

## Workshop or Presentation DISCIPLE 04

Name of your Session: Discipleship in a Multicultural Church

Presenter's Name: Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts

pastorwilletts@gmail.com

### OPENING PRAYER

Nowadays, congregations need to have a discipleship system in place to reach out, nurture, and send disciples to share the gospel of salvation.

**How does someone in your church goes from being a new guest to being mature disciples of Jesus Christ? Big group.....Allow time to share answers**

Junius B. Dotson says, "*Churches cannot do the hard and intentional work of making disciples unless they are clear about what a disciple is and how disciples are formed... A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ, and sharing Christ.*" (1)

We define the stages of discipleship with different words; mainly we describe how disciples mature in faith and share their faith.

What is a multicultural congregation? It is a community of faith where at least 20% of the members are of different cultures or ethnic background.

Most Communities in the USA are becoming increasingly multicultural. Our Schools are filled with children of many different backgrounds, cultures, and ethnic groups.

When we are in ministry in a multicultural church, we need to be intentional to design a system to help disciples to grow in faith. It is important not to rush but to take time to pray, reflect, learn, discuss and bring the leaders and the congregation on board with the vision for the future of the church and the mission to make disciples of all nations.

I have several suggestions for important things to do before you design a discipleship system to grow disciples in your church.

1. Prayer. Pray to Seek God's Direction and invite members to engage in prayer walks around your community seeking for God to reveal how to make disciples in this community. Ask the congregation to pray daily to make disciples of all nations.
2. Form a Discipleship Team with members who have a passion for making disciples.
3. Look at the Current Reality –Demographics- Look at the current reality of your neighborhood. Where do members live? Who are the groups of people moving into the neighborhood? Print a Report and share with Leadership and the Congregation.
4. Do Community Research. Most communities in the USA are changing rapidly, Get to know your community. Visit businesses; ask questions like, Who are the mayor ethnic groups in the community? What are their needs? Does the church reflect the population in the community? What is a gathering place for people in your community, what are their needs? What organizations are helping newcomers?

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5. Study. Study your Bible and Ask your discipleship team to study with you about discipleship systems and how to implement these. The UMC Discipleship Ministries provides all kinds of resources and webinars.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/creating-a-discipleship-system-seminar-2-the-discipleship-process>

Also The Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/developing-an-intentional-discipleship-system/>

6. Make a commitment to Grow. Look at The Life Cycle of the Church with your leadership team. Reflect, Pray together and Get to an agreement on:

\* Where is your church in the Life cycle?

\*Where do you all want the church to be 5 years from now?

\*What is needed to get you there? Pray and Set Goals

### **Work in groups- answer these questions 10 minutes**

7. Create a Vision. Pray and Meet with the leadership Team to develop a vision for making disciples in the community. Set Measurable Goals.

### **8. DESIGN A DISCIPLESHIP SYSTEM FOR A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH**

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

**My Story. Situation and Experience at Christ united Methodist Church of Lehigh Acres, Florida Hand out my discipleship system chart. QUESTIONS?**

At Christ UMC, New people are welcome as family members the first Sunday.

And invited to fellowship coffee by members of the congregation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. They are assigned to a sponsor who calls them during the week and ask to pray with them.

After 4 weeks. They are invited to information classes, then to membership classes.

They are invited to join the church and to a small group. After they join a small group for spiritual growth, they are asked to make a commitment to grow spiritually with the practice of the means of Grace and to witness to people they encounters. And they are invited to outreach activities with their small group.

Discipleship in a Multicultural Church. In our church we prepared in prayer, study, commitment and training before designing a Discipleship System in our church.

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And we evaluate and change things as needed.

We found these elements have to be in place before we design a discipleship system.

- a. DAILY CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS FOR NEW DISCIPLES
- b. CONGREGATIONAL TRAINING TO REACH OUT -INVEST AND INVITE PEOPLE
- c. ATMOSPHERE: Casual, Celebration, and Welcome to the Family of God.
- d. THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE LEADERS. (Follow a Template)
- e. PROMOTE UNITY. Biblical Image- Body of Christ- Unity in Diversity
- f. INTENTIONALITY FOR INCLUSIVITY – diverse leadership and planning for welcome, hospitality, worship, teaching, and small groups.
- g. HOSPITALITY. Practice Radical Hospitality Before, During, After Worship services, and in all church activities.
- h. MULTICULTURAL WORSHIP. Diverse leadership, Special services every month.
- i. TRAINING OF LEADERS AND SPONSORS. Assigned Membership Sponsors are usually from a different ethnic group, friends in the faith and prayer partners who walk with new members until they also become sponsors.

**TEAM WORKS-Creating a Discipleship System.** Teaching-Use page 51- The disciple Process. Phil Maynard uses a chart that is useful for congregations to plan their discipleship system. In this chart the stages of growth for disciples are Searching, Exploring, Beginning, Growing, and Maturing. (2)

**Give out the blank chart. Work in groups 15 minutes**