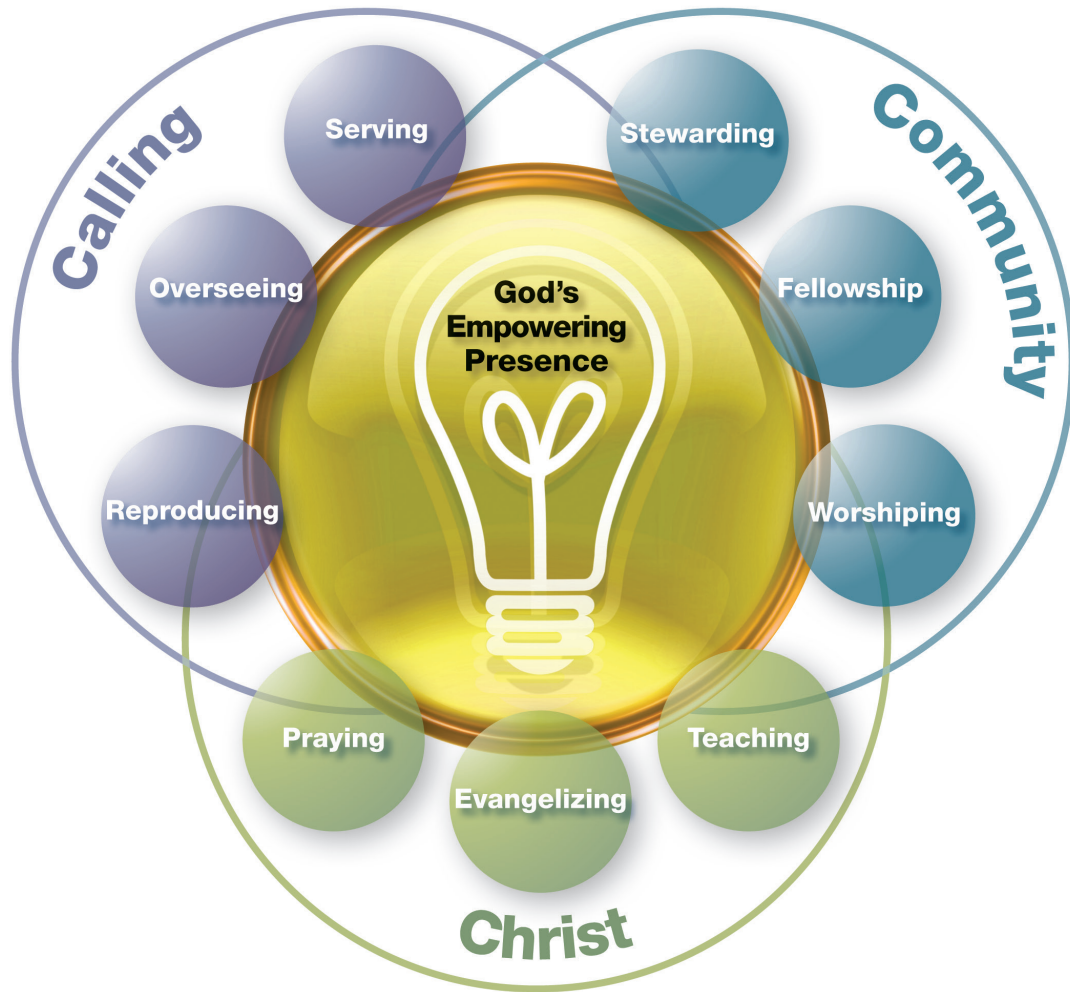
Our Overall Mission

1. How does having a deeper and clearer understanding of our Vision, Faith, Values and Purpose change your expectations of our life together?

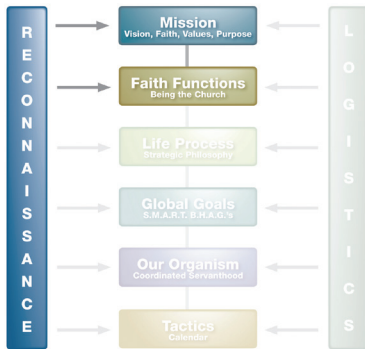
The background of the page is composed of large, solid-colored rectangular blocks in various shades of green and yellow. On the right side, there is a vertical strip containing a stylized illustration of a tree. The tree's trunk and roots are rendered in dark green and brown tones, while its foliage is depicted with lighter green and yellow brushstrokes. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

Faith Functions

Faith Functions



Faith Functions



Our Nine Functions (being the Church)

Living out our Mission through our 9 Faith Functions: We need to continually keep these functions in mind and remember that form follows function. Whatever facilitates the community to function best is what should take place.

God's Empowering Presence

is the most important aspect of being the church as it is God who breathes life into and through all of our functions.

Discussion Time:

1. Do you understand why it is so important to focus on function over form? What is an example of this in your church experience and/or your life experience?

2. Name one way that you see God moving through our church in each of the nine functions.

Connecting people in our town and beyond in real relationship with God through Jesus Christ,

Praying (Praying and Spiritual Disciplines)

We depend upon God's leadership, power and peace in our lives which is available through the Holy Spirit. Everyone needs regular devotional and prayer times when we connect with God in solitude. We believe that we are engaged in a spiritual battle and therefore we pray for God's will to be done in our lives and in the lives of people in our relational worlds. We should be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do. Therefore, we seek His guidance, protection, intervention and empowering presence through personal and corporate prayer.

Faith Functions

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Mark 11:22-25 (NIV)

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Evangelizing

(Evangelism and Outward Focus)

Lost people matter to God and, therefore, ought to matter to the church. We are commissioned by God to go to all the nations and multiply or make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:18-20). We need to reach out continually, share God's grace with whomever we come in contact, invite them to accept God's grace, become adopted as joint heirs with us in God's family, and begin the life-long process of sanctification. In this process, we believe the church should be culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally pure.

1 Peter 3:13-16 (NIV)

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Teaching

(Learning and Growing in Community)

We believe that anointed teaching is the catalyst for transformation in individuals' lives and in the church. Therefore, we promote growth through teaching, preaching and discipling one another toward maturity in Christ; allowing Him to be fully formed in our lives. We see ourselves as learners who seek truth. We believe that all truth is God's truth and therefore we desire

Faith Functions

to find our instruction from Him in any way He decides to use to teach us. Growing in maturity and Christlike character is a process of descending into greatness that requires proactive decision-making and a willingness to identify ourselves with Him. (Philippians 3:12, Ephesians 4:12)

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Discussion Time:

1. Which of these three faith functions (Praying, Evangelizing and Teaching) and the corresponding Scriptures stood out to you the most?

2. How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to move in and through you in these three functions? How are you resisting His movement in your life?

3. As you look at this list, do you see how God uses these three functions to connect people to Himself and toward community?

Faith Functions

with each other in contagious Christian community,

Worshiping (God Exalting Worship)

We believe that full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer. This involves living life as God's holy church and worshiping Him with our lives. We do this personally by following the guidance He provides, singing His praises and bringing glory to His name. We do this corporately in different-sized gatherings: small groups, worship services, prayer and praise nights, etc. When we gather as a body for corporate worship we strive to engage in authentic prayer, praise, confession of sin, confession of faith, scripture reading, preaching, baptisms, communion and offerings.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

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

John 4:24 (NIV)

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Fellowshipping (A Commitment to Loving and Caring Relationships)

We believe that Christ-followers should manifest authenticity and yearn for continuous growth. We also believe that loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life. We do this by baptizing people and welcoming them into God's family, entering into covenant relationship with one another through Church membership, living out the one-anothers of scripture and remembering Christ together through communion. We are

Faith Functions

relationship-based. This includes the principles of community: knowing and being known, loving and being loved, serving and being served, forgiving and being forgiven, and celebrating and being celebrated.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

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

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Galatians 2:9 (NIV)

James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.

Stewarding **(Life Stewardship and Generosity)**

Christ-followers realize that they have been bought with the price of Christ's blood, and that everything they are and have belongs to Him. We understand life to be a precious gift from God that we are responsible to steward in every way. In our personal lives and as a church body we need to live our lives in ways that are governed by God's will, principles and priorities. As His disciples, we strive to see God fully formed in our lives. Therefore, we strive to live or steward our lives as Christ did. In response to Christ we will strive to offer our lives to His Lordship and display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting and engaging the work of the Church.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Chronicles 21:14 (NIV)

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Faith Functions

Discussion Time:

1. Which of the three functions of Worshiping, Fellowship and Stewarding and the corresponding Scriptures stood out to you the most?

2. How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to move in and through you in these three functions? How are you resisting His movement in your life?

3. As you look at this list, do you see how God uses the three functions to connect people deeper in relationship to Himself, grow them in faith through community and move them toward their calling of servanthood?

and with their calling of servanthood.

Serving

(Serving through a variety of Ministry Teams)

We believe that the church should operate as a unified community of servants serving the world with their lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. Serving people with our spiritual gifts, original abilities, talents and resources to meet their needs as Christ would. This includes discovering our calling of servanthood in the world. We are all called to serve in general as an overflow of what God is doing in our lives, and are gifted for a unique place of service that we must strive to discover. Christ commissioned His disciples to serve the world through community; therefore, we believe in team ministry.

Ephesians 6:7 (NIV)

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people

Faith Functions

1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Overseeing

(Wise Overseeing, Administration and Accountability)

As a community called to be disciple-makers, we believe that all believers are called to lead or influence others for Christ and therefore share the overseeing responsibility of the church as they mature. God has given us spiritual gifts with which we can influence others and has commanded us to use these gifts to make disciples and build the Church. God also calls us to disciple and shepherd one another. As a church body we will strive to submit to one another according to each other's gifting and character and allow our lives to be influenced by one another. We believe that churches should be led by those with leadership/shepherding gifts and Godly character; therefore, we will allow the leaders/shepherds God raises up in our midst to lead. We also believe that excellence honors God and inspires people. Therefore, we empower our leaders to coordinate and network the resources that God has given us, in order that we would have maximum strategic kingdom impact (1 Thessalonians 5:11-21).

Acts 20:28 (NIV)

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Faith Functions

1 Peter 5:1-3 (NIV)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Reproducing

**(Servant Leader Development, Church Planting and Networking
with the Body of Christ)**

As God leads us, we need to mentor and support the leaders who feel led to create new small groups, ministry teams, inter-fellowship ministries and fellowships where people can live out the commands of Christ together. We need to support the ministry of reproduction, by helping emerging leaders grow through the life development process and identify their calling of servanthood in the world. Once they have been trained we need to commission them to start new small groups, ministries, inter-fellowship ministries, fellowships, etc., as God leads (Acts 13:1-3). We also support and engage the Kingdom expansion plans going on throughout the world.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

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."

Acts 14:21-23 (NIV)

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Faith Functions

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Discussion Time:

1. Which of the three faith functions (Serving, Overseeing and Reproducing) and the corresponding Scriptures stood out to you the most?

2. How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to move in and through you in these three functions? How are you resisting His movement in your life?

3. As you look at this list, do you see how God uses the three functions to connect people deeper in relationship to Himself, grow them in faith through community and serve the world through their calling of servanthood?

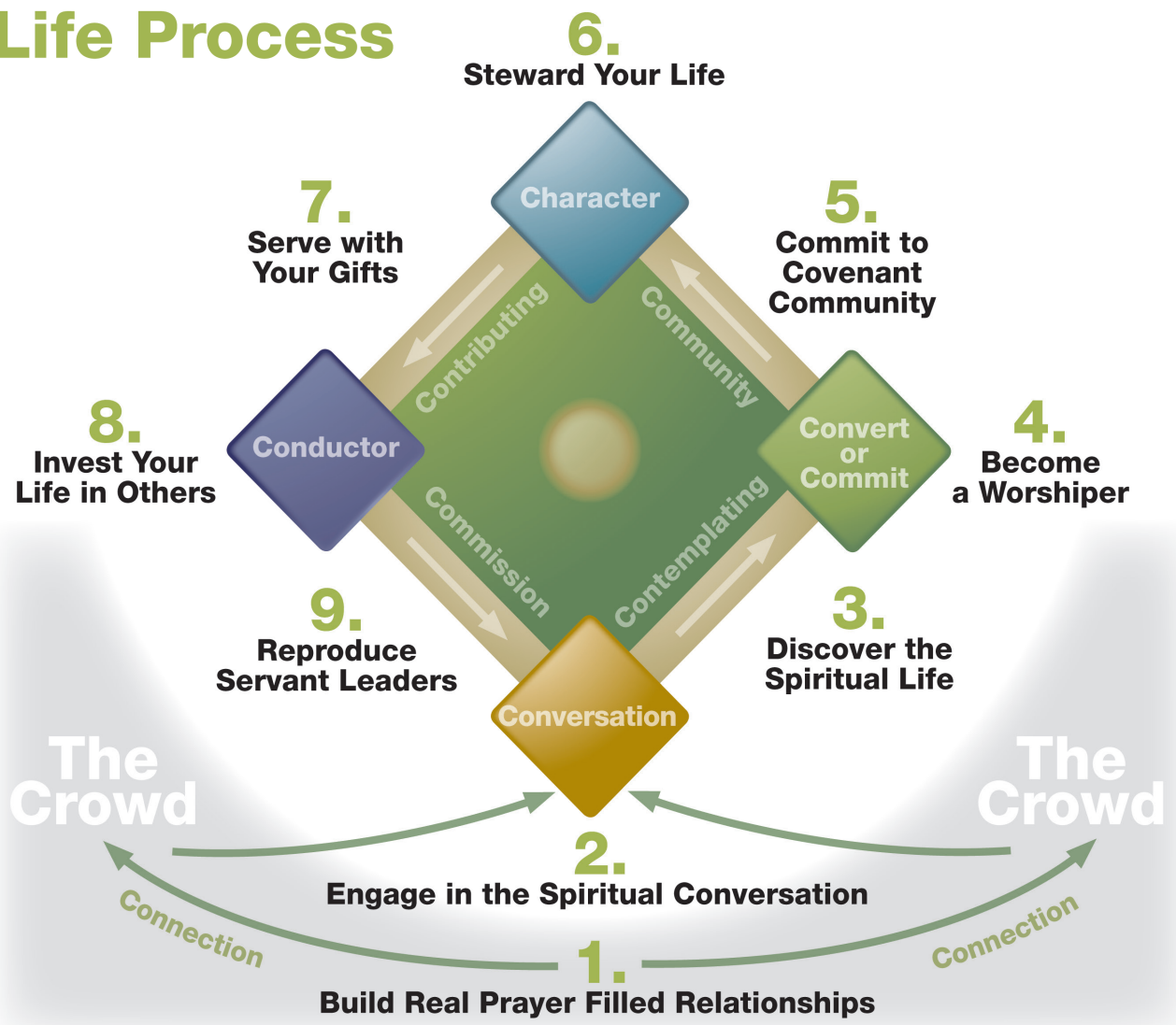
Faith Functions

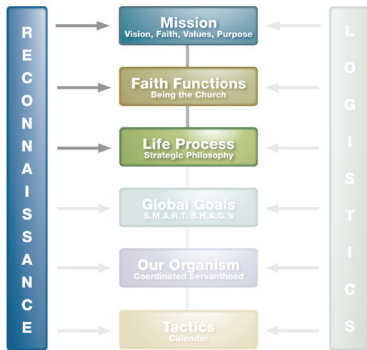
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An abstract artwork featuring a stylized tree with a thick, textured trunk and numerous thin, dark branches reaching upwards. The roots are visible at the bottom, spreading out in a dark green, textured area. The background is composed of various shades of green and yellow, with some areas appearing more like a textured wall or canvas. The overall composition is vertical and organic.

Life Process

Life Process





Spiritual Life Changes #1

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of prayer and relationship building with God and others.



Spiritual Life Changes #2

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of sharing the Gospel and engaging people in Spiritual conversations.



The Nine Part Process

Part 1 – Build Real Prayer-Filled Relationships

Engaging in personal spiritual disciplines that connect us to God and train us to abide in Christ will empower us to live vibrantly in the power of the Holy Spirit. Personal quiet times when we can study Scripture, worship, and pray are essential in order for us to know and do God's will for our lives on a daily basis. These times of maximum connection with God (our divine parent) provide the power, peace and parenting we all need in order to do God's will. Through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit we will then build relationships with and pray for the connected and unconnected people in our lives. This is where we extend loving relationship to people and begin to create an atmosphere for spiritual growth through prayer. In this step, people move to the first level of commitment and make a real relational Connection.

Training for the Journey:

Inviting people to engage in support groups or ministries like *Celebrate Recovery* helps people build prayer filled relationships. The *Spiritual Connections*, *Contagious Christianity* and *Just Walk across the Room* are examples of seminars that help train us in this process of relational evangelism through prayer.

Part 2 – Engage in the Spiritual Conversation

Relational evangelism through prayer primarily happens one-on-one when we invite our friends to engage in spiritual conversations and discuss God's perspective on life. Inviting our friends to look at the *Real Connection* workbook together with us is a great way to begin this conversation. As a strategy to facilitate this on a group level, we have intentionally created friendly investigative environments (connecting events) for us to be able to bring people to like parties with a purpose, sports fellowships, alpha courses and worship services which are designed to spark spiritual conversations. Some of the best connecting events happen spontaneously though, when we are sensitive to God's work in the lives of others. During these conversations and as we are submitted to God, He will give us the words to teach others the Gospel or Good News about God's truth and grace. In this step people move to the second level of commitment and begin a spiritual Conversation.

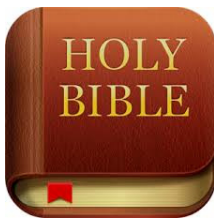
Training for the Journey:

Evangelistic courses like *Alpha* or personal evangelistic resources like *Real Connection* can be used mightily by God to help people understand the Gospel and facilitate a real conversation about what it means to connect with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. The *Share the Good News* and *Alpha Course Leader Training* are examples of seminars that help train us in this process of starting spiritual conversations and sharing the Gospel.

Life Process

Spiritual Life Changes #3

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of studying the Bible, Christian doctrine and Biblical Christianity.



Part 3 – Discover the Spiritual Life

When our unconnected friends begin engaging us in spiritual conversations and as they are comfortable, we will encourage them to discover the spiritual life and become a believer in the Lord Jesus. It is during this part of the process that participation in an *Alpha Course* or an appropriate *Seeker Small Group Bible Study* can be very beneficial as people are exposed to biblical teaching. Seeker Groups are investigative Bible studies where people can examine the Christian faith, meet other Christians and grow in their understanding of the Christian life. As our friends are comfortable we can also invite them to attend our worship services to learn more about God and our church.

If we do not feel competent to lead and teach others in a seeker small group, then we can partner up with a leader who can help us to facilitate leading a group with our friends. We should use our discernment in selecting people who will be able to connect best with our friends and minister to their needs. At this step, people move to the third level of commitment and begin Contemplating Christianity and the Church.

Training for the Journey:

Bible Studies and Classes – Which help us to understand the message of the Bible and apply it to our lives.

Alpha is a dynamic course which is designed like a systematic theology course to teach seekers and new believers what Christians believe about their faith and life according to the Bible and invite them to cross the line of faith. It is a great place for people to feel free to ask their questions.

Discussion Time:

1. Do these three parts of the Life Process make sense to you? What new revelations about Spiritual growth in Christ did you discover?

2. In looking at these three parts of the Life Process, what Spiritual Life Changes and Commitments have you allowed the Holy Spirit to enable in your life? Which do you still need to allow the Holy Spirit to enable you to make?

Life Process

Spiritual Life Changes #4

Develop an ever growing life-style of worshiping God privately and corporately with your local Church family.



Spiritual Life Changes #5

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of developing and living in Biblically functioning community as a Covenant Member of a local church and with a Covenant Life group.

Part 4 – Become a Worshiper

When people receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, we encourage them to become a baptized follower of Jesus Christ, and to begin worshiping God together with a local fellowship of believers. Gathering corporately creates a time and a place for corporate prayer, worship, teaching, confession, evangelism, fellowship, financial stewardship and celebration of the sacraments (Communion and Baptism). During most worship services, believers participate in the Lord's Supper as they remember the Lord's sacrifice for their sins and the forgiveness and freedom that can now be found in Christ. This takes on a variety of forms. The principle to be preserved is that form meets the requirements of the function. Whatever facilitates the fellowship to function best is what should take place. In this step people move to the fourth level of commitment, receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, begin worshiping Him with other believers and Convert from a self-led and empowered life to a God-guided and God-empowered life as a disciple. If someone has already been baptized but has wandered from their faith in Christ as Lord and Savior this step might better be described as awakening to faith. This awakening of one's faith relationship with the Lord might be more appropriately be described as Committing themselves to follow Christ as Lord and Savior.

Training for the Journey:

Baptism Class – For people in this part of the process we have a Baptism class to make sure people understand a biblical view of this sacrament.

Sacramental Life Together (Church Membership Part 1) - As part of understanding Biblical Christianity, the first step in our membership process is to examine the basic teachings of the faith together. This course helps people understand what our church believes, teaches and confesses. The text for this course is Luther's Small Catechism which includes Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments (Baptism and The Lord's Supper), Confession and Absolution.

Part 5 – Commit to Covenant Community

Once people have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord and have begun attending worship services, we encourage them to join a local fellowship (a local expression of the family of God), a Covenant Life Group and engage in mentoring relationships. By going through the membership process (See Appendix A for example documents) and entering into the Church Covenant we become members of a community of faith that has committed to loving us and living out all of the "one anothers" of Scripture together with us. The covenant helps us define the relational expectations that God desires us to live out in each other's lives. This is a crucial step, because it gets us all on the same page, in terms of expectations, and focus and helps us move forward in love and unity so that the watching world will know that such a

Life Process

one as Jesus in reality did come. In John 17 Jesus prayed that we would be one and He told us that everyone will know that we are His disciples by our love for one another. This covenant is lived out in the relationships we have within our local fellowship, covenant group members and mentors.

Covenant Life Groups – Joining these groups can be done through self-selection or by consultation with church leaders or life group leaders. Remember, the potential always exists for seeker small groups to turn into covenant groups. They are usually single sex small groups because of the intimate nature of these groups, but are not restricted to this form. They are really the church meeting in a smaller form. These groups are designed to be committed safe places for us to share our story, get empathetic feedback (or the truth in love), and be challenged to change and grow by entering Scripture together as our source of guidance. These groups are not just Bible studies. They exist to be life-giving communities that will walk with us on our journey of faith as we pursue Christlikeness. In this step people move to the fifth level of commitment and enter into covenant Community.

Training for the Journey:

Body Life Basics (Church Membership Part 2) – This seminar is designed to help Christians understand God's Biblical Masterplan to create holistic, transformational disciple-making communities. It helps Christians think Biblically, holistically and practically about the church's mission, functions, strategy, goals, coordinated servanthood and tactics. It perfectly complements the Delta and Omega Courses content and helps members with the who, what, where, when, why and how of our congregational life together.

Creating a Connection Culture is a great seminar to take at this point in the process. It helps people understand that the church is not a stale institution, but rather a life-giving community. It begins to recalibrate their expectations towards an understanding of how a biblically functioning community will be very different from other community experiences to which they have been exposed. Learning the five elements that create a connection culture will equip people to live into God's vision for relationship excellence, to pursue Godly character and cast a vision for their growth into servant leaders.

U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage – This course helps people understand how to grow a marriage that experiences and expresses the love of God. It teaches a biblical view of marriage and proven tools and paradigms that help couples to get on mission with God in their marriage. For non-believers this seminar casts a compelling vision for what a marriage guided and empowered by God can be like.



Life Process

Spiritual Life Changes #6

Develop an ever growing life-style of stewarding your life from God's perspective and through His power by living according to a Personal Growth Plan and engaging in Mentoring relationships.



Part 6 – Steward your Life

Learning how to submit to God's guidance and power in every aspect of our lives and live as stewards, not owners, of our lives does not come naturally. As people grow in maturity in their relationship with God and learn how to live in biblically functioning community we will encourage them to develop a personal growth plan with the input of mentors and begin their training in righteousness as a disciple of Jesus. Engaging in intensive, occasional, peer and passive mentoring will help to guide this training process. It is during this part in the life process that we learn to submit our lives to God, grow in Godly character and understand how to steward our lives from God's perspective. It is during this part of the process that we begin engaging in spiritually discerned disciplines each day guided by our personal growth plan. In addition to our own personal study of Scripture, participating in Bible Studies and classes that help us to understand Scripture and apply it to our lives must become essential and normal for us if we are going to live as His disciples who obey His commands. In this step people move to the sixth level of commitment and begin growing in Godly Character.

Training for the Journey:

Delta Course – The Delta Course lays a biblical foundation for new believers which launches them into their personal and our corporate disciple-making journey together. It is a shortened and condensed version of the Omega Course and leads people into understanding the basics of understanding God's mission for their lives and living out that mission. Delta will also begin their journey of living with a Personal Growth Plan. People will also be exposed to a small group experience and mentoring relationships. This course lays the foundation for people to take the Omega Course.

Renew, Refresh, Refocus Retreat - This retreat experience is designed to give people time and opportunity to renew their understanding of the Delta and Omega Courses, refresh their Personal Growth Plans and refocus their lives for the next season of their growth. It is designed to be held at regular intervals in order to facilitate this journey as a normal way of life.

Life Process

Discussion Time:

1. Do these three parts of the Life Process make sense to you? What new revelations about Spiritual growth in Christ did you discover?

2. In looking at these three parts of the Life Process, what Spiritual Life Changes and Commitments have you allowed the Holy Spirit to enable in your life? Which do you still need to allow the Holy Spirit to enable you to make?

Spiritual Life Changes #7

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of serving God's Kingdom as He has called, gifted and empowered you to do so through serving on various Ministry Teams, Service Projects and Global Missions.



Part 7 – Serve with your Gifts

As people grow in maturity in their relationship with God, learn how to live in biblically functioning community, and grow in Godly Character we will encourage them to prayerfully discern God's calling of servanthood in their lives. We encourage them to begin serving on Ministry Teams, Mission Trips and Service Projects which provide environments for us to discover our spiritual gifts and passions and use them to serve and build the Church. As we grow in our understanding of our spiritual gifts and Godly character we will use our gifts to serve and build up the church. We will also strive to steward our time, financial resources and abilities that God has blessed us with in balanced, obedient, and God-honoring ways. As our heart for God and others grows we will increasingly submit our lives and resources to His Lordship and display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting the work of the church. In this step people move to the seventh level of commitment and Contribute to the building of the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Training for the Journey:

Empowered Servanthood – This seminar is designed to help people understand better their unique call of servanthood, including understanding and identifying spiritual gifts and pursuing next-step ministry opportunities! This seminar helps people understand their divine P.U.R.P.O.S.E. (Passions, Upbringing, Resources, Personality, Original Abilities, Spiritual Gifts and Experience of Love) and how we are created to serve one another.

Life Process



Spiritual Life Changes #8

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of leading others in their faith by serving as a Small group leader, ministry team leader, mentor or on one of our leadership teams of the church.



Making Cent\$ – This seminar is designed to help people achieve financial freedom from God’s perspective. This seminar examines what the Scriptures say about money and money management in the areas of earning, saving, giving, borrowing, consuming, budgeting and investing; then translates that knowledge into wisdom and helps people develop a personal financial plan for stewarding the resources God has entrusted to them.

Part 8 – Invest Your Life in Others

As we engage in God’s calling of servanthood and grow as stewards of our own lives we will seek to become disciple-makers of others. As God leads through us we will oversee, shepherd and provide leadership to various aspects of our communal life together as we are called and affirmed in our calling by our church leadership. We will take the Leadership roles of serving as Mentors, Small Group Leaders, Ministry Team Leaders, Elders, Clergy and Staff seriously. We put a high priority on leadership training. The foundation of healthy shepherding (caring for people) is encouraging and equipping Christians as they strive to mature in their faith, knowledge and ability to lead/shepherd others. Through our leadership training we will learn the Godly principles of leading God’s people well. Our leaders will seek out continual training and growth opportunities as we strive to equip one another through mentoring one another, Leadership Community gatherings and leadership training. Here we begin to reach out and share God’s grace to those He brings into our relational world, and help them grow in their faith by example and testimony. We are called to set an example for people to follow. In this step we commit to make disciples of others by serving as a Conductor (leader, shepherd and overseer) of others in the covenant community.

Training for the Journey:

C.O.R.E. Small Group L.E.A.D.E.R. Seminar – This two-hour seminar examines the C.O.R.E. small group L.E.A.D.E.R. paradigm. This seminar gives your leaders a brief history and overview of The Delta and Omega Courses and shows them how to utilize the Small Group Leader’s Guide for maximum effectiveness in facilitating their groups.

Omega Course – If people haven’t begun their journey through the Omega Course, it is during this part of the Life Process that we definitely recommend people take it. The Omega Course will take people deeper into the foundation that was laid in the Delta Course. It will help them to think much deeper about living on mission with God and how to lead others along this journey. People will also be exposed to intentional mentoring and begin growing as a mentee and future mentor of others.

Life Process



Spiritual Life Changes #9

Develop an ever growing lifestyle of reproducing servant leaders who serve the Kingdom of God by mentoring and training others to lead and serve as leaders in various capacities and then commissioning them to serve according to their calling.

Omega Mentor Training Seminar – This six-hour seminar will dive into the deeper aspects of mentoring that include: The Power of Transformational Ministry, Principles of Mentoring and Coaching, and Mentoring others using the Delta or Omega Courses.

Part 9 – Reproduce Disciple-makers

When we discern that someone is maturing in their faith, has been trained to lead others and is committed to the previous eight parts of the life process we will invite them to become a part of the Servant Leader Incubator community. The Servant Leader Incubator is designed to train, mentor and equip leaders to reproduce other leaders. This is vital if we are going to become a multi-generational kingdom-expanding community. The Senior Leadership Team of our church serves us as the leaders of our Servant Leader Incubator. In Ephesians 4 some are called to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service so the body of Christ might be built up. The primary role of the senior leaders in our community is to equip others to plant, build, grow, nurture and train new Christian communities. We believe that healthy communities reproduce on every level. The key to this reproductive expansion is training, mentoring and equipping servant leaders who continue the Life Process. For those who are called into Ordained Ministry roles we will help them obtain the advanced training and schooling they will need through seminary and other training experiences designed to equip them as reproductive servant leaders within God's family. As God guides and empowers us we will reproduce on every level and unleash God's leaders to serve the Kingdom. Giving growing Christians opportunities to lead others alongside the modeling and mentoring of seasoned servant leaders is essential for raising up new leaders for small groups, ministry teams, churches, mentoring networks, church planting teams and inter-church ministry teams. This mentoring will continue even after new leaders have been commissioned, since we are all on a continual growth journey. In this step we move to the final level of commitment, reproduce new leaders and Commission them to live as holistic, transformational Disciple-makers.

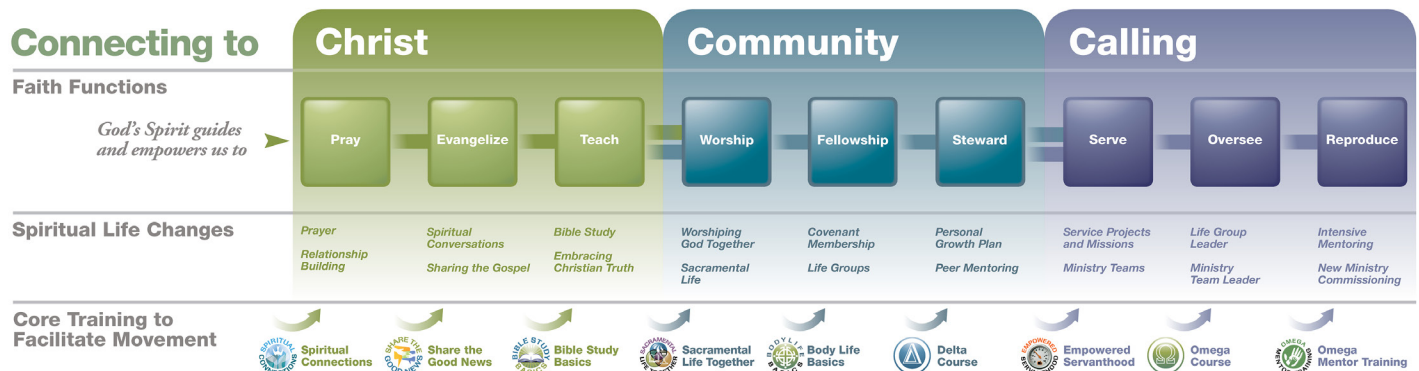
Discussion Time:

1. Do these three parts of the Life Process make sense to you? What new revelations about Spiritual growth in Christ did you discover?

Life Process

2. In looking at these three parts of the Life Process, what Spiritual Life Changes and Commitments have you allowed the Holy Spirit to enable in your life? Which do you still need to allow the Holy Spirit to enable you to make?

God's Mission for Our Lives



*Discover
YOUR
Next Steps*

The Life Process

- Part 1 – Build Real Prayer Filled Relationships - Connection
- Part 2 – Engage in the Spiritual Conversation - Conversation
- Part 3 – Discover the Spiritual Life - Contemplating
- Part 4 – Become a Worshiper - Convert or Commit
- Part 5 – Commit to Covenant Community - Community
- Part 6 – Steward Your Life - Character
- Part 7 – Serve with Your Gifts - Contributing
- Part 8 – Invest Your Life in Others - Conductor
- Part 9 – Reproduce Disciple-makers - Commission

Life Process

Discussion Time:

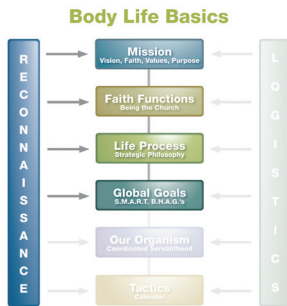
1. Do you understand how the core training that we have developed is designed to facilitate movement through this life process and equip you to properly make these lifestyle shifts and commitments?

2. How does your church currently help you to move through the Life Process and develop as a disciple-maker?

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Global Goals

Global Goals



Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

God has a plan for our lives

Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart.”

Accountable goal setting

Any serious endeavor stays on track through the appropriate accountability system of checks and balances. Our leadership teams will seek to discern God’s goals for us season by season and hold us accountable for moving intentionally toward them in the power of God.

Honoring seasons in your life

We will have different emphases during different times in our corporate life together. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 Solomon wrote, “To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” We will seek the Lord together to discern our focus for the various seasons that God will take us through!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Global Goals

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Then the Lord replied:

*“Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.*

For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

*it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.*

*Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come and will not delay.”*

Discussion Time:

1. Do you believe that God desires to guide us and will provide us with the wisdom and clarity that we need to faithfully serve Him season by season? If so, what has your experience in discerning God’s guidance for your life been like?

2. How do you believe churches are supposed to go about discerning God’s will for their lives? Explain.

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Axis of Coordinated Servanthood

Global Goals

3. Which of these scriptures stood out to you? Why?

We use the Global Goals Diagram to set S.M.A.R.T. (**S**imple, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, **T**imely) B.H.A.G.s (**B**ig, **H**airy, **A**udacious, **G**oals) for Our Church. This helps us to keep the things we do missional, simple, flexible, relational and reproducible. We also use this diagram to set our financial budget for the year.

Atmosphere of Prayer and God's Empowering Presence

This part of the globe reminds us that the goals we set will only be profitable for the Kingdom of God if He is guiding and empowering us. We will strive to grow deeper in our corporate submission so that we experience deeper levels of God's love and power in and through our lives. This subjective goal will be evident as we see the power of the Holy Spirit moving through us through signs, wonders, miracles and transforming lives. As we submit to Christ and obey Him we should see people connecting with Him, one another in community and in their Calling of Servanthood.

Crust of People & Resources

The size of our corporate stewardship relates to the number of people in our community and the resources that God has entrusted to us. Therefore we commit to connect people to God, one another and their calling of servanthood.

Tropic of Connection to Christ

This line represents the number of people who are crossing the line of faith through baptism and conversion.

Equator of Connection to Community

This line represents the number of people who are crossing the line of connection to Church membership and entering into our communal life by joining a life group (covenant small group) and beginning their mentoring journey.

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals

Tropic of Connection to Calling

This line represents the number of people who are crossing the line of connection to their calling through engaging their training in righteousness, serving on ministry teams, serving in leadership roles and reproducing servant leaders.

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Prayer & Spiritual Disciplines

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of praying and the process of building prayer-filled relationships. In addition to the core discipline of prayer this includes engaging in spiritually discerned disciplines according to personal growth plans. As we do this and build our relationships with God and those we meet in our relational world in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will experience and express God's love and God can use our lives to bear witness to a watching world. This includes regular teaching and training in intercessory prayer, spiritual disciplines, healing prayer and spiritual warfare.

Personal & Corporate Outreach

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of evangelizing and engaging people in the process of Spiritual Conversation. Equipping members of our congregation for personal one-on-one relational evangelism is essential if we are going to be obedient in this area of the globe. In addition to personal evangelism, holding several corporate outreach events where we can respectfully begin the spiritual conversation will aid us in reaching our friends with the Gospel. Connecting events where we can gather around a common interest (music, sports, arts, parties with a purpose, etc.) and begin the spiritual conversation are vital to help us keep the evangelistic temperature of our congregation hot are far from God. Ministries that have been traditionally successful in this are: Alpha Courses, Connecting Events, sports outreach ministries, one-on-one evangelism curricula like Real Connection, seeker services and seeker small groups.

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Season of Life Specific Ministries

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of teaching, and the process of discovering the spiritual life. These ministries serve as great next steps for people who have begun the spiritual conversation to learn more about Christianity in and through community. Bible Studies where we can learn more about God's will and discover new insights are vital in this area of the globe. Entering into Scripture together will fill us with the knowledge that we need to live the abundant life. This is usually done best by gathering people together around season of life specific issues. People in similar seasons of life are usually interested in seeking out and processing God's wisdom which pertains to where they are in life. These ministries provide powerful opportunities to help people understand how to connect with God through Jesus Christ in the Power of the Holy Spirit and begin to connect with one another in Community.

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals

Ministries that have been traditionally successful in this are: Pioneer Club, Child and Family Ministry, Sunday Morning Power Hour, Youth Ministry, Singles Ministry, Young Adults' Ministry, Senior Adult Ministry, Men's Ministry, and Women's Ministry.

Worship & Special Services

This part of the globe relates to the function of Worshiping and the process of Becoming a Worshiper. Gathering together as a sacred assembly for corporate worship and special services such as ordinations, weddings and funerals is vital to focus our lives on bringing glory to God. These services create the opportunity to submit our lives to God and glorify Him through corporate singing of hymns and praise songs, confession, prayer, biblical preaching, the participation in sacraments (baptism and communion), announcements and offerings.

Membership, Small Groups & Pastoral Care

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of fellowshiping and the process of committing to covenant community. We must offer membership courses where people can understand our relational covenant with one another and choose to join into fellowship with us. This includes committing to live out this covenant in a Covenant Life Group. True fellowship comes alive as we live out the "one anothers" of Scripture together as fellow disciples of Christ. Having regular membership meetings where members can gather, discuss how God is moving in their covenant life together and vote on important issues is important. Membership includes caring for one another as the family of God at multiple levels from Small Group leaders and members caring for one another, to pastoral care, counseling and crisis interventions. Once a part of the church covenant, we also engage in church discipline with one another according to Matthew 18. Small Groups that have traditionally been successful in facilitating these covenant relationships best are single-sex small groups (men's groups and women's groups) and mixed groups which function more like a house church. Even in these mixed groups, having times where the men and women can break into single-sex groups for confession, accountability and training is often very helpful.

Mentoring & Christian Life Training

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of stewarding and the process of stewarding your life. Living as stewards of our lives and seeking out God's training in righteousness through mentoring relationships and Christian life training is vital for us to mature in our faith. These seminars, classes and Bible studies help us understand Scripture and apply it to our lives according to a personal growth plan. Through mentoring relationships we can discern God's growth plan for our lives and engage His training in righteousness through spiritually discerned disciplines. Our core training courses

Global Goals
Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals
Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals
Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals

and seminars that we use over and over again to train and ground us in the God's wisdom include: Omega Experience Masterplan, Creating a Connection Culture, U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage, Mentoring Connection, Body Life Basics, Delta, Omega, Making Cent\$ and Empowered Servanthood. Bible studies which give both an overview of Scripture and dig into different books of the Bible are also necessary to our understanding of God's word. The studies that we promote over and over again include: Old Testament Surveys, New Testament Surveys, Logos (how Scripture was formed), etc.

Ministry Teams and Missions

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of serving and the process of serving with your gifts. We are all called to serve in general and specific ways.

In general, we serve as we have opportunity and as we are led by God. This would include pushing a broom, taking out the trash, helping out at homeless shelters and other local and global missions. Our Caring Service and Missions Ministry Teams create various opportunities for people to serve in general ways both locally and globally.

We also serve in specific ways by identifying our various passions and spiritual gifts and using them to serve on various ministry teams as we are guided and empowered by God. These various Ministry Teams are focused on facilitating a particular aspect of our communal life together. You can see a clear description of these various ministry teams in Appendix C and in the Ministry Teams Diagram.

Axis of Coordinated Servanthood

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of overseeing and the process of investing your life in others. The different categories of leaders that we have in our community include: **Covenant Community Members, Small Group Leaders, Ministry Team Leaders, Mentoring Network Coaches, Church Council (Trustees), Elder Team, Clergy and Staff.** We regularly gather these leadership communities together for fellowship, training, prayer and networking. Our leader training includes: **Body Life Advanced, Omega Experience Masterplan, C.O.R.E. Small Group L.E.A.D.E.R. Seminar and Omega Mentor Training Seminars.**

Servant Leader Incubator

This part of the globe most clearly relates to the function of reproducing and the process of reproducing disciple-makers. A servant leader is one who is commissioned with the authority to coordinate task excellence, facilitate the connection culture, models the Christian faith and mentors others in their faith. Servant leaders are fully trained, mentored and equipped to

Global Goals
Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Global Goals
Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Axis of Coordinated Servanthood

Ministry Teams

Our Ministry Teams are created to facilitate every aspect of the Life Process and accomplish our Mission.



Global Goals



understand all aspects of our life together and are the key to our healthy growth as a family of faith who reproduce at every level. They are Biblical elders in the truest sense who equip the saints for the work of ministry. They are forceful men and women for the Kingdom whom God can use to advance and expand His Kingdom. Getting trained in the core seminary or seminary level training courses will greatly aid in one's ability to develop into a servant leader. These courses include but are not limited to: pastoral care and counseling, spiritual formation, personal spiritual disciplines, church administration, church history, systematic theology, Old Testament theology, New Testament theology, homiletics (preaching and teaching), spiritual leadership, power encounter (walking in the power of the Holy Spirit and spiritual warfare), Biblical hermeneutics, Christian preaching, Christian philosophy, Christian ethics, evangelism, missiology, Hebrew and Greek. Language studies are important but only vital for those seeking ordination, feeling called to write theologically and those called to teach at the seminary level.

Discussion Time:

1. Do you see how our Mission, Faith Functions and Life Process are able to come together practically and help us plan for our future using this Global Goals Diagram?

2. Why do you think it is so important to understand the roles different ministries play in relation to the other ministries of our church?

3. Which aspects of our Globe do you believe we need to grow in as a community of faith?

Global Goals

Perseverance

We must strive to achieve goals

1 Timothy 4:15-16

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Hebrews 10:36-39

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while,

“He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Philippians 3:12-17

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

Global Goals

Discussion Time:

1. Why is it so important for us to dedicate ourselves to the accomplishment of God's goals for our lives?

2. What has been your experience of pursuing God's goals for your life?

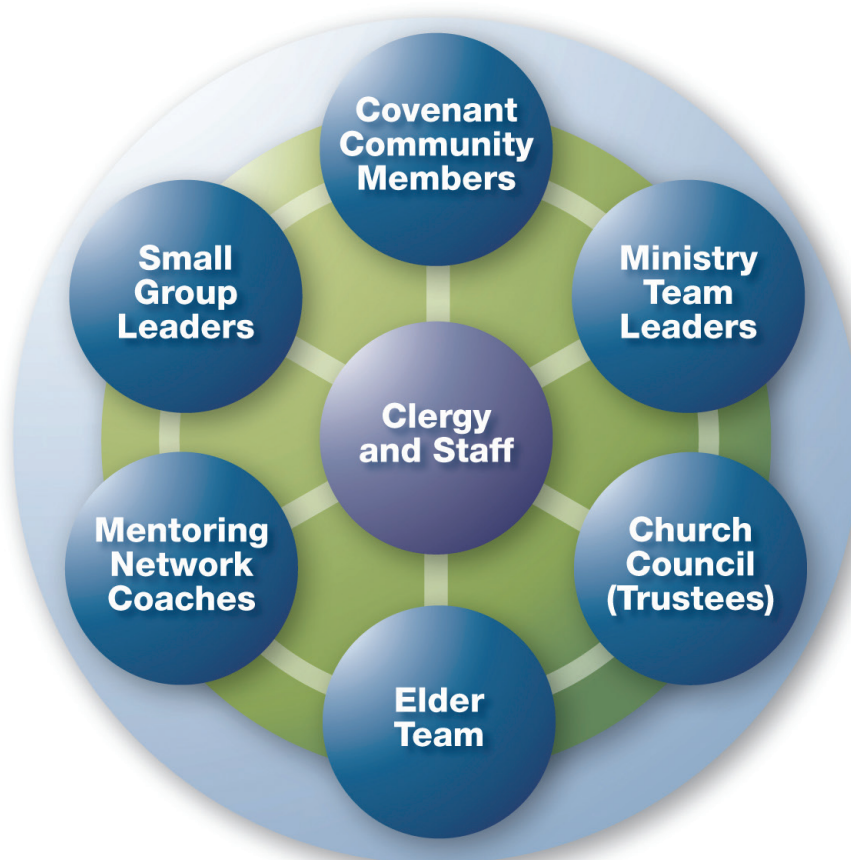
3. Our journey to becoming more like Jesus will be met with resistance (Spiritual Warfare). How is God preparing you to persevere? Explain.

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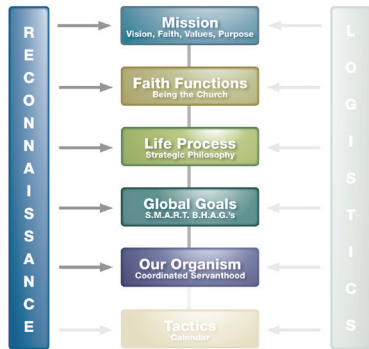
Our Organism

Our Organism

Coordinated Servanthood



Our Organism



Our Organism Coordinated Servanthood

Covenant Community Members – Baptized and/or Confirmed believers who have taken the Alpha Course, Sacramental Life Together Seminar and the Body Life Basics Seminar, are committed to taking the Delta Course and joining a Covenant Life Group, have entered into the church covenant and have been accepted into a local fellowship as covenant members. They are committed to uphold our mission, objectives, life process, global goals, coordinated servanthood and tactics. As part of the covenant commitment they live out the ‘one anothers’ of scripture together with the other members and support and submit to the leadership of our church in its various forms.

Discussion Time:

1. Explain why it is important for Christians to obediently enter into covenant community.

2. Where are you on the journey of committing to covenant community?

3. What are the obstacles hindering you from living in covenant community with other believers?

Small Group Leaders – These are leaders of Covenant Life Groups who are coached and held accountable by a Mentoring elder. They are commissioned with the front line responsibility to shepherd those under their leadership and are, therefore, extensions of the pastoral care of the church. They are Covenant Community Members who have been members of Covenant Life Groups for at least one year, have been trained and mentored to lead a Life Group and have the character qualifications of Deacons.

Our Organism

1 Timothy 3:8-13

In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

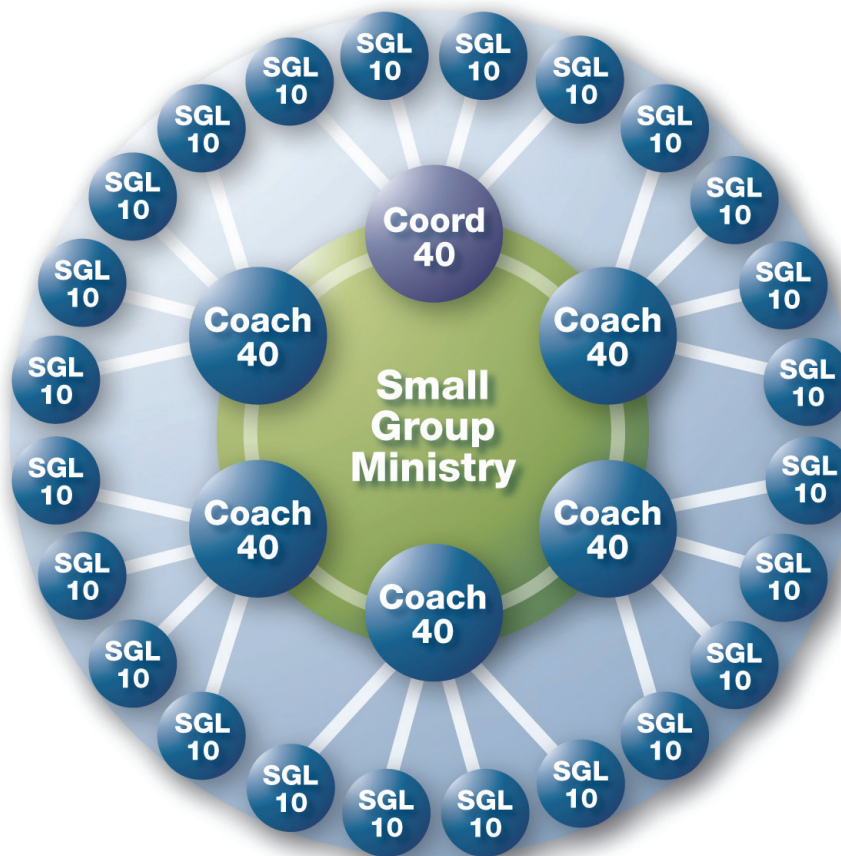
Mentoring Network Coaches – These are Covenant Community Members who have been Covenant Life Group leaders or ministry team leaders for at least one year, have been trained and mentored to coach others and have the character qualifications of elders. They are commissioned to coach small group and ministry team leaders how to build connection cultures and lead with task excellence. They serve as our recommended intensive and occasional mentoring team. Through one-on-one mentoring they help members build personal growth plans, hold them accountable to implement them and encourage them to grow deeper.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Our Shepherding Structure



Our Organism

Titus 1:6-9

An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Discussion Time:

1. Why is it important for members to demonstrate spiritual maturity, Biblical relationships, Godly character and empowered service before being commissioned to serve as leaders?

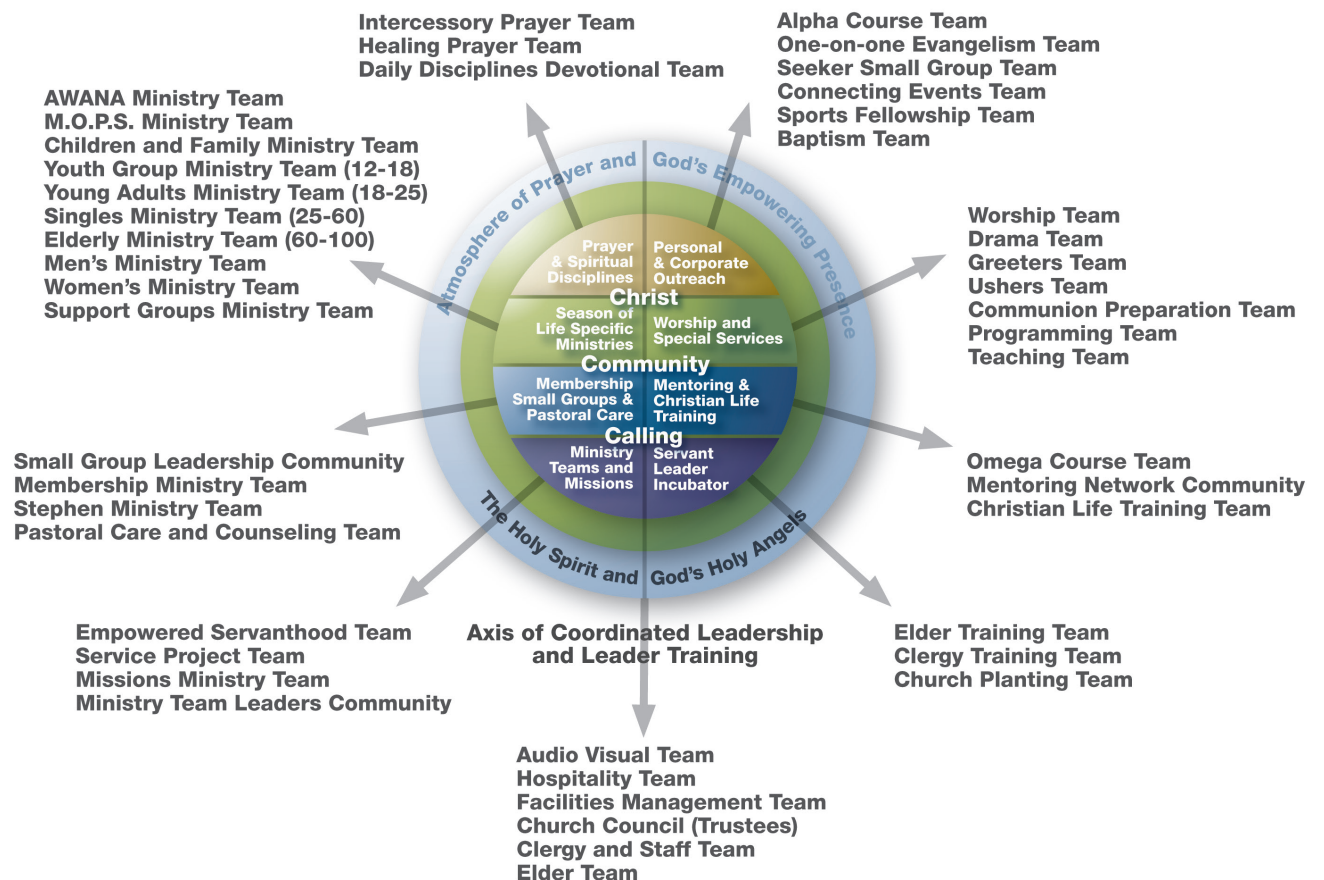
2. Where are you on the journey to become a servant leader like Jesus?

Ministry Team Leaders – We believe in team ministry and therefore, we will accomplish our objectives and strategies through the use of ministry teams. The team leaders need to be Covenant Community Members who have been members of Covenant Life Groups for at least one year, have been trained and mentored to lead a ministry team and have the character qualifications of Deacons. They are coached and held accountable by a Church Council or senior staff member, whichever is appropriate for that particular team. The team leaders are given the responsibility and the authority to make decisions concerning their team but strive to coordinate the plans of their particular ministry with the overall ministry calendar of the church.

Church Council (Trustees) – Some churches call this the resource management team. They meet regularly to oversee the financial, facilities, legal and personnel issues of our church. They are covenant community members who have business experience in managing the financial, legal, facilities and personnel issues in organizations and have the character qualifications of deacons. One of our senior

Ministry Teams

Our Ministry Teams are created to facilitate every aspect of the Life Process and accomplish our Mission.



Our Organism

staff members serve on this team and the elder team in order to report what is happening and keep the direction of the elders and the church council on the same page.

Elder Team – Our local fellowships (Churches) are led by elders who are accountable to God and to each other for the oversight of the local fellowship under their care (see our handout on the selection and qualifications of elders). They are Covenant Community Members who may serve as Covenant Life Group leaders and Mentoring Network Coaches for at least one year. They may have led a ministry team, may have been trained and mentored to coach others, and have the character qualifications of elders. They are responsible to seek out God's vision for the body and communicate that vision to the body for affirmation. The Senior or Lead Pastor also serves as an elder and reports to the Elder team on the development and effectiveness of the staff team.

Clergy and Staff

Clergy – The Ordained Clergy in our church, who have seminary degrees and are affirmed by our church leadership, are commissioned to lead worship services, baptize, consecrate communion, preach, teach, officiate at weddings and funerals. Beyond their priestly duties, their focus is equipping the saints (members of our church) for the work of ministry and reproducing servant leaders. They are trained theologians who correctly train, mentor and equip people to live in Biblically functioning community. They accurately teach the Bible and preach the Gospel in words and lifestyle. They are Covenant Community Members who have the character qualifications of elders and experience leading small groups, ministry teams and mentoring others in their faith.

Management Team – Our staff is led by our Management Team, which has the final responsibility to oversee all of our paid staff, coordinate our pursuit of our global goals and decide upon the tactics that will best accomplish our mission. They are held accountable by God and the elder team whom they do life with as peer mentors. In addition to the elders, the Management Team have other mentors that they meet with on a regular basis. They have the character qualifications of elders and may even serve on the elder team. The senior pastor is a member of the elder team. Not all clergy are part of our Management Staff.

Our Organism

Staff – The focus of our staff is to initiate, coordinate and support the mission. They are guided by our management team who direct and oversee the staff. Our staff are Christians who are members of a Local Fellowship (Church), embrace and uphold the mission of our church and have training, gifts and abilities in their area of service. Each staff member has a job description (outlining their responsibilities) which contributes to our task excellence and facilitates our connection culture. This includes developing Christlike character and growing into a servant leader of others. The management team will have regular reviews of our staff looking at both their task excellence and connection capacity.

Discussion Time:

1. Do you understand the different roles and the importance of their different functions within our Organism (Coordinated Servanthood)? If not, what do you find confusing and why?

2. Explain how helping people to abide in Christ, grow in Biblically functioning community and steward their lives under the Lordship of Christ leads to greater degrees of empowered servanthood and is essential to growing servant leaders.

Our Organism

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Our Tactics

(What We Do)

Our Tactics *(What We Do)*



What we do – Our Calendar

Using the Global Goals Diagram as a framework it is important to have the various leaders in our community decide on a calendar of events and activities that move us toward our goals and accomplish our mission. This includes the activities and gatherings of our various small groups, ministry teams, outreach events, worship services, mentoring meetings, season of life specific ministries, Christian life training events, membership meetings, leadership gatherings, group meetings, corporate outreach events, ministry team activities, seminars, staff meetings and servant leader incubator activities, etc. These activities should be as coordinated and planned as possible to allow for the smooth functioning of our corporate life together while remaining spontaneously open to the move of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to create good communication channels so that members and people connected to our community can clearly understand what we are doing, why we are doing it, which aspect of our mission that each activity we hope it accomplishes and how everything we do works together.

Discussion Time:

As you look at your church activities and consider how they are in alignment with God's mission:

What's right (where do you see God bearing fruit)?

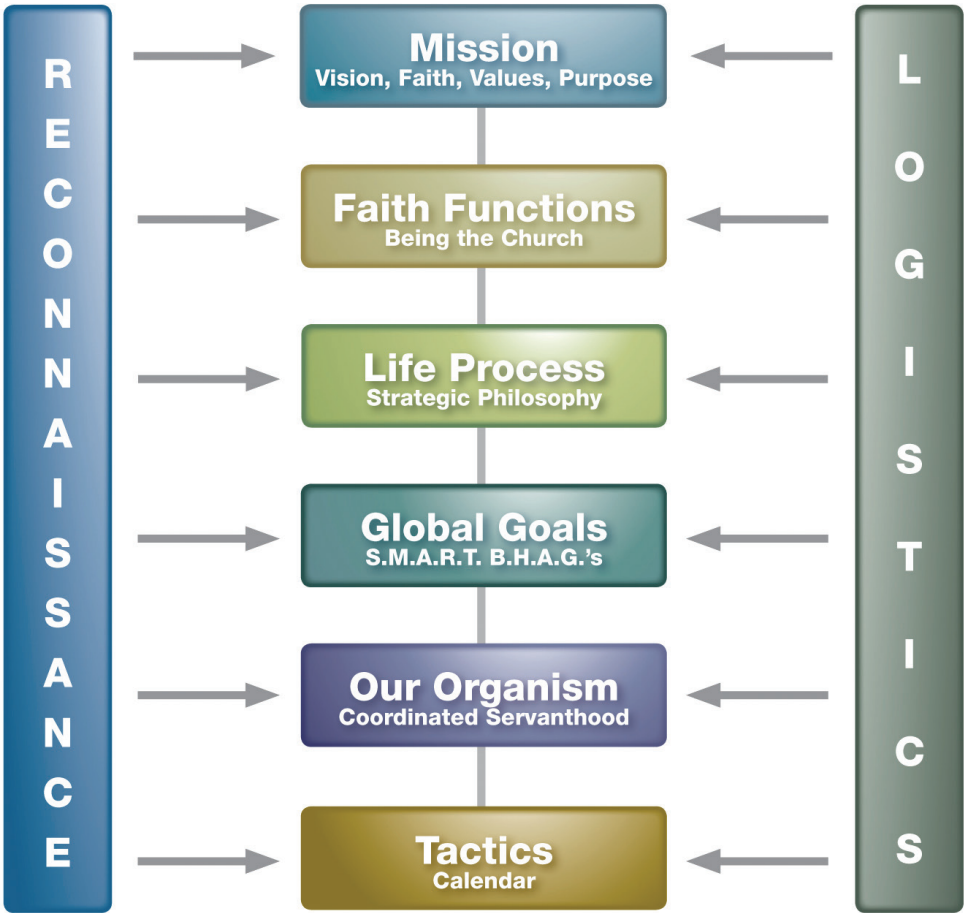
What's wrong (what activities aren't moving anyone toward accomplishing the mission)?

What's missing?

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Our Logistics

Body Life Basics



Our Logistics



Definition: The branch of the military science having to do with moving, supplying, and quartering troops. This involves *getting the right resources, in the right places, at the right times, for the right reasons.* We need to ensure that we properly steward the resources God has entrusted to us. This includes *studying new data in light of past performance so we can continually evaluate ourselves.*

Our staff team will coordinate the logistical and operational aspects of our ministry. We will follow the proper lines of authority in carrying out the decisions which are made. We will evaluate everything we do at least yearly at our annual Elder retreat. Some things will require more evaluation than others, so we will schedule regular evaluation and planning times for each area of our ministry.

We will also have evaluation and coordination times at our monthly Leadership community meetings.

Our staff will operate according to our policy and procedure manual and will have semi-annual evaluations in which they are evaluated according to their job description and their connection capacity.

For example we will evaluate and plan for the execution of:

- Our Mission every Year at our Annual Elder retreat.
- Our Global Goals every Quarter at the church leadership meetings.
- Our Organism (Coordinated Leadership) Monthly at various leadership meetings.

Tracking

Using the Global Goals diagram as a scoreboard, track the activity and involvement of people at different stages of commitment in the life process. Doing the logistical work of tracking and accounting helps our leaders to have objective eyes as we evaluate where God is moving among us and discern where we are being disobedient to His call. It also holds us accountable to being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.



Our Logistics

Discussion Time:

1. How do the logistics of your church support the accomplishment of God's mission? What's right, what's wrong and what's missing?

2. How would you explain the importance of God's mission to someone new to your church?

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Appendix A

Appendix A

Our Membership Process

Step 1 – *Understand and embrace the Gospel*

Prospective members must first demonstrate that they understand or have come to an understanding of the Gospel. Attend Alpha and/or Luther's Small Catechism Class in order to understand the Christian faith. Embrace the Gospel by repenting from a self-led and empowered life, receiving the grace and forgiveness of God for their sins and submitting themselves to Him as Lord of your life.

Step 2 – *Become a baptized believer in the Triune God*

Become a baptized believer in the Triune God. Attend our baptism class and be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you have never been baptized and/or confirmed (made a conscious adult decision to live as a disciple of Christ), take our baptism class and get baptized at one of our baptismal services and/or take our confirmation class and affirm your faith publicly at one of our confirmation services.

Step 3 – *Understand God's mission for your life and our Church*

We use the Body Life Basics seminar to help people understand God's mission for our corporate life together. We use the Delta and Omega Courses to help people understand how to apply God's mission for their lives personally and the life of discipleship. Everybody interested in membership needs to take the Body Life Basics seminar and the Delta Course in order to understand how to live in a biblically functioning community through church membership and grow as a disciple.

Step 4 – *Meet with an Elder and join our Covenant Community*

After completing steps one through three, people interested in joining our covenant community as members need to meet with an elder and choose to enter into our church covenant. This elder interview is to discuss any questions and verify that the prospective member understands and is committed to pursuing God's mission for their lives.

Appendix A

Step 5 – *Join a Covenant Life Group and engage your training in righteousness through mentoring relationships*

After completing steps one through four, it is important to make an ongoing commitment to these covenant relationships by joining a Covenant Life Group, if you haven't already, and regularly meeting together with mentors who can help you to renew, refresh and refocus your Personal Growth Plan for you life.

Step 6 – *Publicly join our church during a worship service*

Members are welcomed and accepted. At these meetings, the new members will be presented to the body for acceptance and we will “lay hands” on the new members, pray for them, receive them into our covenant community, and begin living together as God's family of faith.

Step 7 – *Renew your commitment to God, the church and our mission annually*

As God leads our body, we need to continually renew our commitment to Him and to one another. Every year members will be asked to renew their commitment to God, to the other members of our covenant community and to our mission. The areas of our discipleship masterplan, such as the Global Goals, Organism (Coordinated Servanthood) and Tactics that change annually will be reviewed at our annual meetings in order to keep everyone on the same page and growing together.

Appendix A

Our Church Covenant

Defining Relational Expectations

Responding to and reflecting God's covenant that he has made with His people through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:16, Jeremiah 31:31-34), we covenant with one another to be the contagious Christian community (local fellowship) known as "_____". This is a binding commitment that by the grace of God each member will faithfully uphold. As baptized believers in Jesus Christ, we realize that the purpose of God for believers is carried out through His divine plan, the church (the family of God), as reflected by local fellowships. This local fellowship exists so that "the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 3:10), specifically by worshiping God, edifying believers, and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. In our personal lives, we commit to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and, 'love our neighbor as ourselves.' (Luke 10:27) by:

Growing in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ (1 John 4:19),
Having personal and family Bible study, worship, and prayer
(Deuteronomy 6:4-9),

Being a witness for Christ to friends, family, and acquaintances (Acts 1:8),
Living righteously (Proverbs 4:23-27),

Being exemplary in our behavior (1 Peter 2:12),

Avoiding the appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22),

Loving our families and especially our spouses if married (Ephesians 5:21-33),

Honoring our mother and father and relatives (Exodus 20:12,

Matthew 15:4, 1 Timothy 5:4-8).

2. We commit to love one another (1 John 4:7) by:

Accepting one another (Romans 15-17),

Bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2),

Confessing our sins to one another so that we might be healed (James 5:16),

Doing nothing that would cause a brother or sister to stumble (Romans 14:13),

Encouraging one another (Hebrews 3:13),

Forgiving one another with kindness and compassion (Colossians 3:13,
Ephesians 4:32),

Honoring one another above ourselves (Romans 12:10),

Serving one another (1 Peter 4:10),

Praying for one another (Ephesians 6:18),

Appendix A

Spurring one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24),
Rebuking and correcting one another (2 Timothy 4:2),
Building one another up as we communicate truthfully with each other
(Ephesians 4:25-29),
When necessary, disciplining one another (Matthew 18:15-17),
Teaching and admonishing one another (Colossians 3:16),
Being patient with one another in order to maintain unity with one another
(Ephesians 4:2-4),
Having equal concern for each other (1 Corinthians 12:25),
Obeying God's word (John 14:23, Joshua 1:8),
Meeting together regularly for fellowship and breaking of bread
(Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42),
Contributing resources to the fellowship and the poor (2 Corinthians
8:1-5, 9:7, Galatians 2:10),
Remembering those in prison and those who are mistreated
(Hebrews 13:1-3),
Submitting to our leaders (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13,
1 Peter 5:5).

3. As a corporate body, we commit to love those outside the fellowship (Luke 10:27-37) by:

Sharing the good news of the Gospel in word and in deed and inviting
them to join the family. Evangelizing (Matthew 28:19-20).

4. As a corporate body, we commit to love other local fellowships (Acts 11:22-30) by:

Resolving to be joined in fellowship (Networked) with other local
fellowships (Churches) in our region, and throughout the world, we commit
to co-labor with and uphold the other fellowships in God's network we
call the Kingdom of God.

Finally, if God removes us from this assembly, we commit to unite as soon
as possible with another local fellowship where we can carry out the spirit
of this covenant.

Will you join with us in upholding our Church Covenant?

If so, please sign your name/s _____

Appendix A

Elder Interview Questions

Body Life Basics

Prospective Member _____ Date _____

Interviewing Elder _____

Overall

Do you understand, affirm and commit to uphold our:

Mission

Can you state our mission? Do you clearly understand it? How does it apply to your daily life?

Yes _____ No _____

Vision and Statement of Faith

Do you understand and agree with our Vision and Statement of Faith?

Yes _____ No _____

Our Mission and The 7 Values Of Abundant Living

Connected to Christ

Grace is God's bridge to us and our bridge to others.

By faith, have you accepted Jesus into your life, received His free gift of grace which has the power to forgive your sins and allowed the Holy Spirit to empower you to live a holy, righteous life? As God's ambassador on earth, will you reach out and share God's grace to those He brings into your relational world and help them grow in faith?

Yes _____ No _____

Guidance is necessary in order to carry out God's will.

Are you committed to seeking God's will through prayer, Bible study, circumstances and the church? Will you strive to depend upon God's leadership (or guidance) in your life, which is available through the Holy Spirit? Therefore, are you committed to having regular devotional and prayer times, in solitude, where you connect with God?

Yes _____ No _____



Appendix A

Connected to Community

Growth is a process toward full maturity in Christ.

Are you committed to: (1) allowing and engaging God's process of sanctification in your life? (2) surrounding yourself with mentors: people who will disciple you (love, challenge and provide guidance) as you grow in your faith? (3) being a diligent student of Scripture and allowing God's truth to be pressed through the fabric of your life? (4) looking at your life holistically, and allowing the mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and social dimensions of your life to be transformed by the Holy Spirit? (5) committing to patiently helping others grow in faith as God leads them?

Yes _____ No _____

Groups of Biblically functioning community provide the optimal environment for life change.

Are you committed to doing life with people in groups where both vertical (God and you) and horizontal (you and the world) components of the Christian life are lived out and growth is optimized? Are you a member of a small group? If not, do you seek placement in one? Are you committed to gathering when the whole church meets for corporate worship, offering, communion, teaching, etc.?

Yes _____ No _____

Our Church Covenant

Do you understand the defined relational expectations of our church covenant? Will you join with us in upholding the Church Covenant?

Yes _____ No _____

Connected to our Calling of Servanthood

Gifts of divine empowerment are given to every believer to grow God's church.

Are you committed to discovering your spiritual gifts and passions, and using them to serve and build the Kingdom of God? If you have already, where has God gifted and called you to build up the body? Are you either serving on or leading a ministry team? Which one? If not, do you desire to serve on one? Which one? Do you believe God has placed on your heart to help start a new ministry?

Yes _____ No _____

Appendix A

Good Stewardship is the reasonable and loving response to our gracious God.

Do you understand your relationship to God and this world as that of a steward or manager, and strive toward God's plan of good stewardship of your whole life (time, talents, and treasures)? Are you willing to share the resources God has entrusted to you as He leads? Do you recognize the tithe (10% of one's earnings) as the historic standard of Scriptural giving? Moreover, in response to Christ's abundant giving, do you commit to increasingly submit resources to His Lordship, and display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting the work of the church? Are you committed to following God's priorities for living and managing your life in balanced and God-honoring ways?

Yes _____ No _____

Glorification of God is the goal of our lives and our church.

Are you committed to following His guidance, and striving for excellence in all that you do so that people might know we serve an awesome God? Do you believe that God has called us to be a royal priesthood of believers who go to Him for guidance, and who will be held accountable for the way we live our lives, both personally and corporately (1 Peter 2:9, Hebrews 4:13, Romans 14:12)?

Yes _____ No _____

Our Purpose

Do you understand and agree with our purpose? Does this help you understand why the church exists? Will you commit yourself to living out the Great Commandments and Great Commission in order to realize the manifold wisdom of God and grow a Great Church?

Yes _____ No _____

Faith Functions

Do you understand and agree with our 9 faith functions? Do you see how, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they work together to accomplish our mission?

Yes _____ No _____

9-Part Process

Do you understand and agree with our 9-Part Process? Will you seek not only to engage in this process yourself, but to reach outward and begin to encourage and lead others toward faith in Christ? At this part of the process do you agree to journey together with others in a covenant life group, in mentoring relationships and through serving on various ministry teams as you are guided and empowered by God to do so?

Yes _____ No _____



Appendix A

Global Goals

Helping us navigate our world and set goals for the future!



Our Organism

Coordinated Servanthood



Global Goals

Do you understand and agree with our Global Goals? Will you seek to work together in community with others in our body to accomplish these goals as you are guided and empowered by God to do so?

Yes _____ No _____

Our Organism (Coordinated Servanthood)

Do you understand and agree with our leadership structure and philosophy? Can you envision yourself learning from and serving with our various leaders?

Yes _____ No _____

Our Tactics (Calendar)

Do you understand why we do what we do and why we have arranged our ministry calendar the way we have? Do you see yourself functioning as a participating member of our community and engaging our calendar of activities as you are guided and empowered by God to do so?

Yes _____ No _____

Questions

Do you have any questions or concerns about anything which we have discussed here today?

Is it your desire to join our covenant community as a participating member?

If so, please sign your name/s _____

Appendix A

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Appendix B

Appendix B

Ministry Teams

Examples of various teams and their descriptions

Options for you to prayerfully consider!

To participate on a ministry team in a significant way, you must be a member of our church and be a Christian who has a love for God, a willingness to serve others, a spirit of cooperation, understands and supports the focus of the team, is qualified to serve on the team (i.e. Elder team, Small Group Leadership team) and is willing to follow the leaders of the team.

Prayer & Spiritual Disciplines Ministry Teams:

1. *Intercessory Prayer Team* – If you are gifted in intercessory prayer, miracles, encouragement, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, deliverance and/or mercy/compassion and have a passion for personal and corporate prayer, join our intercessory prayer team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Facilitate the prayer times before and during our worship services.
- Plan a calendar of seasonal events to increase our corporate prayer life.
- Update, coordinate and encourage participation in our intercessory prayer chain.
- Supply materials which will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising with the staff and communications teams.

2. *Healing Prayer Team* – If you are gifted in healing, encouragement, miracles, wisdom, deliverance, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, pastor/shepherd and/or intercession and have a passion for healing prayer and a desire to respond to the sick, afflicted and abused among us in the power of the Holy Spirit, join our healing prayer team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Respond to requests for healing prayer.
- Plan a calendar of regular healing prayer meetings.
- Supply materials which will help the meetings operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising with the staff and communications teams.

Appendix B

3. *Daily Disciplines Devotional Team* – If you are gifted in creative communication, teaching, prophecy, wisdom, exhortation and/or disciple-making and have a passion for encouraging and equipping people in studying the Bible and engaging in personal spiritual disciplines, join our daily disciplines devotional team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Create daily devotionals to help facilitate personal daily Scripture reading, meditation and application.
- Create other devotionals that promote and encourage all 36 of the spiritual disciplines encouraged in the Omega Course.
- Plan and promote retreat experiences for recalibration and spiritual cleansing.
- Plan and promote different training and retreat experiences that highlight different spiritual disciplines and equip people to exercise their faith.
- Work with the Christian Life Training Team to schedule and teach various seminars on spiritual disciplines.
- Create and maintain an e-mail list of people who desire to receive these devotionals and send them out.
- Work with Sermon Ministry Team to create devotionals that coincide with and review Scriptures taught in the sermon each week.
- Supply written materials to those who desire a hard copy.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

Appendix B

Personal & Corporate Outreach Ministry Teams:

4. *Alpha Course Team* – If you are gifted in prophecy, encouragement, teaching, evangelism, administration, helps/service, leadership, faith, knowledge, discernment, mercy/compassion, community building, pastoring and/or shepherding and have a passion for sharing the Gospel and explaining the Christian faith to people, join our Alpha Course Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Reach out to the unchurched and non-Christians in our region and invite them to discover what the Scriptures teach about Christianity and how they can be brought into a life-giving relationship with God by taking the Alpha Course.
- Organize the Alpha Courses, build and train a team of servants who will facilitate its functioning.
- Supply participants with the resources needed to properly complete the journey.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

5. *One-on-one Evangelism Team* – If you are gifted in evangelism, teaching, encouragement, knowledge, faith, apostleship, wisdom, creative communication, pastoring/shepherding, healing, deliverance, administration and/or community building and have a passion for sharing the Gospel and explaining the Christian faith to people, join our One-on-one Evangelism Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Reach out to the disconnected in our region and invite them to discover what the Scriptures teach about Christianity and how they can be brought into a life-giving relationship with God through one-on-one meetings where they can discover the Spiritual life.
- Train, mentor and equip people in our congregation in one-on-one relational evangelism through prayer.
- Supply participants with the resources needed to properly evangelize their friends.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

Appendix B

6. *Seeker Small Group Team* – If you are gifted in evangelism, teaching, encouragement, discernment, prophecy, wisdom, hospitality, missions, pastoring/shepherding, healing, celibacy and/or community building and have a passion for reaching out to the lost, building community and sharing the Gospel through investigative small group discussions, join our Seeker Small Group Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan and organize various seeker small groups and invite disconnected people to join in on the discussion.
- Reach out to the disconnected in our region and invite them to participate with us in these groups and build prayer-filled relationships with them.
- Train, mentor and equip people in our congregation how to facilitate these groups and share the Gospel message with people who are investigating the Christian faith.
- Supply participants with the resources needed to properly facilitate these groups and evangelize their friends.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

7. *Connecting Events Team* – If you are gifted in evangelism, have a passion for reaching out to the lost, building community and connecting the unconnected, join our Connecting Events Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of connecting events and coordinate with the various inter-church ministries which are focused on connecting.
- Supply materials and a guideline to help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising with the staff and communications team.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for youth to discuss their faith.
- Follow up on the various events we are involved in and help people to see the next steps in getting connected.

Appendix B

8. *Sports Fellowship Team* – If you an athlete gifted in evangelism, encouragement, community building, teaching, hospitality and/or administration and have a passion for reaching out to the lost, building community and sharing the Gospel through sports and recreational activities, join our Sports Fellowship Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Give Gospel presentations, testimonies and biblical teachings in order to begin the spiritual conversation.
- Work with the One-on-one Evangelism Team to train, mentor and equip people in our congregation in one-on-one relational evangelism through prayer.
- Supply participants with the resources needed to properly facilitate these events and evangelize their friends.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

9. *Baptism Team* – If you are gifted in encouragement, exhortation/ disciple-making, teaching, evangelism and/or as a pastor/shepherd and have a passion for helping people understand the Gospel and the importance of baptism, join our Baptism Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Organize classes for those who have placed their faith in Christ and received the free gift of forgiveness through His Grace.
- Through the class, group interaction and mentoring, teach them the significance of baptism, the core doctrines of our Statement of Faith and prepare them for their baptism day.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Follow up with those who are baptized and help them begin the journey of discipleship, get connected to the various Life Specific Ministries that are appropriate and begin to live a life of worship.

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Season Of Life Specific Ministry Teams:

10. *AWANA Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion for teaching children and young kids the Bible in a fun organized environment, join our AWANA ministry team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and other events designed to teach kids the Bible using the AWANA program.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for children to learn Scripture.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

11. *M.O.P.S. Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion to encourage, equip and develop mothers to realize their potential as women, mothers and leaders in Jesus Christ, join our M.O.P.S Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of connecting events and coordinate with the various inter-church ministries which are focused on connecting.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for moms to discuss their faith.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

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12. *Children and Family Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in encouragement, teaching, leadership, wisdom, evangelism, faith, helps/service, pastoring/shepherding, intercession, creative communication, administration and/or community building and have a passion to care for and build into the next generation of children, join our Children and Family Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Provide child care for infants and education for children at various levels.
- Facilitate a Sunday School-like children's ministry program during worship services.
- Choose the curriculum to use with the children at the various grade levels.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Train teachers and leaders of the various ages and educational levels to teach and care for the children with excellence while building a connection culture.
- Plan, promote and organize some family fun days throughout the year to engage the entire church family together.
- Work with the Christian Life Training Ministry Team to create and promote Christian parenting seminars and training courses.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

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13. *Youth Group Ministry Team (12-18 year olds)* –

If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion for reaching out to and mentoring youth, building community and connecting the unconnected, join our Youth Group Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of connecting events and Bible studies and coordinate with the various inter-church ministries that are focused on connecting the youth.
- Supply materials and guidelines which will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for youth to discuss their faith.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

14. *Young Adults Ministry Team (18-25 year olds)* –

If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion for reaching out to and mentoring young adults, join our Young Adults Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and events to help people in this season of life pursue Christlikeness, build Biblically functioning community and reach out to their friends.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for people to discuss their faith.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

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15. *Singles Ministry Team (25-60 year olds)* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, creative communication and/or community building and are interested in connecting with other singles who have a passion for building community and connecting the unconnected, join our Singles Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and events to help people in this season of life pursue Christlikeness, build Biblically functioning community and reach out to their friends.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for the singles in our community to discuss their faith.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

16. *Elderly Ministry Team (60+ year olds)* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion, healing, wisdom, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion to reach out to other elderly, build community and connect the unconnected, join our Elderly Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and events to help people in this season of life pursue Christlikeness, build Biblically functioning community and reach out to their friends.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for the Elders in our community to discuss their faith.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

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17. *Men's Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion, healing, wisdom, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion for sharing your faith, join our Men's Ministry Team for faith based activities, building community and connecting the unconnected.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and events to help people in this season of life pursue Christlikeness, build Biblically functioning community and reach out to their friends.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for men to discuss their faith.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

18. *Women's Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion, healing, wisdom, creative communication and/or community building, have a passion for sharing your faith and building mentoring relationships with other women in the community and connecting the unconnected, join our Women's Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of gatherings and events to help people in this season of life pursue Christlikeness, build Biblically functioning community and reach out to their friends.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for women to discuss their faith.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the events operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

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19. *Support Groups Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, evangelism, faith, hospitality, administration, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion, healing, wisdom, creative communication and/or community building and have a passion for reaching out to and mentoring and connecting those in need of support, building community and connecting the unconnected, join our Support Groups Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan to invite speakers and specialists for specific support-based assistance to the group/individual.
- Supply materials and guidelines that will help the groups operate smoothly.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.
- Lead the events, small groups and retreats.
- Create fun relational environments for people to discuss their faith.
- Do follow-up counseling and respond to any crises that might arise. Work with Christian counselors, pastors, elders, etc., in our area and refer people to reliable and qualified specialists. Manage a data base of support groups in the area and help people get connected where needed.
- Follow up on the various events and help people toward the next steps along the life process.

Worship & Special Services Ministry Teams:

20. *Worship Team* – If you are gifted in playing an instrument, singing, music/worship leading, creative communication, faith, encouragement and/or intercession and have a passion for worship and leading people in worship, join our Worship Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan the worship songs and hymns to be used during our worship services in conjunction with the programming, drama and teaching teams.
- Build and train Godly teams of musicians, singers, choirs, and worship leaders.
- Plan and perform periodic worship concerts to raise the value of worship in our community.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists of any special

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concerts and worship services with the staff and communications teams.

21. *Drama Team* – If you are gifted in acting or directing, creative communication, evangelism, encouragement and faith, and have a passion for drama and communicating the Gospel in creative ways, join our Drama Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Create and act out various skits, plays and periodic dramatic performances.
- Work with the programming, teaching and the worship teams to coordinate worship services.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists of any special dramatic productions with the staff and communications teams.

22. *Greeters Team* – If you are gifted in encouragement, evangelism, hospitality, discernment, pastor/shepherd, helps/service and connecting with people and have a passion to make sure people are welcomed in a way that moves them toward God and one another, join our Greeters Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Welcome new people who come to our services and move into our community by creating a hospitable environment and inviting them to join our worshiping community.
- Gather their contact information and guide them to next step opportunities for their growth.
- Follow up with new attendees to our church activities and new people in our neighborhood with a welcome gift and an invitation to learn about our community.

23. *Ushers Team* – If you are gifted in encouragement, faith, discernment, giving, helps/service, mercy/compassion and as a pastor/shepherd and have a passion to help people get in the right places at the right times for the right reasons during our worship and special services, join our Ushers team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Set up the sanctuary space, hand out weekly bulletins, help people find their seats, facilitate the collection of the offering, attend to anyone in distress during our services and guide people during communion.
- Hold periodic usher training opportunities for new people to understand ushering and be equipped to do it well.

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24. *Communion Preparation Team* – If you are gifted in hospitality, helps/service, faith and/or miracles and understand the importance of and are passionate about the sacrament of Holy Communion, join our Communion Preparation Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Prepare the communion wafers/bread and the chalices'/cups for distribution.
- Hold periodic training opportunities for new people to understand communion preparation and be equipped to do it well.
- Assist the Pastors and the Elders in the distribution of the communion elements.
- Clean up the leftovers and prepare some to be taken to shut-ins.

25. *Programming Team* – If you are gifted in teaching, administration, wisdom, evangelism, craftsmanship, discernment, music/worship leading and/or creative communication and are passionate about designing integrated services that flow together and send a powerful message, join our Programming Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Program our worship services and manage the time of our worship services and gatherings.
- Work with the leaders of the drama, worship, ushering, and teaching teams and create integrated plans for the flow of our worship services that inspire people to glorify God with their lives and live lives of sacrificial worship to God.
- Work with the Elders to get the right people in the right places at the right time.
- Coordinate advertising, resource production and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

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26. *Teaching Team* – If you are a gifted in teaching, prophecy, evangelism, wisdom, exhortation/disciple-making and/or creative communication, have the character of a deacon, and are passionate about communicating God’s truth, join our Teaching Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Preach and create sermon series to be taught during our worship and special services.
- Coordinate and select guest speakers.
- Interact with Elders concerning the teaching needs of the body.

Membership, Small Groups & Pastoral Care Ministry Teams:

27. *Small Group Leadership Community* – If you are gifted in encouragement, teaching, prophecy, leadership, pastoring/shepherding, wisdom, faith, discernment, hospitality, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion and/or community building and have a passion for facilitating Biblically functioning community, shepherding people in their faith and helping them grow, join our Small Group Leadership Community. Small group leaders must have the spiritual qualifications of deacons.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Pray for the people in our small groups, the other small group leaders and the shepherding ministry of our church.
- Plan and facilitate covenant life groups, growing people in their commitment to Christ, one another, the authority of Scripture and the journey of transformation.
- As apprentice leaders rise up, begin new Covenant Life Groups where people can live out their faith and grow.
- Provide regular training and coaching for small group leaders.
- Commit to attending our leadership community gatherings.

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28. *Membership Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in prophecy, discernment, teaching, encouragement, exhortation/disciple-making, evangelism, community building and/or pastoring/shepherding and have a passion for building community and helping people understand how to live in Biblically functioning community, join our Membership Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Work with newly baptized people connected to our community and guide them through the membership process.
- Work with the Christian Life Training team to plan, promote and teach the Body Life Basics and/or the Church Membership Class.
- Provide regular training for small group leaders.

29. *Stephen Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in mercy/compassion, pastoring/shepherding, encouragement, healing, discernment, evangelism, wisdom, helps/service, exhortation/disciple-making and/or deliverance, have experience and training as a nurse, social worker or care giver; and have a passion for caring for people in pain and processing loss in their lives, join our Stephen Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Train members to function as Stephen Ministers in this one-to-one lay caring ministry.
- Teach the core competencies of listening, the ministry of presence, compassion and spiritual friendship.
- Publicize the presence of our Stephen ministers to our community so that they are aware of the presence of this ministry.
- Connect trained Stephen ministers to people in need.
- Work with the pastoral staff to visit people in the hospital and shut-ins.
- Provide regular training for Stephen ministers.

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30. *Pastoral Care and Counseling Team* – If you are gifted in mercy/compassion, pastoring/shepherding, encouragement, healing, discernment, evangelism, wisdom, helps/service, exhortation/disciple-making and/or deliverance, have experience and training as a pastoral counselor, Christian counselor, clinical social worker or caregiver, and have a passion for helping people process challenging issues in their lives, experiencing the healing of God in their lives and living with a Biblical word view, join our Pastoral Care and Counseling Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Meet with members and people connected to our community who approach us for pastoral care and counsel.
- Meet with individuals and couples looking for pastoral counseling.
- Do pre-marital and marital counseling with couples seeking to build marriages that experience and express the love of God.
- Use the U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage seminar training to help couples build a wise foundation in their marriage.
- Work with the Christian Life Training team to schedule, promote and facilitate U.N.I.T.Y. in marriage retreat weekends for couples to be educated and inspired to build stronger marriages.
- Follow up with retreat attendees and offer to mentor them in applying what they have learned.
- Keep an active list of trusted Christian psychologists and psychiatrists in our area to refer people to who are dealing with more complicated problems.

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Mentoring & Christian Life Training Ministry Teams:

31. *Omega Course Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in encouragement, prophecy, teaching, leadership, wisdom, stewardship, knowledge, hospitality, helps/service, pastoring/shepherding, deliverance, discernment, exhortation/disciple-making, community building, creative communication, administration and/or faith and have a passion for teaching people the basics of Christian Discipleship, helping them to build a personal growth plan and lay a wise foundation for their growth in Christ, join our Omega Course Ministry Team. We need people who have been through the Omega Course to function as teachers, small group leaders and hospitality hosts for both the programmatic larger Omega Courses and those that are done in a single small group.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Pray weekly for the leaders and participants going through the Omega Experience.
- Secure resources for participants and leaders in the Omega Course.
- Train small group leaders, mentors and live trainers to lead others through the Omega Course.
- Plan the calendar of sessions and other supporting seminars.
- Arrange seating, audio visual needs and food distribution (if applicable).
- Arrange for food and refreshments for everyone (if applicable) and clean up afterwards.
- Provide weekly e-mails reminding people of the daily devotionals and homework between sessions.

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32. *Mentoring Network Community* – If you are gifted in encouragement, exhortation/disciple-making, teaching, wisdom, stewardship, giving, leadership, faith, apostleship, knowledge, discernment, celibacy, pastoring/shepherding, mercy/compassion and/or community building and have a passion for training and mentoring people to live their faith and have the character qualifications of an elder, join our Mentoring Network Community.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Conduct regular mentor training for new mentors.
- Mentor people or couples who contact you for mentoring and Christian life coaching.
- Help people discern how to apply the Omega Course and other Biblical Christian life training seminar content, build a personal growth plan and live in obedience to God.
- Mentor small group leaders, covenant community members, elders, church council members and staff members as they strive to discern God's plans for their lives during various seasons.

33. *Christian Life Training Team* – If you are gifted in prophesy, exhortation/disciple-making, teaching, wisdom, stewardship, knowledge, pastoring/shepherding, hospitality, creative communication, administration and/or community building and have a passion for teaching people how to live their faith, join our Christian Life Training Team. People on this team should be comfortable in a classroom setting, affirmed as a knowledgeable speaker and teacher of Biblical truth. This involves teaching larger Bible study groups, topical seminars which examine important aspects of life and teach a Biblical world view. Teacher on this team must have the character qualifications of deacons.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Teach corporate Bible studies and Sunday School classes where people can study the Bible together.
- Teach topical seminars on different aspects or slices of the Christian faith for people to discover these areas in more depth and discover God's wisdom for living with a Biblical worldview in different areas of their lives. These seminars include: Empowered Servanthood, Making Cent\$, U.N.I.T.Y. in Marriage, Creating a Connection Culture, Godly Parenting, etc.

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Ministry Teams and Missions Teams:

34. *Empowered Servanthood Team* – If you are gifted in wisdom, stewardship, faith, pastoring/shepherding, administration, knowledge, prophecy, intercession, discernment, exhortation/disciple-making and/or administration, have a passion to help people find their unique calling of servanthood and connect them to ministry teams where they fit well, and can make a contribution to our overall ministry, join our Empowered Servanthood Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Work with the Christian Life Training team to plan, promote and teach the Empowered Servanthood Seminar several times throughout the year.
- Meet with participants to coach them in their calling and help them to understand the next step ministry opportunities that will be most beneficial and appropriate for them.
- Coordinate the advertising and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

35. *Service Project Team* – If you are gifted in helps/service, craftsmanship, hospitality, missions, exhortation/disciple-making, mercy/compassion, administration, leadership, martyrdom, volunteer poverty and/or encouragement and have a passion to serve others in practical service projects to our community and emergency response service project teams, join our Service Project Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Coordinate groups and schedule a calendar of events: soup kitchens, Habitat for Humanity etc.
- Train people to understand how to serve people's needs with dignity and joy.
- Organize the tools necessary to accomplish the various tasks and train people to use them safely.
- Make sure people have proper safety gear for each project.
- Coordinate the advertising and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

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36. *Missions Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in missions, hospitality, giving, stewardship, craftsmanship, exhortation/disciple-making, administration, volunteer poverty, prophecy, encouragement, teaching, miracles, leadership, apostleship, evangelism, martyrdom, knowledge, faith, healing, helps/service, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, mercy/compassion, community building and/or creative communication and have a passion for serving the needs of the kingdom in different places around the world, join our Missions Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Plan a calendar of different mission trips for our congregation to participate in around the world.
- Build and train a team of missionaries who are focused for the task or tasks that we are planning to complete, while able to remain flexible to the redirection and prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- As God leads, send resources to various missions that we have partnered with around the globe.
- As God leads, send and support missionaries from our congregation who feel called to serve the kingdom in some part of the world.
- Through publications and special missions weekends activities, keep our missionary efforts ever before our congregation and fan the flame for further missions work.
- Coordinate the advertising and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

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37. *Ministry Team Leaders Community* – If you are gifted in leadership, encouragement, administration, pastoring/shepherding, community building, wisdom, discernment, faith and or exhortation/disciple-making and have a passion for leading different ministry teams and helping people discover and mature in their unique calling of servanthood, join our Ministry Team Leader Community. Ministry team leaders have the spiritual qualifications of deacons.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Pray for the members of your ministry team.
- Commit to attending leadership community gatherings.
- Continue to grow through being mentored by one of our mentoring network coaches.
- Plan out and lead your ministry team's functions with excellence while continuing to build a connection culture where people are envisioned, valued and have a voice.
- As leaders rise up, help them to begin other ministry teams in preparation for planting other churches.
- Provide regular training and mentoring for the people in your ministry team.
- Coordinate the advertising and e-mail lists with the staff and communications teams.

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Axis of Coordinated Servanthood Ministry Teams:

38. *Communications Team* – If you are gifted in creative communication, administration, craftsmanship, helps/service and/or teaching, are skilled in writing, internet programming, website maintenance, computers, telephone systems newsletter production and have a passion to help us communicate internally and externally in a variety of ways, join our Communications Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Coordinate with all of the various ministry teams and small groups in our church to understand their calendar of events and meetings in order to properly let people in our community know what we are doing.
- Create and update our web-site with the input of our staff and ministry team and small group leaders.
- Create weekly bulletins to be distributed at our weekly worship services and other corporate gatherings.
- Prepare literature for distribution such as: brochures, bulletins, family devotionals, calendars, etc.
- Create and update our corporate data base including e-mail distribution lists.
- Organize teams of people to help create and distribute any hard copy mailings we deem necessary.
- Create and distribute any digital publications through e-mail.

39. *Audio Visual Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in craftsmanship, helps/service, creative communication and/or administration, have experience with the audio visual arts and are passionate about helping our worship services, seminars, dramatic productions and other ministries function with excellence and get captured for future use, join our Audio Visual Ministry Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Operate our video, sound equipment and recording devices during our worship and special services and our training seminars.
- Edit, create and reproduce audio and video resources from our worship and special services, training seminars.
- Do appropriate financial book keeping and tracking of resources.

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40. *Hospitality Team* – If you are gifted in hospitality, encouragement, craftsmanship, helps/service, administration, leadership, giving and/or miracles, have a passion for hospitality and are gifted in cooking food and creating hospitable environments at a variety of events, join our Hospitality Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Provide food and beverages at various gatherings (Sunday morning, Members meetings etc.).
- Create hospitable environments for people to relax and connect with God and one another.
- Partner with our other ministry teams to put on larger community events which require food and beverage preparation and hospitable environment creation (set-up and clean-up).

41. *Facilities Management Team* – If you are gifted in craftsmanship, helps/service, administration, stewardship and/or leadership, have experience building and maintaining facilities and caring for equipment and have a passion to build, care for, set-up and clean-up the various facilities that we use, join our Facilities Management Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Coordinate all building projects.
- Work with the Elders and Senior staff to assess our facility needs.
- Do proper maintenance of any facilities that we own and help us to properly care for any rented facilities.
- Maintain a calendar of space usage in order to maximize the use of our facilities and avoid double booking.
- Move equipment and materials when needed to facilitate the proper functioning of the various events, programs, groups and ministry teams.
- Clean up after our various activities, services and events and return our equipment and materials to its proper storage place.

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42. *Church Council (Trustees)* – If you are gifted in stewardship, wisdom, administration, helps/service, intercession, discernment, giving, exhortation/disciple-making, leadership, faith and/or encouragement and have a passion to see the business and administrative aspects of our ministry function with excellence and connection, you are a good fit for this team. Church council members first prove themselves as small group or ministry team leaders, have the character qualifications of a deacon, are nominated to serve by our staff and elders, and approved by our covenant community.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Oversee the collection of tithes and offerings on Sunday mornings and their proper transfer to those designated to account for them and deposit them into the proper accounts.
- Oversee our staff hiring, firing and personnel policies in conjunction with our senior staff and the approval of the elders.
- Oversee the support raising and financial stewardship education of our covenant community.
- Work with our elders and senior staff to create the annual budget and make adjustments to this budget as are deemed necessary.
- Oversee the allocation of funds, keeping of our financial records, and work with outside organizations to do due diligence such as tax preparation, pay roll, bank statements and audits.

43. *Clergy and Staff Team* – If you are gifted in and passionate about some aspect of our ministry that requires a paid staff position, are a member of our church or understand and believe in our Church's Mission and Covenant, we would recommend that you apply for any open ministry positions.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Play the specific roles for which you are hired according to your job description.
- Participate in covenant community life with our church or another local fellowship as a participating member.
- Engage in the regular staff training and report to your appropriate leader.
- As paid ministry staff it is important to maintain a vibrant and devout life apart from your job so that you don't become a ministry machine, but rather someone who abides in God and lets Him bear fruit through your life.
- We will strive for perfection but settle for excellence in all we do while building and maintaining a connection culture.

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44. *Elder Team* – If you are gifted in leadership, wisdom, discernment, pastoring/shepherding, administration, encouragement, exhortation/disciple-making, martyrdom, apostleship, evangelism and/or faith, have experience in small group leadership, ministry team leadership, conflict management, being mentored and mentoring others in their faith, live according to a personal growth plan and have the character qualifications of an Elder, our current elder team in conjunction with our leadership community will identify you and ask you to consider spending a season as an elder in training. After this season your name will be put before our covenant community for affirmation. Once approved, you will join our elder team as a sacrificial servant leader.

_____ serves as our coordinating elder, but this team is lead by the Holy Spirit and corporately through the unity of all the Elders.

- Oversee or administer the overall shepherding (lead, teach, strategize), philosophy of ministry, vision, and matters of church discipline.
- Lead the spiritual and prayer efforts of the church and serve as the primary mentors for the body, especially its leaders. Continually support, challenge and equip our leadership.
- Coordinate the efforts of the church and see that they are in line with Scripture and our mission.
- Set goals for the church (with are confirmed by the body) and keep the body focused on God, our mission and our goals. Work with our mentoring network coaches, church council and deacons (ministry team leaders and small group leaders) to administer our ministry in God honoring ways.

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Servant Leader Incubator Ministry Teams:

45. *Elder Training Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in exhortation/disciple-making, wisdom, discernment, prophecy, encouragement, teaching, community building, pastoring/shepherding, deliverance, faith and/or knowledge, have a passion for training the next generation of leaders and facilitating the reproductive function of our corporate life together, and are a current or former Elder or Senior staff member of a church, join this team. Members of this team have the character qualifications of elders.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Identify small group and ministry team leaders who have demonstrated maturity and through whom God is bearing fruit. Work with the Mentoring Network Coaches to add a layer of calling mentoring to their Christian life mentoring that they are already receiving.
- Train these elders in Body Life Advanced concepts so they are prepared to function as a fully participating elder who is responsible for the corporate oversight of our covenant community.
- Commit to attending leadership community gatherings.

46. *Clergy Training Ministry Team* – If you are gifted in prophecy, encouragement, teaching, leadership, apostleship, wisdom, knowledge, faith, pastoring/shepherding, exhortation/disciple-making, volunteer poverty, celibacy, administration and/or community building and have a passion for training servant leaders who are called to function in ordained ministry positions in our church and represent our church in this capacity to our community, have experience in pastoral leadership, Bible college or seminary training, training leaders, and have the character qualifications of an Elder, join our Clergy Training Ministry Team. This team will function in cooperation with other institutions of higher learning to provide our clergy and clergy in training with the best possible growth plan for their development.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Pray for all people feeling called into ordained clergy positions.
- Create and teach seminary level training programs which take people Biblical knowledge to the next level and equip them to exegete, teach and preach the Bible to others.
- Partner with local seminaries and denominational seminaries to provide distance and on campus training.

Appendix B

47. *Church Planting Team* – If you are gifted in apostleship, prophecy, encouragement, teaching, miracles, giving, leadership, martyrdom, evangelism, wisdom, stewardship, faith, knowledge, healing, craftsmanship, discernment, helps/service, pastoring/shepherding, deliverance, celibacy, hospitality, missions, intercession, exhortation/disciple-making, leading music/worship, creative communication, mercy/compassion, tongues, interpretation of tongues, administration, volunteer poverty and/or community building (basically every gift), are passionate about establishing holistic, transformational disciple-making communities (local fellowships/churches), and have the character qualifications of elders, join our Church Planting Team.

_____ leads and coordinates this team.

- Do reconnaissance of the region in question and beyond to understand the people and their needs. Network with leaders in the region to learn from them and promote kingdom building.
- Plan the next strategic area to plant a local fellowship in and lay the relational foundation for a fellowship with people of peace and a core group or groups.
- Serve as the overseers/elders of the growing fellowship until leaders are identified, equipped and commissioned to serve as elders.
- Help to identify and begin new small groups and ministry teams as needed.

The background of the page is composed of several rectangular blocks of color. On the left, there are three vertical blocks of varying shades of green. On the right, there is a large, textured illustration of a tree. The tree's canopy is rendered in shades of yellow and light green with dark, thin lines for branches. The trunk and roots are depicted in darker green and brown tones. The overall style is abstract and artistic.

Endnotes and Acknowledgements

Endnotes and Acknowledgements

Thanks to these sources from whom I have learned a great deal.

1. George, Carl E. *Prepare Your Church for the Future*, Fleming H. Revell Company (1991).
2. Warren, Rick, *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren (1995).
3. Blackaby, Henry & King, Claude V., *Experiencing God*, Life Way Press (1990).
4. Arrow Leadership Ministries, Vancouver, BC and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC.
5. Churches, denominations and church planting teams that have been influential in shaping my thinking: Bay Community Baptist Church, Swansea, MA.; Power Street Christian Fellowship, Providence, RI; Beacon Community Church, Newton, MA.; Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, IL.; North River Community Church, Pembroke, MA.; Grace Fellowship Church, Timonium, MD.; The Fellowship, Annapolis, MD.; The Fellowship of Church Planters, Warwick, RI.; the Baptist Convention of New England and its director Ken Lyle, Stanwich Congregational Church, Greenwich, CT.; Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, IL.
6. Dr. Hal Poe from Southern Theological Seminary, who began me on this journey of looking at the church using a military model, and other seminary professors and pastors who have influenced me in my walk with Jesus.
7. For Bruce Dreisbach and the New England Research Project; the Willow Creek Association and their discipleship research that they have conducted through Reveal and Follow Me; and George Barna and Barna Research for world class reconnaissance.
8. Steven Machia and Vision New England's Healthy Church research.
9. George Barna and the research from the Barna Group.

Body Life Basics Seminar Evaluation & Testimonial

Date _____ Seminar Location: _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Thank you for attending the Body Life Basics Seminar. The feedback you provide will help us learn how to serve you and others better.

Please circle the number that best
represents your response

Low

High

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The overall effectiveness of this seminar | | | | | |
| 2. The overall effectiveness of this workbook | | | | | |
| 3. The overall effectiveness of your trainer | | | | | |
| 4. Your understanding of Decision-Making
Flow Chart/Reconnaissance | | | | | |
| 5. Your understanding of Our Mission | | | | | |
| 6. Your understanding of Faith Functions | | | | | |
| 7. Your understanding of Life Process | | | | | |
| 8. Your understanding of Global Goals | | | | | |
| 9. Your understanding of Our Organism/
Logistics/Tactics | | | | | |

Please respond to the following:

1. How has your understanding of Body Life Basics changed as a result of this seminar?

2. Which session(s) had the most impact on you and why?

3. What do you intend to do differently to become an intentional connector?

Body Life Basics Seminar Evaluation & Testimonial

Testimony:

May we use your name and job title in conjunction with your endorsement?
(All other information is strictly confidential.)

Yes (title: _____) **No _____**

Please use the space below to write a brief testimony about what Body Life Basics meant to you and why you would recommend it to others.

What one thing did God reveal to you most clearly as a result of Body Life Basics, and what are you going to do about it?

If you had to sum up your experience in one word, what would it be?

Further Involvement

The ministry of the Life Spring Network exists because of the prayer, service and financial generosity of people who believe in the need for reproductive disciple-making locally and abroad and have helped bring this experience to you. Would you be willing to support the spread of our ministry in the following ways?

Check those you feel God leading you to do:

☐ Prayer: Being an active part of our intercessory prayer team!

☐ Volunteer: Helping us administer our ministry, put on seminars and spread the word to others!

☐ Financially: Pay forward your ministry experience and help us to bring this seminar and our reproductive disciple-making ministry to others!

☐ Please contact me about engaging in one-on-one Mentoring/Life Coaching.

☐ Please sign me up to receive daily email devotionals

Selecting one of the above automatically registers you to receive our e-newsletter which keeps you abreast of what is happening in our ministry and keeps you updated on other courses and seminars. We will contact you to follow up with your desire to get involved. Please understand that by submitting your endorsement, we may use all or portions of it for research, donor and promotional purposes.