

Resources for Discussion Leaders



Discipleship Development
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana

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Church Development
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

The differences between a mission-minded church and a missional church:

- The mission-minded church emphasizes *sending and supporting*
 - The mission-minded church is *representative*
 - The mission-minded church perceives mission as *one expression of its ministry*
 - The missional church emphasizes *being and doing*
 - The missional church is *participative*
 - The missional church perceives mission as *the essence of its existence*
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For many, God's church "has become not a place of relationship but merely a place that people gather for religious ceremonies. Members belong to the church just as they belong to the Lions or Rotary Club. They go to church, but often do not see themselves as the church." (Minatrea p. ix).

The measure of the missional church is the transformational impact of its members' lives in their world. . . . They are reproducing communities . . . (Minatrea p. x).

Leadership Teaching – Shaped by God’s Heart

Missional Practice Assessment

Circle your response to each statement. Transfer response to box; total, and divide by 7 to find your net response. (1 = not true of our church; 7 = true of our church)

#1 – Have a High Threshold for Membership

We have clearly stated expectations of members.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We clearly communicate pathways to membership.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members hold one another accountable for fulfilling expectations.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We communicate benefits of membership.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Significant numbers of pre-Christians identify us as their faith community.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We have various entry points through which new members become part of our church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Nominal Christianity is abnormal in our church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

#2 – Be Real, Not Real Religious

Our message is validated by our actions in the community.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members do not “wear masks” with one another.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

People in the community see our church as vital.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members trust one another enough to confess their sin.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members are incorporated into small groups for growth and accountability.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We prioritize member involvement with unchurched people.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our culture makes it easy for people to admit unanswered questions about their faith.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

Missional Practice Assessment, *continued*

Circle your response to each statement. Transfer response to box; total, and divide by 7 to find your net response. (1 = not true of our church; 7 = true of our church)

#3 – Teach to Obey Rather Than to Know

We have a high regard for the Word of God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members are equipped to practice spiritual disciplines

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our teaching ministries emphasize moving from knowledge to obedience.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We partner new believers with existing members in learning relationships.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We challenge members to be responsible in their obedience to God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We excel in equipping members to apply Bible knowledge to real-life situations.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We hold one another accountable for obeying God's Word.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

#4 – Rewrite Worship Every Week

Our worship focuses on an audience of one.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We use a team of members in planning worship.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members lead corporate worship through sharing their various talents.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We routinely incorporate new ideas or methods in worship.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We challenge members to be responsible in their obedience to God.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our worship is designed to use each of the five senses.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church prepares members for personal worship experiences.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

Missional Practice Assessment, *continued*

Circle your response to each statement. Transfer response to box; total, and divide by 7 to find your net response. (1 = not true of our church; 7 = true of our church)

#5 – Live Apostolically

Our members consider themselves as missionaries.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members routinely introduce new believers to faith in Christ.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members interpret contemporary culture through Biblical guidance.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We encourage members to participate in “secular” social groups.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church is transforming the community in which we live.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members learn to establish and maintain authentic relationships with lost persons.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members are involved in leading the nations to worship Christ.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

#6 – Expect to Change the World

Members believe our church is making a major difference in the world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church has a vital prayer ministry focusing on updated mission concerns.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Most members have identified their primary mission field.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church has strategies for reaching new people groups in our area.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our members intentionally cultivate global relationships.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our worship regularly emphasizes the member’s missionary involvement.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Most of our members participate in short-term mission projects.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

Missional Practice Assessment, *continued*

Circle your response to each statement. Transfer response to box; total, and divide by 7 to find your net response. (1 = not true of our church; 7 = true of our church)

#7 – Order Actions According to Purpose

Members are very clear about our church's purpose.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We calendar only events that help us to accomplish our purpose.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our programs are flexible, leaving room for God to direct changes.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We are good at celebrating the starting *and* closing of ministries.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Items in our budget reflect our missional priorities.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our programs and ministries give evidence of our commitment to excellence.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We would rather lose a prospect than violate our purpose.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

#8 – Measure Growth by Capacity to Release, Not Retain

We consider it a blessing when we give members to start new churches or ministries.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church equips disciples to serve as missionaries.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our members believe new churches are needed in our community.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We expect members to be "on mission" locally and globally.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We regularly commission members who are going into ministry.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our church has an aggressive plan for starting new community ministries and churches.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We successfully move new believers into leadership roles.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Total and then divide by seven

Missional Practice Assessment, *continued*

Circle your response to each statement. Transfer response to box; total, and divide by 7 to find your net response. (1 = not true of our church; 7 = true of our church)

#9 – Place Kingdom Concerns First

Our actions evidence our partnership with Christian churches in our community.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We emphasize the communal as well as individual nature of salvation.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We share the pain and joy of Christians around the world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

We intentionally partner with all believers in the work of the Kingdom.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

In worship we regularly pray for other churches in our city.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Members participate in spiritual warfare through a vital prayer ministry.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Our members are involved in interdenominational ministries.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

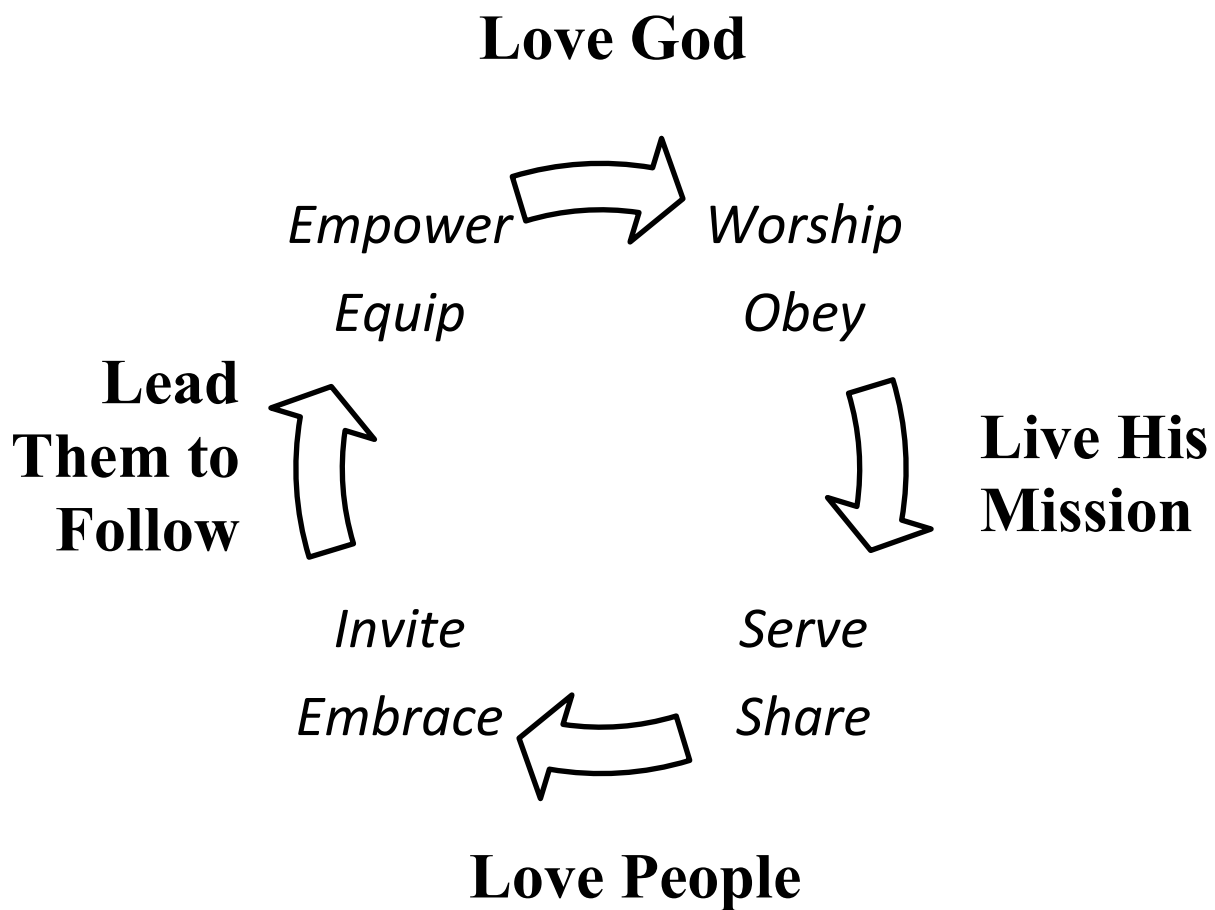
Total and then divide by seven

Totals and Ranking		
Missional Practice		
Number	Score	Rank
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

The Eight Passion Actions

- Love God: worship and obey
- Live His mission: serve and share
- Love people: embrace and invite
- Lead them to follow: equip and empower

The Self-Perpetuating Cycle of Missional Churches



#1 – Have a High Threshold for Membership

Elements that express missional churches' high threshold for membership:

- They are concerned for nominal church members.
- Membership is not casual.
 - The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: commitment
 - A Biblical reason: Christ is committed to the church
 - A cultural reason: it is an antidote to our society
 - A practical reason: it defines who can be counted on
 - A personal reason: it produces spiritual growth
- They are a unified community.
- The church has clear expectations of members.
- Members have clear expectations of the church.

#2 – Be Real, Not Real Religious

Missional churches express “real” in a number of ways:

- They show authenticity in faith.
- They are authentic with one another.
- They act authentically in the world.

The litmus test of the missional church is how members live when scattered during the week.

Reaching out with the Acts 1:8 Model

ASK and IDENTIFY

Who is my

✠ Jerusalem (people like me)

✠ Judea (people similar to me)

✠ Samaria (people I seldom, if ever intersect with)

PRAYERFULLY seek STRATEGY of CONNECTIONS

How will I connect and build relationships with my

✠ Jerusalem (people like me)

✠ Judea (people similar to me)

✠ Samaria (people I seldom, if ever intersect with)

ACT

I will start / continue these connections with my

✠ Jerusalem (people like me)

✠ Judea (people similar to me)

✠ Samaria (people I seldom, if ever intersect with)

Best Practices

- Develop a membership class based on the UMC vows that the members will take when they join.
- Have some members, attenders, and first time guests take the missional practice assessments to give you a different perspective.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Additional Resources

The Cost of Discipleship, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers, by Billie Hanks & William A. Shell

Everyman, God's Man: Every Man's Guide to Courageous Faith and Daily Integrity, by Stephen Arterburn & Kenny Luck

The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church by Reggie McNeal

Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church by Reggie McNeal

The Future is Now by Kent Hunter

Restoring At-Risk Communities by John M. Perkins

Ministry at the Margins: The Prophetic Mission of Women, Youth and the Poor by Cheryl J. Sanders

#3 – Teach to Obey Rather Than to Know

Missional churches teach to obey rather than simply to know. To accomplish this:

- They equip believers.
- They practice “applied Christianity.”
- They have a high commitment to God’s Word.
- They learn obedience through disciplines.
- They use a variety of methods.

“God never intended the Bible to be studied for information or knowledge alone...It is significant that the history of the first-century church is called the book of Acts, not the book of Truths.”

#4 – Rewrite Worship Every Week

Ingredients missional churches use to keep worship fresh:



- God is the focus of worship.
- Worship is experiential.
- Worship is about content, not form.
- Worship is highly participatory.
- Worship values creativity.
- Worship is more than words.

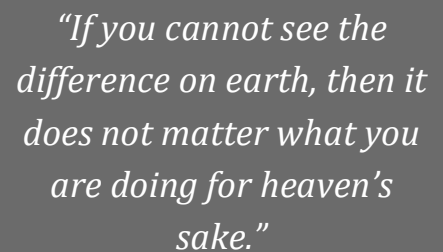
#5 – Live Apostolically

Christians are sent into the world. Missional churches believe every follower of Christ is one who is sent. All are missionaries. Therefore missional churches seek to prepare members to live apostolically.

#6 – Expect to Change the World

Missional churches act on these principles to change the world:

- Mission begins with relationships. [Being missional is not first about ministering among those we do not know, but living authentically among those we do know.]
- Mission is expressed in a “glocal” community.
- Missional churches identify primary mission fields.
- Missional churches touch the world.



“If you cannot see the difference on earth, then it does not matter what you are doing for heaven’s sake.”

#7 – Order Actions According to Purpose

Missional communities use purpose to guide their actions in these ways:

- They know their purpose.
- They check that actions are based upon purpose.
- They let go of what does not serve their purpose.
- They do only what serves their purpose.

#8 – Measure Growth by Capacity to Release, Not Retain

When we focus on serving and sending rather than numerical growth, this is what we see reflected in faith communities:

- They grow naturally.
- They connect with a source of unlimited supply.
- They see themselves as the mission-sending agency of God's design.
- They see multiplication as God's design for reaching new generations.

Leadership Development is perhaps the greatest challenge missional churches face.

#9 – Place Kingdom Concerns First

These are the intentions of missional churches:

- Missional churches seek to develop Kingdom citizens. Members are asked to make an annual commitment of themselves as Kingdom Pilgrims empowered by the Holy Spirit who will:
 - Aggressively, internally pursue the Kingdom of God here and now
 - Be a part of the prayer ministry
 - Be in ongoing community in an adult team
 - Share their faith weekly
 - Give financially sacrificially
 - Serve consistently in ministry
 - Help with three special events during the year
 - Learn and apply one new discipline to life during the year
- Missional churches seek to express the Kingdom of God in the world.
- Missional churches cooperate, not compete, in the Kingdom of God.
- Missional churches battle a common enemy.

Structures and Strategies for Becoming Missional

- **They Run Rapids in Rubber Rafts** – Church structures that can survive the rapids of cultural change
- **Seeing Beyond the Horizon** – The nature and task of missional leadership
- **Moving to Missional** – Becoming a new kind of church

Best Practices

- Take your Ad Board/Ad Council through the nine missional practices in order to review how your church is living them out.
- Contact a growing church in your community to talk with their pastor and leaders about their missional practices.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Additional Resources

The Making of a Leader, by Robert J. Clinton

Culturally-Conscious Worship, by Kathy Black

The Jesus Encounter: Stories of people in the Bible who met Jesus, by William Tinsley

Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making friends in a multi-cultural world, by Patty Lane

The Purpose Driven Church: Growth without compromising your message and mission, by Rick Warren

God's Missionary People: Rethinking the purpose of the local church, by Charles Van Engen