

Team Mission Southwest

A Joint Multiplication Team of the RCA and the CRC

Disciple-Making Progress Report

Church Name: _____ Reporting Period: _____

Purpose:

The Great Commission is to Make Disciples of all Nations. Mission Southwest wants to help you track how well you and your church are doing on Christ's commission. In his book the Three Signs of a Miserable Job, Patrick Lencioni suggests that immeasurement is one of those signs. Immeasurement creates an environment in which you are always guessing at how well you are doing. We want to know how well we are doing.

Measuring Progress:

In the Church we measure a lot of things, but do they really help us know how well we are doing at Making New Disciples. Some of those traditional measures are included here, and we also know these measures do not always capture when someone goes from exploring Christ to now following and growing in Christ. We ask you also to track the number of people who have been transformed in this way by the impact of you or your church, even if they have not been Baptized yet, or not regularly attending your service.

How does one define when a new disciple is made? Here is our definition: "A disciple is a student of Jesus who patterns their life after him by the exercise of the disciplines, following in his ways, laying down their life for others, and actively pouring themselves into the lives of others in order to make more disciples."

How does one measure new disciples? Here are some suggestions. Give this definition out to your congregation. Then on a weekly basis, have people give testimonies of new disciples (Either they became a new disciple or they had an impact on someone becoming a new disciple). Another idea would be to have candles available every week, and church members could light a candle for someone who just became a disciple that week. Perhaps, instead of these methods, using some type of form that people could submit when a new disciple is made. Then have someone count the testimonies, or the candles or the forms, and fill out this form with the information.

Measuring New Disciples:

Number of Adult Baptisms: _____ Number of Infant Baptisms: _____

Number of New Professions of Faith: _____ Number of New Disciples: _____

Measuring Discipleship Growth: (See Definitions on next Page)

Number moving from exploring Christ to Growing in Christ: _____ Total Exploring Christ: _____

Number moving from Growing in Christ to Close to Christ: _____ Total Growing in Christ: _____

Number moving from Close to Christ to Centered in Christ: _____ Total Close to Christ: _____

Total Centered in Christ: _____

Definitions of Discipleship Growth:

The following Definitions of Discipleship Growth Continuum are based on the Reveal Study and the Engage group out of the Willow Creek Association in 2007. Michael Johnson of Ascending leaders added some clarification by matching Reveal Studies research results to work that A.B. Bruce did in 1871, and Bill Hull in 2003. Coachnet.org also has developed a storyboard that matches the key behaviors that are exhibited in these Growth Stages.

A.B. Bruce (1871) Bill Hull (2003) Christ's Invitation at each Stage	Come and See	Come and Follow Me	Come and Be With Me	Remain in Me
Reveal/Engage 2007 Discipleship Growth Definitions	Exploring Christ "I believe in God, but I'm not sure about Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life."	Growing in Christ "I believe in Jesus and I'm working on what it means to get to know him."	Close to Christ "I feel really close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance."	Christ Centered "God is all I need in my life. He is enough. Everything I do is a reflection of Christ."
Michael Johnson's Definitions	Stranger to Jesus	Getting-to-know/Congenial Friend with Jesus	Friend/Close Friend with Jesus	Best-Friend/Confidant of Jesus
Discipleship Growth Behaviors at each stage according to Coachnet's Missional Discipleship Storyboard. These behaviors are cumulative. Behaviors in previous stages carry over to later stages. They are also behaviors that propel one to the next stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -interacting with scripture -experiencing the presence of God -growing in knowledge of what Jesus is like -A renewal of mind and heart -Living out new priorities in changed behavior -Cultivating a heart of compassion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deepening honest dialogue with God through Prayer -bringing whole self to God -Reflecting on life and experiences -Acting in faith through loving obedience -Sharing God with others -Demonstrating consistency between private and public life -Being honest about both struggles and joys -Taking initiative in developing relationships -Committing to meaningful participation in community -Praying with and for others -Actively seeking out feedback from others -Treating others with care and respect -initiating two way communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discerning God's voice and where he's working -Deepening your understanding of who God made you to be -Genuinely accepting all people -Calling out the image of God in others -Serving humbly and joyfully in creative ways alongside others -Actively ministering to the oppressed and the needy -Giving of your time, gifts, and resources -Praying that God would reveal where he is at work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deepening relationships with pre-Christians and their networks -listening and asking questions about the spiritual journey of others -Discipling and encouraging new believers -praying for spiritual receptivity -coaching and being coached -Encouraging public commitment of faith -involving new believers in authentic communities -helping new followers make more followers -developing generations of disciples

