

FOUR-STEP PROCESS (from the “Practice of Ministry” Course – Certified Lay Ministry)

1. Evangelism: People are sought and invited to experience the community of faith
 - a. Priority on witnessing about Christ’s love and inviting people into a relationship with God.
 - b. Evangelism is not a program but a response to God’s gifts – it is who we are!
 - c. Congregation lives out its attitude towards the “unchurched” every day through communication, involvement in the community, expressions of hospitality, etc.
2. Membership: People are brought into the body of Christ and a specific community of faith.
 - a. There is a clear, simple, understandable definition of what it means and what is required to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - b. It signals the individual’s choice to make a public proclamation of faith and begin or continue the journey of discipleship.
 - c. Expectations are clear about what it means to be a member of the community of faith and how accountability happens.
 - d. The community of faith celebrates the decisions and joins in the covenant to live out a life of discipleship together.
3. Discipleship: People are taught the spiritual disciplines and how to live lives following the example of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Bible study is central for inspiration and direction for a disciple of Jesus.
 - b. Opportunities for critical thinking, sharing and reflection bring beliefs and Bible teachings in contact with life experiences – Scripture-Reason-Experience-Tradition.
 - c. Small groups provide support and accountability for the journey of discipleship and build the community of faith.
 - d. Preaching and worship also teach the way of discipleship.
4. Ministry: People are equipped for service and supported as they serve within the church and through outreach ministries.
 - a. Calls to lay and ordained ministry are nurtured and responded to by the community of faith with affirmation and support.
 - b. Each disciple is supported in discerning his or her spiritual gifts for ministry in the church and world.
 - c. There is an expectation that all members/disciples use their gifts for the transformation of the world.

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR FAITH-FORMING CONGREGATIONS (Berkey)

1. RADICAL HOSPITALITY
2. CLEAR MESSAGE.
3. CENTERED LEADERSHIP
4. “MULTI” LEARNING
5. HOLY SPIRIT TIME