

# ***Discipleship Process and Philosophy of Ministry***

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**1. Beliefs and Core Faith:** what the leaders and organization believe about God, people, life, and eternity. Fundamental or core beliefs, formulated as non-negotiables and negotiable or essentials and important beliefs to which the church adheres.

**2. Purpose or Mission:** what the organization is here to do

“Mission” comes for the Latin word *mittere*, meaning, “to throw, let go, or send.” Mission is the fundamental reason for the organization’s existence. What are we here to do together? At one level or another, the mission of the church is discipleship, seeing people saved and transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

**3. Discipleship Profile:** a description of the end goal or description of a fully developed disciple. If discipleship is the goal (as the Bible teaches), what is a disciple? What key verse or verses describe this person?

**4. Values:** the way we expect to travel on the journey and the type of people we are going to become to get where we want to go

The word “value” comes from the French verb *Valoir*, meaning “to be worth.” Values describes who we want to become and what we will be like, as we pursue our mission. Values are best expressed in terms of behavior: If we act as we should, what would an observer see us becoming, what type of people are we developing into?

**5. Discipleship Method:** a description of how disciples are made. What was the method used in the Bible, especially by Jesus? Paul? Peter? Have the methods been improved upon since that time?

**6. Vision:** an image of our desired future.

A vision is a picture of the future you seek to create, described in the present tense, as if it were happening now. A statement of “our vision” shows where we want to go and what we will be like when we get there. The word comes from the Latin *videre*, “to see.” This link to seeing is significant: the more richly detailed and visual the image is, the more compelling it will be.

Every shared vision effort needs not just a broad visions, but specific, realizable goals.

See, *The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook*, by Senge, Kleiner, Roberts, Ross, and Smith.

# Pulling Your Philosophy Together

## Personnel

The team members through whom God accomplishes His purpose.

## Programs (corporate behaviors)

Gatherings, meetings, and events through which the church accomplishes her current set of priorities.

## Vision

Clear picture of a desired future that describes what this ministry will look like in three, five or ten years and develops positive mental images and pictures that motivate people.

## Discipleship Method

Core process and behaviors which will to fulfill the mission and become the disciples as described (often makes clear how the core values become reality in the lives of the believers).

## Core Values

Consistent, passionate, Biblical, and distinctive convictions that determine our priorities, influence our decisions, drive our ministry, and are always demonstrated by our behavior.

## Discipleship Profile

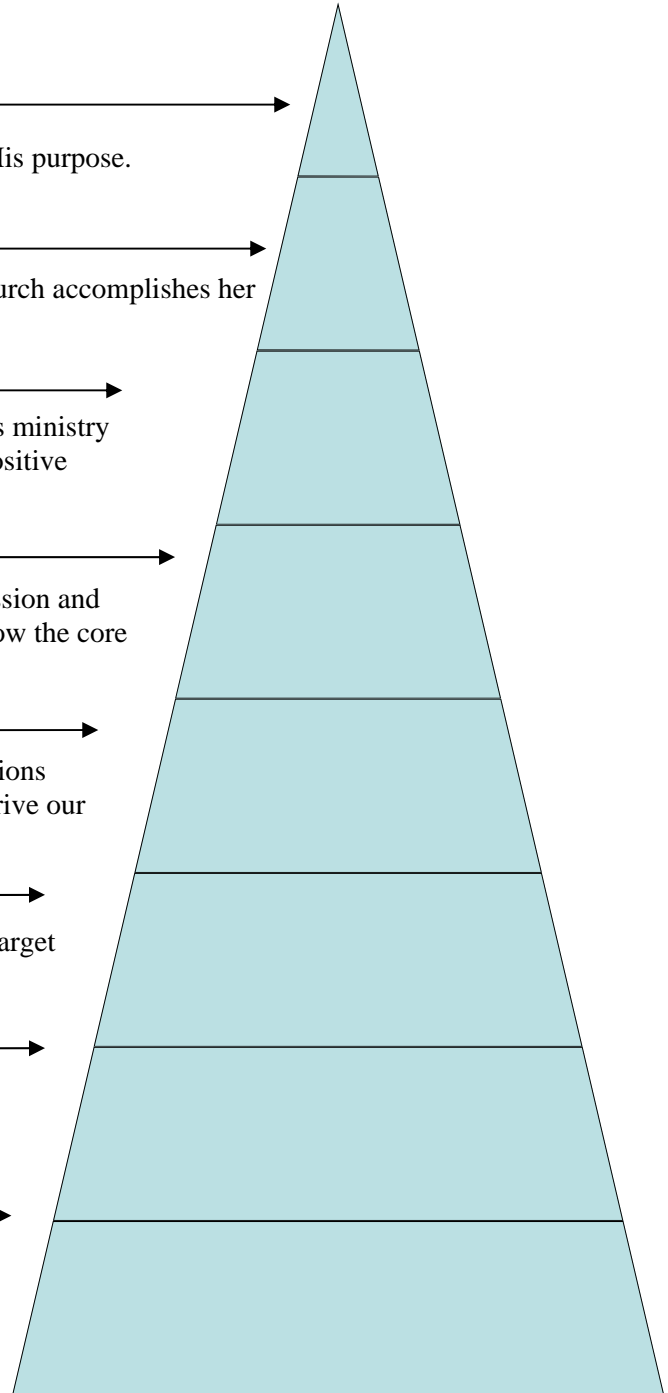
Description of what a true disciple looks like, specific target that makes clear what winning means.

## Mission Statement

Biblical purpose / mission of the church, true for every congregation, yet stated in many ways.

## Basic Beliefs

Solid convictions on which our ministry is built, includes our theology and statement of faith.



*“There must be consistency throughout the pyramid. And it must be built from the bottom up. That’s why most people are frustrated and stressed out a good deal of the time.”*

Hyrum Smith, Franklin Quest Co.

*The Ten Natural Laws of Successful Time and Life Management*

# **1. What are Your Basic Beliefs?**

Our beliefs are those things around which we build our lives. Some of our beliefs are more central than others.

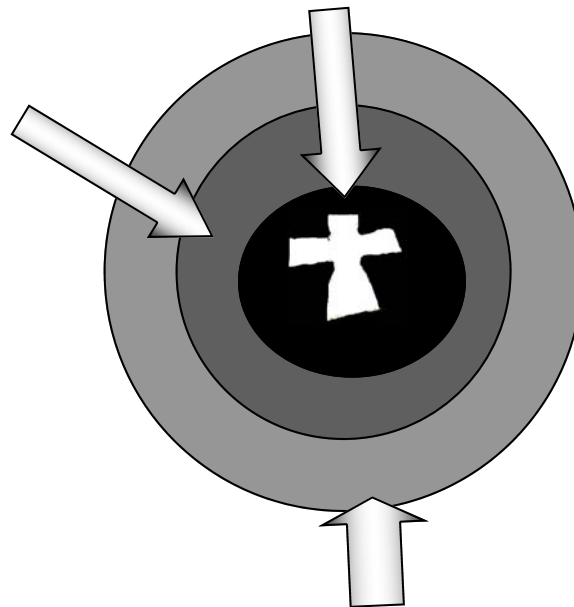
What are the Core Beliefs of the Bible? (Essentials For Salvation)

What are Secondary Beliefs? (Important For Faithfulness to Scripture)

What Are Matters of Preference? (Personal positions)

## **i. Essential Beliefs (non-negotiable for the church**

## **ii. Important Beliefs.**



## **iii. Personal beliefs**

Review and/or create a faith statement (see Real Life Example and HCC Example).

Non-Negotiables (in this local church)

Statement How Negotiables will be Handled (in this local church)

## **2. What is Your Mission Statement**

(We use 'purpose' and 'mission' synonymously)

- What the organization is here to do.
- Mission is the fundamental reason for our group's existence.
- Only God has the right to define the 'mission' of His Church.
- At a basic level the biblical mission always comes back to both reaching lost people and discipleship – although it is stated creatively.

Examples:

Identify several key verses for God's purposes for the church....

What other verses deal with purpose and meaning?

Write a draft mission statement for your church (short enough that a seven year old can remember it).

### 3. *What is a Biblical Disciple*

End Product - if the mission of the church is to reach lost people and help them to become like Jesus, what exactly does a Christ-like person look like? When someone is fully living out the life of the kingdom of God, what is his or her profile?

What is a clear definition of what a disciple is:

- o One who knows and follows Christ.
- o One who is being changed by Christ.
- o One who is committed to the mission of Christ – the ministry of reconciliation.

What do you see the Bible teaching that a disciple is like?

What key verse will you use to define your discipleship profile?  
(review examples from Real Life and Harpeth Community Church)

## 4. What are Your Core Values

How we will act and the things we will value in pursuing discipleship.

The Biblical accent and emphasis upheld as we pursue God's mission for the church.

What points of growth matter most?

Identify several key verses?

Core Values are the 4-5 Hills the leaders are willing to die defending. . .

### **What are Core Values?**

*Core values are consistent, passionate, Biblical, distinctive, convictions that determine our priorities, influence our decisions, drive our ministry, express our personality, and are always demonstrated by our behavior.*

“Mission is our God-given reason for existence.”

“Discipleship profile describes what a mature Christ-follower looks like.”

“Core Values describe who we are or who we are becoming.”

Reference: CMTC Church Planter's Bootcamp Manual, 1998, pg 3

### **Core Values Are Not**

- Our biblical beliefs
- A biblical purpose statement
- My vision statement(s)
- My mission statement
- A listing of favorite programs

Examples . .

## Questions to ask:

1. What steps are necessary as we grow into Christ-likeness? How do we get there?
2. Brainstorm a list of potential core developmental values. Make sure each value is easily translated into actions.
2. Group similar values together and combine.
3. Highlight the ones that are most important. Prioritize.
4. Select the key 4 to 7 core values the Bible teaches that God would want you to emphasize for the people in your church.
5. Check for completeness. Do all essential activities in your ministry flow logically from the core values?
6. Describe the specific behaviors that will demonstrate each core value in action.

## 5. What is Your Method?

How are disciples made? Does the Bible show us a method for making disciples? What method was used in the Old Testament? What method did Moses, Elijah, and others use? What method did Jesus use? Paul? Peter? Have other methods been effectively used since then.

What was the method of making disciples in the Old Testament?

What was the method of making disciples in the New Testament?

What methods of making disciples have you seen God most honor and utilize in your ministry?

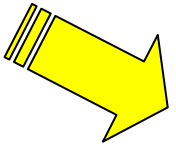
Describe the method for making disciples that you want used in your church.

“Mission is our God-given reason for existence.”

“Discipleship profile describes what a mature Christ-follower looks like.”

“Core Values describe who we are or who we are becoming.”

“Method describes how you will disciple people so they will match the profile and learn to live-out the values.”



## Turning Values into Practices:

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

(List possible Core Values – leading to Christ-likeness)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

(Narrow down your list to 4 or 5)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

(What Methods and Practices will naturally create people who match the profile and reflect the Values?)

"Where the Christian community is incapable of producing lives such as those of the saints, the premises from which it argues will appear rootless and arbitrary."

## 6. Clarifying Your Vision

### What is vision?

Calvin Miller

"Vision is the photographic image that guides a pilgrimage to the goal it depicts."

George Barna

"The big picture, a comprehensive sense of where you are, where you are going, and how you're going to get there."

George Barna

Not the impossible dream but rather the Most Possible Dream.

Peter Senge

"Vision is the answer to the question, 'What do we want to create?'"

Better yet, vision answers the question:

"What does God want to create in us?"

"Vision is at the very core of leadership. Take vision away from a leader and you cut out his or her heart. Vision is the fuel that leaders run on. It's the energy that creates action. It's the fire that ignites the passion of followers. It's the clear call that sustains focused effort year after year, decade after decade, as people offer consistent and sacrificial service to God." *Courageous Leadership*, Hybels

### Benefits of Vision:

1. Tells where the church is going.
2. Provides a snapshot of the church's direction.
3. Challenges people to accomplish ministry.
4. Inspires people to greater efforts for God.
5. Touches the emotion.
6. Unique to every church.

Aubrey Malphurs. *Planting Growing Churches*

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"Discipleship profile describes what a mature Christ-follower looks like."

"Core Values describe who we are or who we are becoming."

"Method describes how you will disciple people so they will match the profile and learn to live-out the values."

"Vision describes what we see as future dream."

## **What are the components of vision?**

1. Vision statements should be short (one sentence) that describes an ideal future.
2. Visions are future-oriented, statements of destination.
3. Visions are our windows on the world of tomorrow. Through vision we get a picture of what things will be like as we begin the journey.
4. Visions express possibilities and potential and hope!