

Ministry Leaders Training – October 15, 2023

Adjusting to a Growing Church

Table Discussion

- What changes are you noticing as the church grows?
- What is exciting? What is hard or uncomfortable about this season?

Vision for Healthy Church Growth

- Colossians 1:1-8 - *"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing – as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."*
- LHC Ministry, Mission & Organization (*see diagram*)
- How Church Dynamics & Culture Change with Growth (*see chart*)
- Church Growth Pattern at LHC (*see diagram*)

Growing in Community, Discipleship & Membership

- **Community:** Not just building big Sunday service, but a healthy church community
- **Discipleship:** Not just people who are involved, but disciples followers of Jesus

The ABC(DEF)'s of Discipleship

- **Active Faith** - Daily trusting in God, praying, repenting, and relying on his Spirit
- **Biblical Training** - Growing in knowledge and obedience according to Scripture
- **Church Commitment**- Committing to worship God and serve in a local church
- **Discipling Others** - Investing in other believers to grow them in Christ
- **Evangelism** - Engaging with lost neighbors to witness for Christ
- **Faithful to Calling** - Glorifying Christ in every area of life and calling

Making Disciples - What does it look like?

- **Invest** - (Come with me) Time, prayer, relationship, gospel, welcome into community (Mt 4:19; Mk 3:14)
 - **Equip** - (Listen to me) Instruction in faith, doctrine, wisdom, mission, and practice (Rom 12:2; 2 Tim 1:13)
 - **Model** - (Observe me!) godly character and practice (2 Tim 3:10; Heb 13:11)
 - **Encourage** - (Look at you!) Walk with them as they take steps of obedience (1 Ths 5:11)
 - **Send** - (Go!) provide opportunities, give feedback (Acts 18:26)
- **Membership:** Not just people active in church, but church members (working toward having all key ministry leaders sign the CP)

Table Discussion

- In light of this vision, how do you, your leadership, and your ministry need to adjust and mature as the church grows?

Welcoming Visitors on Sunday Morning

- Update on Current Patterns & Practices
- Obstacles & Opportunities

Highlights from two resources: *"Effective Guest Follow-Up Strategies"* AND *"Becoming a Welcoming Church"*

- **Top ten reasons why guests did not return to a church**
 1. Stand and greet time was unfriendly and awkward
 2. Unfriendly church members
 3. Unsafe or unclean children's areas
 4. No place to get information on the church
 5. Bad church website
 6. Poor signage
 7. Too much insider church language
 8. Boring or bad church services
 9. Members telling guests they were in the wrong pew or chair
 10. Dirty facilities
- **An Easy Path for Visitors**
 1. Door Monitor
 2. Check-in Greeter
 3. Clear Signs
 4. Lobby Greeter
 5. Visitor Host
 6. Congregation
 7. Info Table
- **Visitor Welcome in Service**
- **Midweek Follow-up:**

7 Values for Reaching Visitors & the Unchurched

1- Pray, prepare, rely on, and give space for the Holy Spirit to guide and be present in the service. (1 Corinthians 14:22-25, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

2- Build a culture that prioritizes love for the lost and fosters genuine, purposeful relationships with the unchurched. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

3- Design a service from beginning to end that is orderly, purposeful, and understandable. (1 Corinthians 14:31-33, 39-40)

4- Train a hospitality team, and an entire congregation, to be friendly and attentive. (Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Corinthians 5:12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:12)

5- Strive for excellence with church facilities and ministry programs. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

6- Develop pastors, preachers, and leaders who are passionate, relational, and approachable. (1 Timothy 3:7)

7- Articulate the Gospel, doctrinal convictions, and your church mission in a way that is clear, uncompromising, and accessible. (Colossians 4:3-4)

Many of the insights for these points were gleaned from [Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them](#) by Thom Rainer

Table Discussion

- How can you and your ministry be a part of a culture of hospitality for new people as the church grows?