Ideas for Getting Started with Congregations

Mission Moments – Consider having a Mission Moment during your announcements to briefly share an aspect of mission. You can use the foundational principles for mission as a starting place in the Field Guide in your binder. Each principle has a paragraph that describes the principle of mission. Share a brief testimony or story that illustrates that dimension of mission. Ask different members of the PLT or others in the congregation to share how they are living out the principle.

WHY LCM Video – This video was introduced in Retreat 4 and includes three segments with questions. These segments can be shown separately during three times of gathering or all at one time. Engage the congregation in meaningful conversation about the video contents and questions.

LCM Videos - The videos are very good introductions to key concepts. Worship services can be built around these videos with opportunities for individuals to share testimonies and/or someone to share a challenge. Also remember that Twelve Months of Dwelling in the Word is provided in your binder and the website and can be utilized in worship with the videos.

Missional Practices and Worship – Consider using worship to introduce the three shared missional practices – Dwelling in the Word, Sharing in the Round, and the Mission Prayer. Develop a service around each practice and include the practice in the experience. For example, the Sharing in the Round Practice could be introduced in a service in the fellowship hall where everyone sits around tables, shares in an Agape meal, and participates in a Dwelling in the Word experience. The TABLES VIDEO would be a great video to use for this service along with the question at the end of the video.

Discovering Your Congregational Story – This exercise is included in Retreat 2 Resources in your packet or on www.missionalleaders.org. This meaningful activity invites the congregation to reflect on their journey over time and how God has been present in events, experiences, and the lives of individuals who have been a part of the congregation. The value of this experience is where it begins – a recognition that God has been with us on our journey as a congregation. LCM is not separate from this journey but a continuation of this journey. The exercise can be facilitated as a Saturday experience or over several Sunday experiences. The exercise provides both formats.

Congregational Retreat – Consider a congregational retreat to introduce LCM Concepts in more depth. Ron Harmon – rharmon@cofchrist.org, Rob Borkowski – rborkowski@cofchrist.org, Tom Mountenay – tmounteany@cofchrist.org, and Katie Harmon-Mclaughlin(spiritual formation specialist) – khmclaughlin@cofchrist.org are willing to assist you in structuring a meaningful retreat experience. We can also help identify guest ministry.

Explore Missional Practices – Remember there many missional practices you can review and utilize based on the needs of your congregation (see www.missionalleaders.org). We encourage trying the Walking the Neighborhood Practice. This practice can be utilized anytime the congregation gathers for an activity. It can also be utilized in neighborhoods where congregants live. Consider providing time in worship experiences for individuals to share their experiences with missional practices.

Receive, Embody, and Share Christ’s Peace