

# Pre-Launch Guide for New Church Starts

A School of Congregational Development Resource



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## New Faith Community Context Templates

Designed primarily for new church starts, these templates can be used by new and existing congregations to develop a strategy for understanding your context and setting a timeline for forming new faith communities. Use the following tables (you can change, add, or revise questions as well as fill in the data) to develop the first phase of your new faith community.

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**Definition of Terms:**

Over the years a number of different terms have been developed to in the area of congregational development. Here are some of the most common terms. The term in bold is what will be used in this book:

**Church Planter:** This is the specific leader who is entrusted with the responsibility of starting a new church. In a Connectional New Church Start, he or she is the person who is appointed by the conference to start the church. In a Parenting New Church Start, this is the person who works on behalf of the parenting congregation to start the new work.

**Congregational Development Network:** A group of staff with primary responsibility in Congregational Development in Annual Conferences who meet together for support and to resource the United Methodist Church denomination for new church development.

**Discipleship System:** The way a congregation connects all aspects of its ministry into a process that moves people from unbelief, to faith in Jesus Christ, to spiritual leadership and maturity. Its what the local church develops and implements that moves people from before (disconnected to God and the local church/non-Christian/unbeliever, etc.) to after (fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ/spiritual leader/disciple, etc.).

**Disciples-Making Faith Community:** A faith community whose primary focus is to engage newcomers in such a way that they become active Christians in their local church and community.

**Faith Community:** When a congregation intentionally connects its worship life with a discipleship process so that it becomes a disciple-making faith community.

**New Faith Community:** This is when a congregation creates a new worshiping congregation and combines it with a specific discipleship process for new people and existing members who become part of this faith community. Listed below are six prototypes of new faith communities.



**1. Connectional New Church:** (Parachute/Single Site/Church Plant) When the resources of The United Methodist Church are brought together to launch a new church that is not connected to an existing congregation with the goal that it becomes a chartered United Methodist Church. In the United Methodist system, the Annual Conference and/or District gives the financial support and provides the training for the church planter. In some cases the initial work is done by a team of laity or churches in the area before a pastor is appointed.

**2. Parenting (Church starting Church, Mother/Daughter):** When an existing congregation uses its resources to support and launch a new church that in the future will be independent of the parent church and be chartered as a United Methodist Church. In the United Methodist Church this can be done by an existing church on its own, or it is done with the help of the Annual Conference and/or District who provides funding for part of the work, usually the salary of the church planter. In some cases the church planter will act as an associate pastor under the umbrella of the leadership of the parenting church until the new church is launched.

**3. New Worshiping Faith Community:** When an existing congregation starts a new worship experience that is linked to a discipleship system on its own campus.

**4. Satellite:** When an existing congregation launches a new faith community that is not on the main campus with the goal that it always will stay connected to the existing church (this may be in a school, movie theater, office complex, etc.).

**5. Adoptive Parent:** When an existing congregation who is growing adopts a struggling congregation, with the goal that it becomes a satellite or a re-launch of a new church.

**6. Multi-site:** When an existing congregation offers multiple ministries on multiple campuses. This also can be a strategy for a group of congregations in a particular community who combine their resources and their administration, with a clear leadership team that leads the newly configured congregation

**Launch:** The first day when a new church or an existing congregation offers a new weekly worship experience that is tied to a discipleship process.

**Path I Team:** A United Methodist denominational team made up of representatives from the Council of Bishops, the Congregational Development Network, The General Board of Discipleship, The General Board of Global Ministries, The General Board of High Education and Ministry, United Methodist Communications, church planters, and the five national ethnic plans. The Path I team has the responsibility for developing and implementing a national strategy for new church development in the United States.

**Postlaunch:** A new phase of ministry that happens after the launch of weekly worship that focuses on offering weekly experiential worship and connecting people to the discipleship process.

**Prelaunch:** The work that is done in preparation for the launching of a new faith community including understanding the context of the community, the casting of a vision, the development of a discipleship process, and the creation of the weekly worship experience that will be offered. Usually a six to fifteen month process depending on the context and the strategies that are used.

**Preview Service:** When a new church or an existing congregation offers a once a month worship experience as a way to build momentum for the launch of a new faith community.

**Turn-Around Congregation:** A congregation who has been in decline over a number of years who implements a strategy to become a disciple-making faith community that engages the people in its community to become active followers of Jesus Christ.

**What is a New Church? The Path 1 Team defines a new church as follows:****New Church:**

**A new congregation is a newly organized faith community that is committed to making *disciples* of Jesus Christ and that**

- **Includes regular community worship:** Worship is the environment where the community of faith connects to God and one another. It is one of the primary means of grace that forms both the spiritual life of individuals and the faith community as a whole.
- **Is theologically Wesleyan:** United Methodists have a unique contribution to make to the world. Its Wesleyan roots gives congregations a rich heritage of theology and practice from which to draw as they invite people into Christian discipleship.
- ***Is willing to plant a new congregation in its first decade:*** Churches that see themselves as part of a wider connection consistently seek ways to multiply their ministries. One of the most effective ways to do so is to start new churches and new faith communities.
- **Has an effective discipleship system:** For many congregations this is the missing link in their congregational life. A church may offer worship, love its Methodist heritage, and do community service, but without a discipleship system that connects all its ministry together it will fail to bring new people into the life of faith.
- **Does community outreach:** Churches are called to serve others, this includes the community in which they are located. Service in the community becomes both a witness to our faith and a response to meeting real human needs.
- ***Receives new members:*** The end goal is not simply putting up buildings, its being involved in the spiritual lives of people. Effective faith communities consistently draw new people into the community of faith with the goal of equipping them to become disciples of Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Path 1 Team National Strategy Presentation. Team members include Bishops, representatives from GBOD, GBGB, BHED, UMCOM, the Connectional Table, the five national plans, church planters, and representatives of the Network of Congregational Developers.

**Strategic Timeline:**

In order to have an effective launch of a new faith community, the following steps need to be developed and implemented:

**Personal Vitality Analysis and Spiritual Disciplines of the Leader (Months One to Three)**

The most important component of a new church start is the quality and spiritual maturity of the leader. As a church planter moves into the field, he or she will be moving from an established pattern of life that is tied to the work of leading an already established congregation. In a Connectional New Church Start, the church planter will need to establish a new pattern of spiritual formation and work habits in anticipation of the launch which will be months away. In a Parenting Model the tendency is to do what you did before, jump right into the life of the existing congregation, including leading worship. While some time needs to be focused on learning the DNA of the parent church, the church planter also needs to spend considerable time in spiritual discernment and biblical reflection. Instead of spending time in sermon preparation, spend your time reading the Bible and in prayer. Here are some key things that can be done in the first few months of the new church start:

1. **Biblical reflection:** Rather than preparing for weekly worship, take time to read the Bible using some of these questions:
  - a. What are the key Biblical passages and images that will connect with the context of the community where the church is being established?
  - b. What stories in the Bible are formative for you?
  - c. Which ones will under gird the vision of the church?
  
2. **Prayer:** This is a critical time to reconnect with your call as you seek God for direction and vision for the new church start. Experiment with different types of prayer to establish an intentional devotional pattern that you can sustain in the long run. There are a number of resources on prayer that you can look at by going to [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org). Here is a sample:

<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional> - The online version of the Upper Room Devotional Magazine.

**Beginning Prayer**

By John Killinger

**Changed from Glory into Glory**

Wesleyan Prayer for Transformation  
By Paul W. Chilcote

**A Disciple's Journal**

Daily Bible Reading and Guidance for Reflection  
(Year A, B, C)  
By Steven W. Manskar

**Journaling**

A Spiritual Journey (Revised and Expanded)  
By Anne Broyles

**A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God**

(paperback edition)  
By Norman Shawchuck, Rueben P. Job

**Use the Listening to God template to develop your prayer life and develop a strategy for prayer support for this ministry.**

<b>Listening to God</b>
<b>Who is praying for this new ministry? (list names)</b>
<b>Who are your prayer partners? (list names)</b>
<b>Who is holding you accountable for your spiritual growth? (list names)</b>
<b>Tips</b>
<p><u>Create</u> a prayer letter or email letter that you send at least once a month to people who agree to be in prayer for this ministry. Include your District Superintendent, Conference Staff person related to new church development, and the Bishop on this list.</p> <p><u>Find</u> at least one prayer partner in your area with whom you meet at least twice a month.</p> <p><u>Find</u> a mentor or coach who holds you accountable for your spiritual growth and development as well for the steps related to the new church start.</p>

## Developing an intentional plan for developing the Spiritual Life of the Leaders. (Months One – Three)

On the following page you will find a template you can use with leaders as you look at ways to develop their spiritual life. Here are the main components:

### 1. What Spiritual Disciplines will be normative for leaders in your congregation?

One of the foundational aspects of United Methodist Christians is the way they approach the spiritual life as an ongoing process of growth and maturity. The early Methodists talked about Wesley's Means of Grace, that through the practice of spiritual disciplines a believer's life is formed in Christ. More importantly, this was not a singular process, it was the responsibility of the whole community of faith to grow in spiritual maturity. In the earliest forms, Methodists met on a regular basis in classes to hold one another accountable for the way they were growing in faith in practice. Key to the growth of the spiritual life of the congregation is developing leaders who practice spiritual disciplines. It is very important to establish what are the normative expectations for leaders in your congregation. As the church planter, you will set the standard as well.

### 2. What is your plan for continued spiritual growth and development?

**How do you connect with God?** As you start the church you have an opportunity to set a new pattern for your spiritual life. Many are encouraged to set up a weekly day apart for prayer, reflection, and discernment. A day apart is not vacation – in fact it is a central part of the work of a spiritual leader, to pray, reflect, and seek God.

When you lead worship, you typically are not fully devoted to worshipping God. Finding a place to worship that is outside of your church to feed your soul.

Just as important is praying with other people. Developing a prayer partner, praying with family, and developing prayer connection with others is essential for the health of the leaders.

**How are you connecting with others?** It is easy to become so caught up in the new church start that you lose perspective. If you are married and have a family you need to make sure you are spending time with them. You also need to think about how this impacts their spiritual development – if you have a teenager in the house, he or she may need to be active in a youth group at another church, until you have a youth program in place. Spending time with friends outside of the new church plant is also important.

**What arts feed your soul?** The creator has equipped us to be creative. Take time to develop your artistic side – it will help you connect with your congregation and others who will become part of the creative aspects of developing worship.

**How are you taking care of your body?** Starting a new church is very stressful. Paying attention to your physical health and developing healthy eating habits and an exercise routine is a requirement for success, not an option for when you have free time.

<b>Spiritual Life of the Leaders</b>	
<b>What spiritual disciplines will be normative for leaders in your congregation?</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly worship <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Bible reading <input type="checkbox"/> Daily prayer Frequency of communion: ___ Weekly   _ Monthly   _ Other <input type="checkbox"/> Service to others <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting or abstinence <input type="checkbox"/> Family prayer Other: _____	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wesley's Means of Grace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public worship of God</li> <li>• The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded</li> <li>• The Lord's Supper</li> <li>• Family and private prayer</li> <li>• Searching the Scriptures</li> <li>• Fasting or abstinence</li> <li>• Christian conferencing</li> </ul>
Tip: How will you teach & mentor your leaders in these disciplines?	
<b>What is your plan for your continued spiritual growth and development?</b>	
<b>How do you connect with God?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Day apart <input type="checkbox"/> Worship with other congregations <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with a prayer partner or coach <input type="checkbox"/> Family prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotion Other: _____	<b>How are you connecting with others?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Time alone with spouse or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Focused time with your children <input type="checkbox"/> Family night/day <input type="checkbox"/> Regular connection with extended family <input type="checkbox"/> Time with friends outside of church Other: _____
<b>What arts feed your soul?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Playing a musical instrument or singing <input type="checkbox"/> Writing   _ Drawing   _ Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening   Other: _____	<b>How are you taking care of your body?_</b> Walking/running   _ Active in a sport_ Healthy diet   _ Yoga/pilates   Other: _____
<b>Tips</b>	
<p>As a spiritual leaders you are creating the normative expectations for spiritual growth in your congregation. Many new church pastors set aside one day a week for prayer, reflection, and visioning. Later when you move to weekly worship this becomes a day for prayer and sermon preparation. Your prayer life, physical health, artistic pursuits, and relationships have a direct influence on the spiritual life of your leaders. Build in the time and experiences that sustains you and connects you to God and others.</p>	
Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational DevelopmentThe General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church	

**Congregational DNA:<sup>2</sup>**

The primary role of the new church planter in the first six to nine months is to articulate, define, and develop the Congregational DNA of the new church. Below is listed the three aspects of Congregational DNA. As you work through the material, you will first focus on the Niche, then the Discipleship Process, and Affection.

**Discipleship Process:** The Discipleship Process is the system that is developed for bringing people into the life of faith in Jesus Christ through this particular congregation. Its is based on the congregation's beliefs about God, the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the faith traditions that serve as the foundation for faith and practice. Everything that happens in the life of the church from worship to the ministry in the nursery is part of the Discipleship Process. Its moves people from being disconnected to the life of faith to becoming ambassadors of Jesus Christ who share God's love wherever they go.

**Niche:** Every congregation has a niche, a segment of the wider religious / spiritual market that it serves. When a church proclaims that its United Methodist, Baptist, or non-denominational it is narrowing down the potential audience of people who will participate in its ministry. When its worship is offered in English, it's saying to those who speak other languages that this is not designed for them. The same is true if the worship is offered only in Spanish or Chinese. The components of a niche are roughly defined by the demographics of the congregation and whom it seeks to reach. Age, ethnicity, cultural groups, and language are part of the spectrum of variables that determine for whom this church is created.

**Affection:** Affection refers to the emotional heartbeat of a congregation. What is its passion? Whom does it love? When a congregation is passionate about its children its willing to give extra to build an education wing. When it loves the homeless, it will do anything in its power to create a ministry of care and justice to the whole community. Love translates to who will be attracted to the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Miller, Craig Kennet, *7 Myths of the United Methodist Church*, Discipleship Resources, to be released in 2008.

## Niche

**What makes your congregation unique? Each congregation offers a spiritual alternative to its community. The type of people that are attracted to the church is dependent on your niche. Use the following questions to define your niche.**

**Nexus: What is the center of congregational life? (for some congregations it may be worship, for others small group Bible studies or ministry to children – what is it that drives or holds the congregation together?)**

**Innovation: What ways do you adapt to the culture of the community in order to share the gospel in a way that connects? (a website that allows people to learn about your church before they come to worship is an example of an innovation that connects with changing culture).**

**Context: What are the demographics of the community in which your church resides – ethnicity, language, age, income, and marital status?**





	Community	Congregation
Racial Ethnic Make-up		
Languages spoken		
Age		
Income level		
Marital Status		

**Hopes & Dreams: What are the hopes and dreams of the people who live in the community?**

**Experience: What is unique about what you have to offer in the context of community life (sports, non-profits, businesses, etc.)?**

**Source:** The Ministry Plan is based on material found in *NextChurch.Now: Creating New Faith Community* and *7 Myths of the United Methodist Church* (to be published in the Spring of 2008) by Craig Kennet Miller. Copyright 2007, GBOD. Permission is given to use this material in local church settings.

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Context – 12 Week Plan											
W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	W9	W10	W11	W12
<b>Refine Demographics (community profile, context analysis, et.)</b>											
<b>Contact School principals</b>											
<b>Meet with Community Leaders</b>											
<b>Visit Churches (use Church Survey) and contact Church Leaders</b>											
<b>Context Summary of Demographics</b>											
<b>Define your Community of Faith Characteristics (CVI)</b>											
<b>Tips</b>											
Using bars  develop your timeline for each area.											
						<b>Copy, paste, &amp; expand.</b>					
Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational Development The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church											

<b>Context Worksheet</b>
<b>Demographics</b>
<p>GBGM or U.S. Census report          Planning office in City or County          Drive around tour          Third Place (list places outside of the church that people in your proposed target group are gathering)</p> <p>Church visits (go as a visitor to a number of churches in the area to see who they are attracting – list possible choices below)</p>
<b>School principals – List possible schools to visit below</b>
<b>Community Leaders – List possible community leaders to visit</b>
<b>Churches and Church Leaders – List possible churches &amp; pastors to visit</b>
<p>Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational Development          The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church</p>

### Your Community Profile

Fill out below using data from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).  
Click on **American Fact Finder**.  
Next click on **People**.  
Next input your **City and State**.  
**Scroll down screen using the categories listed below to fill in your data.**  
**Use 2000 Census Data.** Use most recent data later.

		Number		Number
<b>Education:</b>			<b>Age &amp; Sex:</b>	
<b>School Enrollment:</b>			<b>Total Population</b>	
Nursery school, preschool			<b>Hispanic or Latino and Race:</b>	Percent
K-12 (add the categories)			<b>Race and Hispanic or Latino</b>	
College or graduate level			Hispanic or Latino	
Population 25 years & older			Not Hispanic or Latino	
<b>Disability:</b>		Percent	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	
<b>Disability Status by Sex</b>			Black or African American	
Population 16 to 64 with disability			American Indian & Alaska Native	
<b>Marital Status:</b>	M – 15 & Older %	F – 15 & Older %	Asian	
Never Married			White	
Now Married			Some other race	
Separated			Two or more races	
Widowed				
Divorced			<b>Ability to speak English:</b>	Percent
<b>Citizenship, Year of Entry:</b>		Percent	English Only	
Born in the United States			Language other than English	
Foreign Born				

Explore the site to see if you spot other trends. Compare the most recent data with the 2000 numbers. Compare the results with data from other sources like GBGM and Percept. Write your observations here:

1. Which categories have the highest number?

2. What did you discover that you didn't know before?

3. What does this tell you about who needs to be on your launch team?

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The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church

**Demographics by walking around: Restaurant:** \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment: As you go to a restaurant, see whom they are trying to reach.

How are they positioning themselves? (whom are they trying to reach)

Atmosphere

Dress code

Type of food

Music in the background

Do the customers reflect the target audience?

How well do the waiters and staff reflect the customers?

Dress code

Way they take the order

Do they know the menu?

Service

Did you feel welcomed?

Was the food prepared as you requested?

Was it served on time?

What implication does this have about your church?

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The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church

<b>CHURCH VISIT SURVEY: CHURCH NAME:</b> _____	
<b>How did you find out about the church?</b>	
Phone book Website	Personal contact Advertising
Other: _____	
Where are they meeting?	
Church sanctuary Church fellowship hall Church chapel Other _____	School: HS Middle Elementary Movie Theatre Converted office space
Describe the people who they are reaching (age, ethnicity, dress code, etc.).	
<u>Childcare (check those that apply)</u> Easily found Friendly teachers Clean rooms Check-in system for security Other observations _____ _____	<u>Hospitality (check those that apply)</u> Signs and/or banners for rooms Clear information about the church Friendly greeters Clear directions for order of worship Friendly worship participants Personal invitation to other activities Friendly pastor & staff Other _____
<b>Worship experience</b>	
1. What was the format of worship?  2. Style of music?  3. Did all elements of the worship flow together?	4. What was the main message?  5. What did you learn?  6. What needs improvement?
What makes them unique? What alternative are they offering?	

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**Context Summary of Demographics**

1. Combine data and write a summary of the primary demographic group in the area. Include items like greatest needs, hopes, and dreams.

2. Combine data and write a summary of the secondary demographic group. Include items like greatest needs, hopes, and dreams.

3. What are the major competitors for people's time in these groups?

4. What are existing churches offering to these groups?

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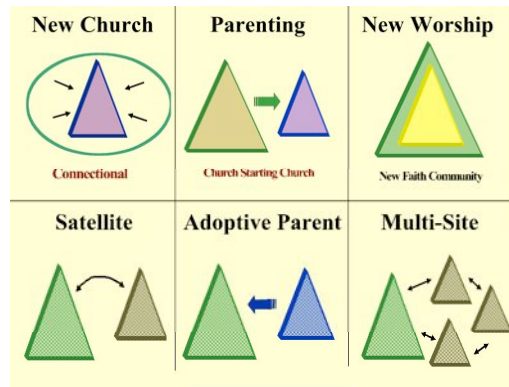
<b>Define your Community of Faith Characteristics (CVI) What alternative do you offer to what is already available?</b>
Identity and purpose (Who are you? What makes you unique?)
Spiritual formation (How do people live into faith and maturity?)
Discipleship system (What experiences and opportunities for learning are you offering?)
Steward formation (How do you talk about time, giving, and service?)
Faith sharing (What methodologies are you using for evangelism?)
Experiential worship (How does your worship design connect people to God? Do you need to offer more than one experience?)
CVI – Church Vitality Indicator: <a href="http://www.cvindicator.com">www.cvindicator.com</a>
Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational

## Discipleship Process

**The discipleship system includes everything that you do to help people connect with God and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ. Typical components of a discipleship system are worship, Christian education, and community service and outreach.**

1. What are the essential beliefs of the Christian faith?
  
2. What spiritual disciplines do active members of this faith community practice?
  
3. What do you offer for newcomers for the first three years they are involved in the life of your congregation? (Classes, seminars, experiences, ministry opportunities, worship, etc.)
  
4. How do all of these components work together so that a newcomer knows how to get plugged in?
  
5. What do you offer for spiritual growth and leadership development for long-term members and participants in your faith community? (someone who stays longer than three years)
  
6. How are you creating new faith communities for new people groups? (a people group may be a generational, racial ethnic and or language/cultural group)

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7. How does your congregation incorporate Celebrative Worship, Small groups, and Fellowship/Instruction groups in the life of the congregation?



8. What is your discipleship system for children and youth?
  
9. Rather than using the term contemporary or traditional, describe your worship experience(s)?
  
10. Describe the people who are coming for worship. If you have more than one worship experience what are the differences?
  
11. If you could start over, what current elements of your worship would you keep? What would you change?
  
12. How would you describe the preaching style of this/these experience(s)?
  
13. Who designs your worship? How can this be improved?

**S.T.I.C.K.Y.:**

**Congregations that retain and keep people are sticky. Look at these characteristics and see how your church can improve in these areas:**

- S** **acred:** An effective church knows what business it is in. Its contribution to the greater community is its unique ability to create God-space – environments where seekers and believers can connect to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
- T** **ransformative:** A congregation that grows has a focus on serving others. The goal is not to build a church; its goal is to build people. They do so by developing a discipleship process that moves people from being disconnected to God to become servant leaders in the world who follow Christ’s call in their lives. They introduce people to spiritual practices like worship, prayer, reading scripture, family and personal devotion, fasting, faith sharing, stewardship, accountability, and service.
- I** **nnovative:** In order to create a new thing, you have to be willing to learn from your mistakes. Risk and reward is a cycle of creation that moves an organization forward in its growth and development. A church also has to learn from its newest people as they give insights as to what brings meaning and purpose to their lives and to people who share a similar culture.
- C** **hrist-like:** What attracts people is an authentic Christian community of faith that practices what it says. It enables people to grow and mature as followers of Jesus Christ.
- K** **inetic:** A church that attracts people generates energy and excitement around a compelling vision that ignites people’s imaginations as they follow God.
- Y** **ielding:** As the church matures it must constantly seek God through prayer for purpose and direction. It must be flexible to adopt to change as it forms a faith community that responds to the needs of the community and the congregation.

## Affection

**As a congregation whom do you love? At the heart of every congregation is a group of leaders who are responsible for the spiritual life of the congregation. They may be called a team, a board, or a core group. How they interact with each other has great influence on the life of the whole congregation. Affection also has to do with the allocation of resources. If a congregation says they love teenagers, but have no budget or staff for ministry with teens, then they really do not have affection for teens. Lastly affection has to do with your relationship to God. How in daily living do you and other leaders in your congregation connect with God?**

1. Based on the means of grace fill out the Spiritual Leader Checklist

*Complete the following survey, giving yourself 10 points for each yes answer.*

### Points

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I say grace before each meal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I set aside a time to pray each day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. At least once a week, I pray out loud with another person (with a family member, a friend, a person at work or church).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I read at least one verse of Scripture every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I attend worship at our church at least three times a month.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. At least twice a month I meet with a group of people to pray, reflect on Scripture, and build one another up. (Small group, Sunday school, prayer group, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I take Communion at least once a month.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. At least once a month I give of myself to others. (I volunteer at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen, visit in a nursing home, tutor a child, visit a prisoner, mow a neighbor's lawn, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I fast once a week. (I give up food for a period of time or do a media fast and go without electronic media — TV, radio, etc. — for a day.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. As part of every meeting at church, we spend 10-15 minutes praying together and reflecting on a Scripture passage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total

2. **What spiritual disciplines does your leadership team make a commitment to practice?**





3. **What does this say about you and about the type of team you need to create to work with you?**

4. What are the core values of your congregation?





Allocation of resources:

How are you allocating your financial resources?

List the major components of ministry in your church and list the financial resources devoted to each one. You may even put them by percentage. (pastoral leadership, worship, church school, youth ministry, children’s ministry, missional outreach, etc.). What does this say about whom you love?





Strategic Timeline – 12 Months											
July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
<b>Personal Vitality Analysis and Spiritual Disciplines of the Leader</b>											
<b>Context Assessment: Demographics, Contacts, &amp; Analysis</b>											
<b>Vision: Values, Mission, Vision, Strategy</b>											
<b>Launch Team: Incubate first group of leaders</b>											
<b>Discipleship System: Define classes, seminars, &amp; experiences for newcomers</b>											
<b>Gatherings: Small groups, Fellowship groups, pre-launch worship</b>											
<b>Public Launch of Weekly Worship: Set launch date and work backwards</b>											
<b>Tips</b>											
Using bars  develop your timeline for each area.											
						Copy, paste, & expand.					
Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational Development The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church											

*Equipping leaders with both knowledge and skills to move toward successful church starts.*

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Strategic Timeline – 12 Months (example)											
July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
<b>Personal Vitality Analysis and Spiritual Disciplines of the Leader</b>											
<b>Context Assessment: Demographics, Contacts, &amp; Analysis</b>											
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Strategic Timeline – 16 Months															
J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
<b>Personal Vitality Analysis and Spiritual Disciplines of the Leader</b>															
<b>Context Assessment: Demographics, Contacts, &amp; Target Group Analysis</b>															
<b>Cast Vision: Values, Mission, Vision, Strategy</b>															
<b>Launch Team: Incubate first group of leaders</b>															
<b>Discipleship System: Define classes, seminars, &amp; experiences for newcomers</b>															
<b>Gatherings: Small groups, Fellowship groups, pre-launch worship</b>															
<b>Public Launch of Weekly Worship: Set launch date and work backwards</b>															
<p>Using bars  develop your timeline for each area.</p> <p>  </p> <p><b>Copy, paste, &amp; expand.</b></p>															
<p>Developed by the Center for Evangelism through New Congregational Development The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church</p>															

Strategic Timeline – 16 Months (example)															
J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
<b>Personal Vitality Analysis and Spiritual Disciplines of the Leader</b>															
██████████															
<b>Context Assessment: Demographics, Contacts, &amp; Target Group Analysis</b>															
██████████															
<b>Cast Vision: Values, Mission, Vision, Strategy</b>															
		████████████████████													
<b>Launch Team: Incubate first group of leaders</b>															
		██													
<b>Discipleship System: Define classes, seminars, &amp; experiences for newcomers</b>															
			████████████████████												
<b>Gatherings: Small groups, Fellowship groups, pre-launch worship</b>															
						██									
<b>Public Launch of Weekly Worship: Set launch date and work backwards</b>															
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Using bars ██████████ develop your timeline for each area.</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Copy, paste, &amp; expand.</p> </div> <div style="width: 40%;"></div> </div>															
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Ministry of Time

“There is s time for everything....” Ecclesiastes 3: 1

The way you use your time is a witness to others.  
 The spiritual and numerical growth of a church is dependent on the pastor’s willingness to let go of the ministry-- develop the ministry of the baptized.  
 Who holds you accountable for your time?  
 Set aside one day for visioning and prayer.  
 Share & develop this with your family and/or close friends before you start!!!!

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

Plan your week in blocks of time.

Office hours	Leadership development
Contact hours	Tasks (nuts & bolts)
Personal Spiritual Growth	Time off
Personal time (exercise, play, etc.)	Personal relationships (family, spouse, children, friends)
Other: _____	

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 The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Prayer Concerns:</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Contacts:</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Tasks:</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Leader Development:</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Personal Spiritual Growth</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting with God
	<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting with others
	<input type="checkbox"/> Arts
	<input type="checkbox"/> Body
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Tip: Every meeting is a time to develop your leaders!</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	
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