

Introduction



Come and see. (see John 1:39; also John 1:46; also John 4:29)

“Come and see.” Words of Jesus. Words of Philip. Words of an unnamed woman. A woman with whom “godly” people would not normally associate. A woman whose encounter with Jesus touched her so deeply that she could not help but tell others.

“Come and see.” Words of invitation. Words of expectation. Words of hope. Hope in something beyond yourself. Hope that you have a significant part to play in God’s unfolding plan to reach people with good news.



“Come and see.” Perhaps you’re still uncertain about God’s calling for your life and ministry. Perhaps that’s why you’ve agreed to participate in this network. Perhaps that’s exactly where God wants you. Here. Now.

“Come and see.” Are these words for you? Are you ready for what God may be trying to show you? Are you prepared to say “yes” to the Holy Spirit, whatever that means for your life and your ministry?

“Come and see.”



Welcome!



Welcome to the Lay Missionary Planting Network. This time to explore new church planting ministry could lead to the adventure of a lifetime! If God is calling you to plant new churches, you are in for a wonderful experience filled with challenges, joys, and opportunities to introduce the world to God in creative and new ways. The journey to discover your calling in this ministry starts now!

Church planting offers something rarely enjoyed by church people – a time when everything is new, when everyone is freshly and freely committed to living in a faith community whose purposes are clear and whose actions are aimed at showing the powerful presence of God in the world. A new church is not a place where anyone can say, “We’ve always done it that way.” Instead, it’s a place where people ask questions like, “Okay God, what do we do next?” New church planting is about transformation, not preservation; it’s about creating, not maintaining.

Maybe you’re thinking that only seminary-trained pastors can start new churches. Well, that’s not the case at all. In fact, Paul, of the New Testament, one of the most effective new church planters ever, was not a priest – he was a layperson! He went from place to place, sometimes traveling great distances by land and sea with a small band of lay people, sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. His motivation was his burning passion to tell others about his own experience of God. Previously sent by the chief priests of the Jews to persecute Christians, Paul subsequently was sent out by the risen Jesus to share the gospel with the Gentile world, “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light.” (Acts 26:18, NRSV)



Today, some twenty centuries later, you have the chance to continue Paul’s mission by planting new churches. As a participant in the Lay Missionary Planting Network you will learn about The United Methodist Church and its “Path 1” plan to identify 1,000 new church planters with the goal to start 650 new churches in the United States by 2013. Path 1 works in cooperation with various national plans to create new churches, including the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which alone aims to plant 75 new Hispanic churches and 500 new faith communities.



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The Path 1 team has representatives from all regions of the United States who are passionate about extending the church’s mission through new church planting. Path 1 will not start any



new churches, but exists to aid annual conferences – and people like you – in that task. A ministry of Path 1, the Lay Missionary Planting Network exists to find, equip and mobilize lay persons to start new faith communities in populations and contexts in which traditional approaches to new church planting have not proven fruitful. Lay missionary planters are people who have a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who have compassion for all of God’s people, who demonstrate the ability to reach unchurched and de-churched people, and who have a job or another source of income to provide for themselves and their families.

The first Lay Missionary Planting Network target areas are located along population growth corridors in five United States regions. At least four of the initial networks will focus on reaching people in Hispanic/Latino population areas, and three networks will focus on reaching people in African-American and black populations. At least twelve qualified and trained lay missionaries from each of the five United Methodist jurisdictional regions in the United States will be deployed by annual conferences to plant at least sixty new churches.



History has proven that planting new churches is the single, most effective way to reach and disciple unchurched people into the life of a church and the faith community it represents. In its heyday, The United Methodist Church in the United States started, on average, one new church every day. Today’s growing, and increasingly diverse United States population is racing past the growth of The United Methodist Church. Today, God is awakening the call for new church planting by The United Methodist Church. A vital role in accomplishing this mission will be played by the Lay Missionary Planting Network, and you may become a key leader in this important ministry.

Thanks for answering the call to “come and see.” May God be with you on the journey as you clarify your calling related to new church planting.



Lay Missionary Planting Network



“Church Planting 101” – Morning Session

“Church Planting 101” is the first of ten sessions for training lay missionary church planters.

Church Planting 101 - Agenda

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer and Introductions
2. Introduction to “Church Planting 101”/Studying the Scriptures #1
3. Break
4. Why New Churches Effectively Reach New People
5. Studying the Scriptures #2
6. Break
7. How the Lay Missionary Planting Network Will Start New Churches
8. Lunch
9. 7 Basic Seasons of Church Planting
10. Break
11. What’s Next in Lay Missionary Planting Network Training?
12. Closing Covenant Service

The purpose of this session is to answer questions like:

- “Why are we doing this ministry of church planting?”
- “Why are laity being invited to plant new churches?”
- “What are the expectations of lay missionary planters?”
- “What do I need to know to plant a new church?”
- “What’s included in the next nine training sessions?”
- “How do I take the next step toward becoming a lay missionary planter?”



Something to consider:

*(Prepare to **share your responses with the class** when the facilitator asks for comments)*

Think of a time when you were part of something new – perhaps a new organization, business, club or church. What was most exciting about the experience? What was most meaningful? How did you get involved? Did you invite others to join you? What benefits were realized by those who participated?

What to Expect in Church Planting 101

In this first six-hour class, you will learn why new church planting is an important, and perhaps unequaled, evangelism tool for reaching more people for Christ in the United States.

You will learn why new church planting works. You will meet others who are exploring the possibility of serving as a Lay Missionary Planter. You will be introduced to many things you need to know to make you an effective church planter. Topics to be discussed include discerning, visioning, gathering, discipling, worshiping, improving and multiplying. At the end of the day, you will be invited to sign a covenant, committing yourself to complete the Lay Missionary Planting Network training curriculum and possibly, prepare to serve as a Lay Missionary Church Planter. The whole curriculum includes ten six-hour sessions, along with homework assignments and practical ways to apply what you're learning.



Today you will learn what to expect from the other nine sessions, too. It's going to be a day filled with many positive moments and "ah-has" as you receive details about God's call, and as the Holy Spirit nudges you to become part of this exciting church planting movement!

Studying the Scriptures: Exercise #1

"Come and See" – John 1:19-51

Write your notes here:

Who are the key characters in this passage?



What does the phrase “come and see” suggest to you in this context?

How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

What other observations would you share about this Scripture?

Something to consider:

*(Prepare to **share your responses with a partner** when the facilitator directs you.)*

What are your expectations from this “Church Planting 101” class?

Why did you choose to “come and see” about lay missionary church planting? Who invited you?

What about their invitation made you curious enough about the Lay Missionary Planting Network to check it out?

Something to apply at home:

(Save these questions for later, as you prepare homework and do assignments for next time)

Can you see how this experience of being invited (and coming) might be what it’s like to invite someone to join you in starting a new church?

How would you invite someone to “come and see” about being involved in a new church?



Prayer

Dear God, help me to receive what you desire for me to learn and experience in this training. I want to follow your will. Amen.

Why New Churches Are Effective at Reaching New People

Can you remember when a new restaurant or mega-department store or other store first opened in your community? Do you remember what happened in the first weeks and months after the grand opening? Did you notice the crowded parking lots, crowded aisles, and long lines of people waiting to check out?

It is not unusual for a new business to draw large crowds. People come out of curiosity, or because friends tell them about what they will find, or because the business provides products or services not previously available to them. There's a feeling of energy and excitement around new things that is not always evident around the same old thing.

Something about newness itself draws us in

and people like to check out new things. So it is that when a new church begins in a community where older churches already exist, it often attracts people who have not been participating in any church, and it frequently grows bigger in people attending than any other church around.



About fifteen years ago, a new United Methodist church was planted in a town where two healthy United Methodist churches were already located. At first, members of these existing churches were fearful that a new church would affect their membership, worship attendance and finances. To the contrary, the new church has grown to have nearly two-thousand in worship each week, while the two older churches have continued to be healthy, growing, vital congregations. Rarely does the start-up of a new church harm an existing church. An unhealthy church whose members are dissatisfied may realize some negative effect, but people who are happy with their church home have little reason to abandon their church for another one.



Frequently, weak or unhealthy churches become stronger in the years following the start of a new church nearby.

Today, most United Methodist churches in the United States are small membership, rural, or small-town churches started a century or more ago. Increasingly, these churches are getting smaller in size. Members of these churches are mostly senior adult age people. Activities in the churches are often limited to a single worship service, a Sunday School class or two, and essential pastoral care for ill, distressed, or bereaved members.

When these churches were created, the nation was largely farm economy-based; families tended to be large; and people generally stayed nearby their place of birth throughout their lives. In their day, they served their purpose well. So long as families were large, limited



travel options ensured the presence of multiple generations in the community from the same families, and church “brand” loyalty (“My parents and grandparents were Methodists, so I am too!”) was strong. These churches continued to carry on themselves by, quite literally, giving birth to new generations of church members. This method of membership growth led to

churches whose memberships lacked racial or socio-economic diversity. Acting very much like families, tribes or clans, these churches, usually unwittingly, made it difficult for *outsiders* and *newcomers* to feel welcomed or included within the close-knit family fellowship.

Despite the fact that most United Methodist churches are like those described above, more and more, people are attending medium and large-size United Methodist churches in suburban and urban locations. Increasingly, many of the fastest growing and largest churches within the United Methodist denomination are those most recently planted. Rarely are these growing churches gaining in membership or attendance due to the transfer or movement of United Methodists from nearby existing churches. Most of their growth comes from people previously inactive in church – some with no prior church experience at all; some who have been active elsewhere before moving as new residents to the new church’s community; and



others who have been dissatisfied with their former church experience and who subsequently dropped out of church life for a while.

So much changed in the past century. We saw the advent of flight, television, computers, cell phones, and space exploration; the curing of many diseases; an increased lifespan; lessened racial segregation; and a rise in immigration bringing great diversity to communities throughout the United States. Few people continue to live their adult lives and work in the same places where they lived as children and youth. No longer do *new* church members join churches because they are specific denominations, nor do they always join the church because of its convenience. More often, they select a church because of what it stands for; what it offers that meets their personal needs – spiritual, emotional, or social; or because being part of the church gives meaning to their lives.



Some of the reasons why new churches so effectively reach people for Christ include:

- New churches convey the expectation that something new may be better than something old
- New churches seem to some people outside the church as easier entry (or re-entry) points into a faith community than old churches
- New churches seem to be places where unchurched persons will have a say in how the church organizes and how they get involved
- New churches tend to be more diverse and inclusive in membership makeup
- New churches are high-energy places where everyone is newly engaged in the creation of mission and ministry activities
- New churches convey a genuine spirit of welcome and interest when newcomers visit
- In a new church, transformation of lives seems more important than preservation of traditions
- New churches tend not to be bound by phrases like, “We’ve never done it that way before,” and “We don’t do that around here.”



- New churches' members are likely to invite others to join them, and show excitement when they do so because they want to share the Good News they've discovered



Something to consider:

If you were an unchurched person who felt an urge to get involved in a faith community, what would you be looking for in a church?

Do you know any people who are not regular church participants?

Why do you think they are not involved in church?

What do you think would cause them to get involved?

In your opinion is an existing church or a new church more likely to provide what they are seeking?

Prayer

Dear God, please bring clarity to my heart, mind and soul as I seek to know if you have a place for me in church planting ministry. Amen.

Something to consider:

List at least three reasons why you think God may be inviting you to help plant new churches.



What knowledge, gifts, talents, or experiences do you possess that will help you lead someone into a closer relationship with God, or lead someone to be more active as a church participant?

How can these things aid you in planting new churches?

Studying the Scriptures: Exercise #2

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-40

What you will need: Bible, pencil or pen, and a discussion partner. Use the space below to write your notes on the passage:

Something to consider:

Even before Philip approached the Ethiopian Eunuch's chariot, God was preparing the man to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. The eunuch was seeking God, but did not yet know about Jesus Christ, nor had he been baptized as a Christian. God used Philip as a channel to the saving grace of Christ. Philip made himself available, and was obedient to his call from God. Because of this, the man on the chariot became a believer and was baptized.

(Discuss these questions with your partner.)

Do you think Philip exhibited any traits helpful to someone who is a church planter?



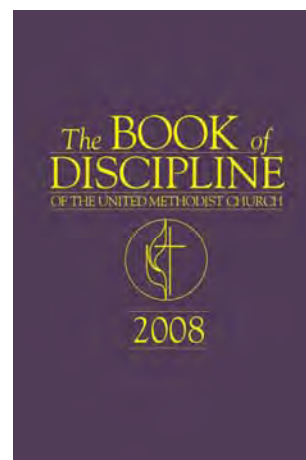
If so, what are these traits?

How would they be helpful when planting a new church?

Which of these traits do you see in yourself?

How Will the Lay Missionary Planting Network Start New Churches?

According to the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2008)*, which contains the official rules, direction, and doctrine for the denomination, the mission of the church is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The *Book of Discipline* also says that “local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.” ¶120 (p. 87).



Church planting invites persons like you to become these United Methodist disciple-makers, and to form new faith communities (local churches) among these new Christian disciples.

We United Methodists believe that God calls both clergy (those specially trained as pastors and preachers) and laity (those with gifts and skills to support the work of the church



and pastor), to ministry roles: “All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.” BOD ¶125 (p. 89).

“The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment to Christ’s outreaching love. Lay members of The United Methodist Church are, by history and calling, active advocates of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every



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layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional. The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the Gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission.” BOD ¶126 (p. 89).

The task of planting hundreds of new United Methodist churches in the United States each year can be accomplished by both clergy and laity. Although traditionally, most new churches in recent history have been started by clergy, these approaches to plant new churches among some people within the U.S. population have not always effectively reached unchurched people.

Too often absent have been successful new church starts in places and among people where traditional approaches have not been effective. These include people of many races, languages, and nationalities; people with limited income, and little formal education; and people with lifestyles, worldviews, and beliefs that do not fit comfortably within the confines of traditional church life.

When it comes to church planting, an affinity of those who organize the church with the target population of unchurched people is an essential component for success. This *affinity factor* is a foundational principle underlying the creation of the Lay Missionary Planting Network. This is why you, and others like you, may be far more successful in planting non-traditional churches than some clergy.



Let's think about some of the reasons why that may be true.

If you are called by God to be a lay missionary planter, you will be driven to fulfill this call by your passion for sharing the Good News of the gospel; you will be compassionate for those who need Christ, and for those who are growing in their discipleship as Christians; you will possess the qualities, knowledge, character and experience required to successfully invite and engage unchurched people.



Applying What You've Heard: Activity #1

(Prepare to respond to the facilitator's cues as you participate in this group activity)

How would you describe yourself in terms of heritage, life experience, education, job type, language, or whatever makes you who you are?

Think of others in your community who are very much like you. What are the affinities (or similarities) you see?

Perhaps you want to write them down for further reflection. How might your affinity with these people help you to be a successful church planter in this, or a similar community of people?

Prayer

Dear God, help me to have the ability to discover unchurched people who will hear the Good News of the gospel from me, and the courage to share the joy of Christ with everyone without prejudice, regardless of how different they may be from me. Amen.

After lunch we will begin to help you consider this possible calling by introducing a 7 season church planting process. It begins with Discerning, which helps clarify and affirm a church planter's call.

Enjoy your lunch!



Traits that correlate with happy United Methodist church planting experiences

While few people will possess all twelve traits, if you run across clergy or laity with seven or more, they should be persons of interest. In many cases we can **help add experiences*** to their lives that will ready them to serve as planters in the future.

1. **Something in their experience of God drives them to the edge of settled church life to want to reach new people for the kingdom.**

This trait may get them labeled as non-conformists or problem children in a connectional appointive system, even if they are loyal United Methodists. They may be unusually impatient with business as usual in UMC life. They have apostolic zeal. They have led unchurched persons to Christ.

2. **They have history in at least one vibrant, growing church, possibly in a previous healthy new church start.***

To know intuitively what a great church feels like and to know what is normal for growing ministries that are evangelizing people are invaluable experiences for a new church planter.

3. **They are self aware.**

They understand their gifts and talents, personality traits, strengths and weaknesses. They are comfortable in their own skin. They strive for balance in their personal lives and in their relationships with family and friends.

4. **They have a coachable spirit.***

Often, a successful planter or pastor has mentored them on her/his staff. When such a mentor endorses their readiness, they will very seldom fail. They continually strive for personal and professional growth and development.

5. **They have affinity for the mission field.***

They know the territory where they are planting and really love it. They have often lived in the community or in very similar communities or have had previous experiences in getting to know the community, so they begin with good instincts. If not, they team with such people.

6. **They already have a network of relationships in the community where they will be planting.***

These relationships may be largely within the context of a sponsoring or partnering church where they have served on staff for a time before leaving to plant. They may have gone to school in the community.

7. **They and their spouse are at peace and unified about the ministry of new church development and they have embraced the sacrifices entailed.**

New church projects are hard on marriages. Marriages that break early in the plant jeopardize the future of the new church.

8. **Their age at time of appointment is no more than ten years above the median age for the new population being targeted.**

People can plant churches at any age, but good statistical evidence suggests that the age window from 25 to 45 is ideal for a planter on the front end of a project, especially if we want them to attract young adults with children. Older planters assigned to projects may have more difficulty understanding and relating to young adult culture and they may sometimes come with prohibitively high salary price tags.

9. **They demonstrate a vibrant faith.***

The landmark study of successful mainline planters detailed in the book *Extraordinary Leaders for Extraordinary Times* revealed that effective planters have a strong sense of calling, deeply established prayer habits, and keen understanding that church planting is a God thing.

10. **They have demonstrated history of building relationships in the community and leading these friends into church life.**

The best test in assessing high-potential planters is past behavior. No behavior has more relevance than past experience leading unchurched people to Christ and/or to church.

11. **They are catalytic innovators.**

They have a history of leading successful start-ups. This relates to the “entrepreneurial gene” typically found in good planters. It almost always has evidenced itself prior to the church plant. In earlier life they may have started a small business, grown a youth ministry, led a major initiative in their college sorority or a guided a social justice project, mobilizing diverse parties from across the community. They may have started a church before and be ready to do it again.

12. **They are competent vision-casters.***

Though styles and cultural norms vary across racial-ethnic groups, high-potential prospects are good communicators, often able to deliver compelling talks without notes. Good planters typically look you in the eye, talk to you in plain language about real life and how Christ makes a difference and why this new church is the best thing since sliced bread. They come across to unchurched people as down to earth and relevant.

13. **They are deeply committed to The United Methodist Church.***

They are willing to support The United Methodist Church and to plant a church which they eventually will give over to another pastor whom the bishop appoints.

* These traits can be nurtured by the UMC in potential planters through our intentional investment, mentoring and grooming over the years, prior to a planting appointment.

“Church Planting 101” – Afternoon Session

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)

This afternoon, after a short review of the morning session, we will continue with the remainder of the day’s agenda:

Church Planting 101 – Agenda

7 Basic Seasons of Church Planting

Break

What’s Next in Lay Missionary Planting Network Training?

Closing Covenant Service

“Affinity” Activity #1 – Follow-up

Affinity matters when attracting new people to a new church. Based on what you’ve seen and heard about affinity, what kind of people are you most likely to attract as church planters?

Something to consider:

*(Prepare to **share your responses with the class** when the facilitator asks for comments)*

While affinity plays a big role in starting new churches, depending too much on similarities to attract unchurched people to help you create a new church may lead to a church with little diversity. How might a lack of diversity hurt or limit your ministry?



Studying the Scriptures: Exercise #3

7 Basic Seasons of Church Planting



What you will need: Bible, pencil or pen, and a discussion group. Use the space below to write your notes on the passages:

1. Discerning: Are you called to be a church planter?

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

The discernment process begins when a prospective planter starts to recognize the gifts and senses God's calling for church planting. Others help you discern your calling to this important ministry, as they assess and affirm your gifts, your ministry's fruitfulness and your faithfulness to God. Church planting requires some special skills and gifts, along with a well of strength and spiritual depth to draw upon during challenging times.



Exploring the Scriptures:

- Matthew 3:13-17 (John baptizes Jesus)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?



RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Luke 7:18-28 (John's disciples ask Jesus if He's "the one" and Jesus tells them to report what they see)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



- Matthew 16:13-28 (Peter declares Jesus is Christ; Jesus tells Peter he is going to build a church)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- 1 Samuel 1-3 (God answers Hannah's prayers for a child, Samuel; she devotes his life to the Lord and he begins to discern his calling as a prophet, through Eli's teaching)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?



RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

2. Visioning: Emerging and clarifying vision that connects to the mission field and God's dreams for the people in it.



Then the Lord answered me and said, write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. – Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NRSV)

Vision offers a shared picture of a preferred future, inspired by God and affirmed by God's people. To create shared vision, church planters articulate this preferred future in an exciting and compelling way. They motivate people around that vision, develop strategic plans, and enlist individuals and teams to help the vision become reality.

Exploring the Scriptures:

- Luke 4:14-30 (Jesus declares his fulfillment of prophet's vision)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?



RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Matthew 9/Luke 10 (send laborers to the harvest)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Acts 10 (Peter/Cornelius – Peter is open to God’s leading and vision; converts an entire household because of a new definition of “clean/unclean”)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?



RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Nehemiah 1-2 (lay person following God's calling and vision to rebuild Jerusalem)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



3. Gathering: Attracting and engaging a critical mass of people to fulfill a new church's vision

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. –

Luke 10:1-2 (NRSV)



Church planting is never solo work. It requires deliberate and careful networking of relationships. The planter's first and ongoing relational task connects people to Christ, to the planter, to the vision, to other people, and to opportunities to serve the mission of making disciples and changing the world.

Exploring the Scriptures:

- Matthew 4:18-22 (Also Mark 1:16-20; John 1:35-51; Jesus calls the disciples)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



- Luke 6:12-16 (Jesus chooses the 12)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Acts 3 (Peter heals and preaches)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?



RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Exodus 3-5 (God calls Moses and Moses brings along Aaron for the job of addressing Pharaoh)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

4. Discipling: Creating a culture of multiplying discipleship

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV)



A Wesleyan model of church planting suggests small groups and mutual accountability as building blocks. Planters demonstrate a commitment to these practices by their ongoing leadership of, participation in, and championing of small groups and missional service in the targeted planting community.

Exploring the Scriptures:

- John 3 (Jesus and Nicodemus; teaching about eternal life and new birth; life-long learning)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Mark 9:14-50 (healing/prayer – little one with the spirit disciples could not cast out; teachable moments about greatness in kingdom of God; sanctification)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?



RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Deuteronomy 4:5-14; also 11:18-25 (teach God's word to all of Israel)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



- Acts 13:13-53 (Saul and Barnabas teach in Antioch of Pisidia)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

5. Worshiping: Public launch and congregational growth (not too soon and not too late)

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." – John 4:23-25 (NRSV)



God created people for us to be in relationship – with God and one another. Human beings have worship embedded in our very nature and one of God's great commandments to Israel set the tone for how we express that deep-seated love and worship of God: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5, NRSV). How we begin a church's public expression of worship requires careful planning and timing, along with an awareness of population norms and expectations across generations and cultures.



Exploring the Scriptures:

- John 4 (“Worship in spirit and in truth” - woman at the well)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Acts 2 (temple courts and house to house – both public and private worship)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?



RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Acts 17 (Paul notices all the worship options and “unknown god” and uses that as an entry to preaching)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- 2 Chronicles 34 (Josiah consults the Law and prophets and restores Covenant)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?



RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

6. Maturing: Growing people while developing healthy systems for mission and ministry

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. –

Ephesians 4:11-14 (NRSV)



As a congregation continues to develop and grow, it becomes viable, sustainable and poised for multiplication. Growing people while developing healthy systems (leadership development, financial, structure, and discipleship) will enable the church to grow spiritually, multiply its mission and ministries and prepare itself for inevitable leadership transitions. Building a fruitful and multiplying church requires recognizing and honoring each person's God-given gifts, especially those that complement the planter's gifts. Recognizing your dependence on God, maintaining a consistent corporate life of spiritual discipline, and faithfully exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit mean you will take big risks for Christ and experience personal and corporate growth and maturity.

Exploring the Scriptures:

- Acts 6:1-7 (Stephen and others distribute food to widows so apostles can keep growing the church and preaching the gospel)



Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Acts 15:1-35 (Jerusalem Council offers guidelines for Gentile believers)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



- Acts 5:17-42 (Jewish Council takes action against believers; Gamaliel urges Council to leave the believers alone and see what happens)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Exodus 18 (Jethro observes Moses and advises him to change some of his ways of working to sustain himself and the people of Israel)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?



RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

7. Multiplying: Reproduction that results in a new congregation

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and
increase the harvest of your righteousness. – 2
Corinthians 9:10-11 (NRSV)*



The whole point of planting new churches is for them to grow, reach new people for Christ, become healthy and reproduce.

Reaching more, diverse, and younger people for Christ requires knowledge and awareness of the mission field in your own backyard and responsiveness to the need for new and different ways to reach new and different persons. Often, that means more new churches.

Exploring the Scriptures:

- John 6.1-14 (Jesus feeds five thousand)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?



RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Matthew 13; Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8 (Parable of the Sower)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of Talents)

Write your notes here:



ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?

- Deuteronomy 6:1-3 (faithfully observe the law and you will multiply)

Write your notes here:

ROLE: Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in this passage?

RESPONSE: How do the characters respond?

RELATIONSHIPS: What can we learn about loving God/each other?

RESULT: What happened because of this experience?



Building a Lead Team (HOMEWORK): Activity #2

Successful church planters have the ability to identify people who are ready to join in the start-up of a new faith community. They are adept at bringing these first people together to form a strong relationally-based lead team of disciples who will pray together, have fun together, and serve together to bring their collective dreams and wisdom to the task of giving shape to the new church. God is in these people. They may not realize it, but God seems to prepare some people for this special role. Not everyone who is drawn to a church planter and to the idea of founding a new church seems to fit this role as a lead team member. There is always more for them to do as the faith community takes shape. Lead team members possess somewhat unique qualities that cause them to be effective organizers, recruiters, dreamers, and “get-the-job-done” doers.

What are some of the qualities to look for when identifying lead team members? Consider these characteristics and then think about others that might be important:

- Insightfulness
- Wisdom
- Perseverance
- Cooperation
- Achievement
- Organization
- Reliability
- Joy and playfulness
- Resilience

Add below the qualities you think would be useful to a new church:

I believe I possess these qualities:



Ask three people you trust which of these qualities they think will best complement what you, as a planter, would bring to the team. For example, you might think that you're good at Achievement, Cooperation, and Reliability, but someone else thinks you are better at bringing Joy and Playfulness to the team, and someone else might believe you are better at Organizing required plans and functions. Use the space below to note the observations of the others.

Observer #1 sees these qualities:

Observer #2 sees these qualities:

Observer #3 sees these qualities:

Be prepared to discuss the Lead Team Activity during Lay Missionary Planting Network Session 2.

Ideas for finding lead team members

Read over the list below and check by the items that appeal most to you as ways to find lead team members.

- Get referrals from pastors and laity from nearby churches
- Get invited to preach, teach or present a program at nearby churches, with permission to recruit some "missionaries" for the lead team



Homework: Please complete before “Session 2: United Methodism 101”

Basic Information about The United Methodist Church (by “Twos”)

In preparation for our class discussion during Session 2, please research the following questions:

1. The United Methodist Church celebrates which two sacraments?
2. Other than the Bible, which two books most closely guide United Methodist policy, theology, and social positions?
3. Which two denominations merged in 1968, forming The United Methodist Church?
4. What two elements make up the United Methodist insignia/logo?
5. Which two brothers from England founded the movement that became known as Methodism?
6. The “Wesleyan Quadrilateral” includes Scripture, Tradition, and two other elements. What are they?

Thanks for doing this assignment in advance, ready to discuss during Session 2. See you then!

