

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLE-FORMING CONGREGATIONS...

An integrated holistic approach to formation - *Understanding that Christian formation happens not only in the church building, but everywhere, is essential. Christian formation occurs at home, at school, at work, and throughout our lives. Christian formation is about inclusive whole-person, whole-kingdom, whole-life learning and living.*

INDICATORS THAT WE ARE ACCOMPLISHING THIS PRINCIPLE	Most of the time	Some time	Rarely	Almost never	How does this take place?
Commitment of pastors and leaders to grow into whole life, whole kingdom living and leading					
We teach how to be attentive to Christ in all circumstances of life.					
Inclusion of everyone as full participants in the body including women, children, youth and the disabled					
Opportunities for all generations to live, minister and worship together					
Partner with the home in helping persons grow in faith					
Establishment of justice and mercy ministries					
Commitment to reach and disciple the lost both near and far					
Opportunities for individuals and congregation to journey toward racial righteousness and reconciliation					
Acknowledge, welcome and celebrate the diversity of God's kingdom					
Welcoming, caring and encouraging congregation					
Actively engaged with the needs and challenges in our local community					

A head, heart and hand faith development - *Information or knowledge alone will not support the kind of radical transformation spoken of in God's Word. Transformation happens when our hearts are open to the leading of the Spirit through the things we do as well as through study. It involves our knowing, our being, and our doing.*

INDICATORS THAT WE ARE ACCOMPLISHING THIS PRINCIPLE	Most of the time	Some time	Rarely	Almost never	How does this take place?
Pray as individuals and as a body					
Disciple persons in God's Word					
Engage in spiritual disciplines					
Opportunities for everyone to serve inside and outside the church					
Opportunities for everyone to worship together					
Opportunities for everyone who chooses to testify to the work of Christ in their lives					
Teach and acknowledge that it is the Spirit who transforms us					

Personal and community transformation - Understanding that, though programs are a necessary dimension of congregational life, they are a means toward the end and not the end itself. Christian formation is about turning believers into disciples of Jesus Christ, so that we are formed in Christ, both personally and as a community. Formation enables us, at the same time, to be open to the life transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

INDICATORS THAT WE ARE ACCOMPLISHING THIS PRINCIPLE... ELEMENTS THAT FOSTER RECEPTIVITY TO THE TRANSFORMING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE GROW IN GOD'S WORD BECAUSE WE ARE A BIBLICAL PEOPLE	Almost always	Some time	Rarely	Almost never	How does this take place?
We enter into God's Word first to dwell and commune with God					
God's Word is communally...					
Read					
Studied					
Prayed					
Proclaimed					
Persons seek to live a scripturally integrated life					
WE GROW IN RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE A CONNECTIONAL PEOPLE					
Love each other as we are, not as we should be					
Equip persons to mentor and disciple others					
Intentional intergenerational ministry involving all generations					
Encourage persons to make friends with people outside the church					
Equip and encourage persons to share the gospel with the lost					
Seek to foster relationships with persons of other ethnic backgrounds					
Engage in cross cultural ministries					
Share life together outside the church building					
WE GROW IN OUTWARD ACTION BECAUSE WE ARE A MISSIONAL PEOPLE					
Identify pathways for evangelism to take place					
Gifts identified and used to serve inside and outside the body of Christ					
Participation by persons of all ages in missions					
People are regularly invited and welcomed into the church					
Stewardship explained and encouraged					
Engage in ministries of compassion, mercy and justice					
Equip persons to share their faith as God-birthered opportunities arise					
WE GROW IN WORSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE A DEVOTIONAL PEOPLE					
Pray					
Exalt and celebrate God, and what God has done, is doing and will do.					
Encouraged and equipped to live continually in the presence of God					
Practice spiritual disciplines					
Share and celebrate stories of continuing transformation					
Celebrate God through the sacraments, the Word, and life					
All generations are present, engaged and given voice					