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“What is God’s Purpose for My Congregation?”

[\[YouTube Link\]](#)

We asked gathered congregational leaders the question, “What is God’s Purpose for Your Congregation?” 90 plus percent of the respondents said things that made it clear that they understand God’s purpose for their church to be pointed beyond, reaching beyond, and growing beyond itself.

Here are some of the responses: “What is God’s Purpose for My Congregation?”

- To be mindful of others different than us.
- To make disciples by equipping the saints and by being the light of Christ to our community.
- To engage people and communities that are different from our own.
- To create a safe and sacred space for the overlooked and marginalized.
- To engage with our community.
- To build disciples and transform lives.
- To take God’s Word into the community so that we are a beacon of God’s love.
- To bring a spiritual depth to an often too shallow world.
- To engage others by reaching out to the community.
- To be faith in action.
- To love.
- To take God’s work into the community.
- To be an incarnational presence of Christ in the world.

What amazing responses to that question! These are the very things that God is calling us to be - to have that stance is a missional stance – it explores what God is doing out there, and what God is calling us to be outside the walls.

God’s purpose is that we be _____ in the community. Be missional.

How do we live into that very purpose of God?

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There are four components, or vectors, and those are all connected and contingent upon each other. They are: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

1 Discern direction. That is the first step. Where is God calling us? Where is that tug on us as a church? Be in conversation. Make a list. Be in corporate prayer. Spend an hour together as a small group doing this exercise.

In that hour in the first 5 minutes ask the question: Where is God calling us? Where is that tug on us as a church?

Then spend 15 minutes praying on that.

Spend the next 15 minutes as a group brainstorming ideas.

Spend the next 15 minutes honing those ideas really quickly, and then narrow them down to a few.

Spend 10 minutes making a choice. One choice. Only one.

Spend that last 15 minutes in prayer thanking God for leading your group to that choice.

Notice in that one-hour discernment that half of the time was spent in prayer.

2 Design a Plan. That is the second vector of the quadrangle.

What is your plan? Here is where you are writing out the action steps. Here is where you thinking through the details of what it takes.

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What will people be doing? What is necessary to carry this through? What are the verbs – the actions that are needed? Chart that. Write it out.

3 Develop strategies.

How do you take the plan and outline the steps? This is where you list details of how to do. Notice that in this phase no one is actually doing whatever is going to be done yet. Strategies are being outlined. Specifics are being named. The details matter. Here is where those details are thought through.

What will people be doing in carrying out each step of the plan?

4 Deploy Disciples.

This is the place of action. Where people are deployed to do the doing that is to be done. At the heart of the deployment is people. God's people – disciples, seeking to follow Christ. As we are sent out – we live into the kind of discipleship into which we are called.

God has called us for a purpose – to be in the world, forming and transforming the world with the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

That is our purpose.

Discern Direction > Design a plan > Develop Strategies > And be deployed disciples.

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Incubate on that. B Vibrant, disciples, B Vibrant.