



Diocese of Western Anglicans

Modeling Churches

DRAFT Description

March 8, 2019

Rationale:

Moving from Maintenance to Mission to Reproduction is a difficult, multi-faceted development process organizationally and requires the commitment to train, experiment and practice so that patterns are developed appropriate to the micro cultures we are seeking to penetrate. In short, our congregations are focused on disciple-making and reproduction in widely divergent environments and their effectiveness will be leveraged by understanding the local culture in which people live. Moreover, not every congregation has the human resources to build momentum through this kind of development. They are, therefore, reliant on others to lead the way so that they may benefit directly from others' experimentation and practice and thereby become trained more effectively and efficiently.

Description:

A Modeling Church is not to be confused with a Model Church. All of our congregations are unique and offer the world an invitation to know, love and follow Jesus in their own way. We celebrate this! A Modeling Church is a congregation that is willing to apply principles, processes and practices that best apply in their local context as they commit themselves daily to 'make disciples who make disciples of Jesus', 'identify, develop and deploy missional leaders' and 'reproduce missional communities' through the Local Church. In short, a Modeling Church is a church of practitioners who are willing to persevere in their efforts to identify and utilize the best means of carrying the good news of Jesus into the local community in which they are immersed. The purpose of this approach is to identify one or more congregations in each region that want to develop in mission, but may lack sufficient assistance, knowledge, experience or resources to fulfill their hopes and desires for mission. The bishop is offering to assist those churches that, with his assistance, may more easily take their next steps in mission.

Anticipated Missional Activities:

1. Become increasingly proficient at organically reproducing disciples who make disciples to the 4^{th+} generation, with demonstrated results. Organic, by definition, is when a congregation learns how to engage in a ministry activity that will take place without the intervention of the Rector or senior leader in order for it to continue. The lay leaders and lay members are committed to seeing this process repeated and willing to measure the fruit of their efforts.



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2. Applies best practices and holds the high value of lay vocations and mobilization for personal and communal impact on the 'harvest field' in which the congregation is immersed. This means that a primary focus of the congregation is missional leader development, the forming and equipping of people who will lead others effectively in mission that is based in the wider community. The fruit of this is new conversions, new disciples of Jesus and new church members, all of whom seek Jesus through the effective leadership of local church members.
3. Commits to and equips leaders who gather people to form a 'Christ-centered community on mission'. Missional communities target specific neighborhoods, relational networks or identified needs of unreached people and actively engage them through personal relationship, need meeting service and invitations to follow Jesus as a member of their missional community. The level of this commitment extends beyond the novelty of one missional community to the development of multiple missional communities, with all that this requires.

Anticipated Approach:

1. Congregations who want to give this opportunity their prayer and reflection will seek the Lord first for His Kingdom and enter into a season of serious commitment to reproductive missional ministry.
2. Congregations who desire to enter into relationship with the diocese as a Modeling Church will complete the Modeling Church Application and send it to the bishop for his prayer and reflection.
3. Congregations will be ready to share its learnings through various media and teaching venues, as requested.
4. The bishop will select up to 12 Modeling Churches in the Initial Phase (2 years) and prepare to invest in the Rector, Vestry and the leadership team for planning and development in the 3 defined areas of: disciple-making, missional leader development and missional community reproduction.
5. The bishop will negotiate (in non-pandemic years) with the congregation for his time and investment of up to 3 intensive interventions annually for effective planning, coaching, training and implementation of missional goals and objectives.
6. The bishop will be free to involve key individuals as resources with particular expertise in one or more of the areas of development to assist the congregation in its efforts to grow from maintenance to mission to reproduction.



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7. The bishop, the congregation Rector and the Vestry will review progress quarterly and engage in a year-end review before continuing the Modeling Church relationship.

If, at the end of the Initial Phase of development (2 years), either the congregation or the bishop decide to discontinue the Modeling Church relationship, progress will be celebrated and recommendations for further development will be made.