

SMALL CHURCH

DISCIPLE04:

A Plan for Discipleship

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Description:

Struggling with declination and a rapidly changing mission landscape in North America, United Methodist pastors and denominational leaders desiring to see change are driven towards models of competency--defined as efficiency, effectiveness, and control--with the hope of improving outcomes. Metrics and dashboards become the order of the day. However, spiritual discipline (the means of grace), not competency, was the defining practice in the early Wesleyan movement.

This invites participants to explore the ways in which the “instituted” means of grace, as understood and practiced by John Wesley and participants in the Wesleyan movement, give shape and form to the Christian life and ministry in the world today.

Content:

I. Introduction to the Means of Grace in the theology and practice of John Wesley

- a. The General Means
- b. The Instituted Means
- c. The Prudential Means

II. Understanding the Instituted Means of Grace

- a. Prayer: private, family, public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving; extemporaneous and written.
- b. Searching the scriptures by reading, meditating, hearing; attending the ministry of the word, either read or expounded.
- c. The Lord’s Supper
- d. Fasting, or abstinence.
- d. Christian conference, which includes both the fellowship of believers and rightly ordered conversations which minister grace to hearers.

III. Practicing the Instituted Means of Grace

a. A plan for discipleship

b. Resources