

School of Congregational Development

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Presentation: Disciple01

Name of Session: Discipleship Systems for Leaders

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Overview:

We are all called to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Yet, most churches struggle to have a clear path for discipleship from both an evangelism and equipping perspective. How can the very mission/purpose for which our churches exist be so mysterious and difficult to achieve? We will name the why, what and how for discipleship systems and how adaptive and technical changes play into these systems. We will also explore some systems for helping your local congregations equip disciple to disciple others.

WHY?

Why do we need discipleship systems? We need systems to facilitate transformation.

HOW of the Why?

The way we live and work together creates a culture that can reinforce or undermine our why. Churches often resist change and health because of their entrenched culture which has a gravitational pull toward stasis.

WHAT?

What do we need to do to facilitate transformation? We need to shift culture in order to support and encourage transformational leadership rather than pushing back against transformational leadership. This adaptive change needs to proceed the how. Many of our churches' culture actually undermines discipleship and leadership – especially transformational leaders and disciples.

HOW of the WHAT?

How do we produce mature disciple leaders? We must have intentional processes. Churches need both an intentional faith development process/system as well as an intentional leadership development process/system. The processes need to be undergirded with consistent, supportive accountability.