



## REIMAGINING CHILDREN'S PLACE OF PRIORITY IN GOD'S KINGDOM

**We are at a critical juncture.** The church is losing a larger portion of each generation, and we are reaching fewer children than ever before. Legacy can change that by enabling us to reimagine our children's place of priority in God's Kingdom. Utilizing a four-dimensional framework, Legacy will help us to reach, equip, and empower children to change their trajectory from someday dropping out of the church as adults to becoming the church of today and the future.

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MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES  
THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

*Jesus said, "Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish." (MATTHEW 18:14)*

### Welcome to Legacy

The Evangelical Covenant Church seeks to make more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. Yet with each passing generation, fewer and fewer people are experiencing the love, forgiveness, and hope of Christ, because as children they are not invited, engaged, and empowered to participate as members of the church body or nurtured by parents.

### What is Legacy?

**Legacy is a four-dimensional framework that will enable your church to:**

**Develop Disciples** to establish a child's spiritual moorings.

**Equip Parents** to become spiritual mentors.

**Empower Children** to participate in the mission and ministry of the church.

**Reach Out** to engage the children and families in your community.

### Why Legacy?

**We need to get serious about reaching the next generation.**

- We are losing an increasingly larger portion of each generation.
- If children don't feel valued by the church community, they will leave.
- If we don't empower children today, they will not be here tomorrow.
- A child's spiritual moorings are in place by age 10.
- Most people still come to faith between the ages of 4 and 14.
- Currently 55% of children in the U.S. never set foot in the church.
- Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (MARK 10:14)

### What makes Legacy different?

- **Space to Re-imagine:** Legacy Imagine is a half-day experience to assess, celebrate, dream, and plan for your congregation's Legacy vision.
- **Invested Leaders:** Legacy provides a pathway for your pastors and leaders to invest in and support a unified vision.
- **Flexibility:** Each church decides the direction and approach that works for them.
- **Coaching:** A Legacy coach can provide ongoing support.
- **Resources:** The Legacy website will be updated regularly with new resources to help each church reach and empower children and families to become disciples who make disciples. [CovChurch.org/legacy](http://CovChurch.org/legacy)
- **Pay It Forward:** You can help more children and churches by walking alongside another church in the future and sharing what you have learned from your own experience.

### What are the Legacy outcomes?

- Children guided to become disciples who make disciples.
- Families equipped to discover their mission and help children become disciples who make disciples.
- Children empowered and released to participate in the mission and ministry of the church.
- A church reaching out to care for and disciple children and families in their communities.
- A church community infused with new life.
- The next generation committed to Christ and Christ's mission

## LEGACY FOUR-DIMENSIONAL FRAMEWORK

*Here are the ways Legacy can positively impact your revitalization journey.*



### DEVELOP DISCIPLES

- Centrality of the Word of God (2 TIMOTHY 3:16)
- Life transforming walk with Jesus (JOHN 3:3, 30; PHIL. 1:6)
- Intentional evangelism (MATTHEW 28:18-20)
- Global perspective and engagement (ACTS 1:8)



### EQUIP PARENTS

- Culture of godly leadership (HEBREWS 13:7)
- Sacrificial and generous living and giving (ROMANS 12:1-8)
- Life transforming walk with Jesus (JOHN 3:3, 30; PHIL. 1:6)



### EMPOWER CHILDREN

- Compelling Christian community (ACTS 2:42-47)
- Heartfelt worship (PSALM 138:1A; JOHN 4:23)
- Sacrificial and generous living and giving (ROMANS 12:1-8)
- Fruitful organizational Structures (ACTS 6:1-7)



### REACH OUT

- Intentional evangelism (MATTHEW 28:18-20)
- Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy, and justice ministries (MICAH 6:8)
- Global perspective and engagement (ACTS 1:8)



The Evangelical Covenant Church

MAKE & DEEPEN DISCIPLES

## STEP 1: Legacy Imagine

A powerful half-day experience that we bring to your church for pastors, church leaders, and children's leaders to assess, celebrate, dream, and plan for your congregation's Legacy vision. Each church decides the direction and approach that works best for them.

### Why include pastor(s) and church leaders?

The presence of the pastor(s) and church leaders in the initial assessment and planning reflects the importance of ministry with children and families. It doesn't mean the pastor and church leaders will be involved in the daily implementation of the plan, but it does mean they will have voice into it and be aware of the hoped-for outcomes, as well as its place within the scope of the overall ministry of the church.

### What we will do:

- Assess and celebrate the current scope of children and family ministry utilizing the four-dimensional Legacy framework.
- Identify which of the four dimensions you will focus on.
- Dream of the possibilities.
- Turn the dream into a reality.
- Develop a plan to include methods, resources, responsibilities, timelines, three-fold evaluations, and identification of an intercessory prayer leader.

### What does it cost?

The denomination covers the cost for this half-day experience.

## STEP 2: Legacy Coaching

A Legacy coach will contact you as you get started. For a nominal annual fee, your coach will connect with you regularly as you live into your Legacy plan. You may have as many people as you wish on the calls, and you are welcome to contact the coach with questions as they arise.

### What does it cost?

Legacy coaching is \$150 per year.

### Your coach will help you:

- Identify progress.
- Work through roadblocks.
- Answer your questions.
- Be encouraged.
- Giving feedback to improve Legacy.

## STEP 3: Ongoing Resources

### Website

The Legacy website will be updated regularly with FREE resources to help you reach and empower children and families to become disciples who make disciples.

### Church Connections

You can converse with other Legacy churches who are living into the same Legacy dimension as you, get fresh ideas, and share your journey, including the challenges, and successes.

### Legacy Midwinter Connection

Each year you will have the opportunity to attend the Legacy Midwinter Connection to share, learn, and celebrate your Legacy experience.

## STEP 4: Legacy Next Step

### Living into further Legacy dimensions

The timing can vary as to how long it takes to live into your identified dimension, but once the church is comfortable with the continuing outcomes, it may choose to focus on another dimension. Legacy Next Step is an opportunity to celebrate where you have been and dream and plan for the coming year. A coach will continue to support you as you progress.

### Paying it forward

After several months of living into your Legacy plan, we may invite you to share your experience with another church who is considering Legacy or has recently chosen to focus on the dimension you are already living into. In many cases, the questions they have will be ones you have already lived through.

*For questions or to begin building your Legacy, contact [Legacy@covchurch.org](mailto:Legacy@covchurch.org).*