

Congregational Visioning Process...continuing the Grace Institute discussion

Grace will return to have another congregational meeting on July 29. The times have not yet been set, but to help the conversation when they return, we are hosting a number of Sunday school discussions with key indicators/questions from Grace Institute. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

June 18

Given the FIVE LIFE SYSTEMS OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Worship, Connection, Equipping, Service and Evangelism) how would you rate the congregation's health from 1-10 on each of those areas? How can those numbers be improved?

June 25

During the Grace discussion on June 3, we talked about the flow of people's church life after they come in the door as being like a foyer, living room, kitchen experience. How would people identify the parts of the church program that facilitate each of those areas?

July 9

We have talked during our Grace discussions about how church culture is developed or altered through answering a series of questions:

1. What are the things, behaviors and programs that are reinforced and encouraged?
2. What are the things you celebrate? How often?
3. What things are discouraged? Are there things that need to be buried?
4. What are the things that are repeated? How does that decision get made? How are those repetitions tweaked to keep them fresh and continue to help the culture flourish?
5. What are the things that you challenge for the sake of growth and maturity?
6. How are things interpreted? Are events or programs simply defined as successful or are they considered life-changing?

July 16

The consensus is that church growth and evangelism is of interest and concern. However there are some repeated messages we get:

- We probably won't attract adults from the north side of the divide because of the style of worship
- We probably won't attract people from south of the divide because it is heavily Catholic.
- Asking our friends and neighbors to go to church is probably asking them to drive too far
- There is a great reluctance to change the style of worship

Question: What options does this leave for potential evangelism and growth?