



Developing Discipleship Models for the 21st Century Church

Michigan-Indiana, Southeast Missouri, Illinois-Wisconsin Regions-Third Episcopal District
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Leadership Training School

July 29-31, 2019

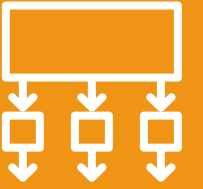
Chicago Matteson Conference Center-Matteson, IL

Rev. Dr. Claudia Dunlap, Dean, Michigan-Indiana Region

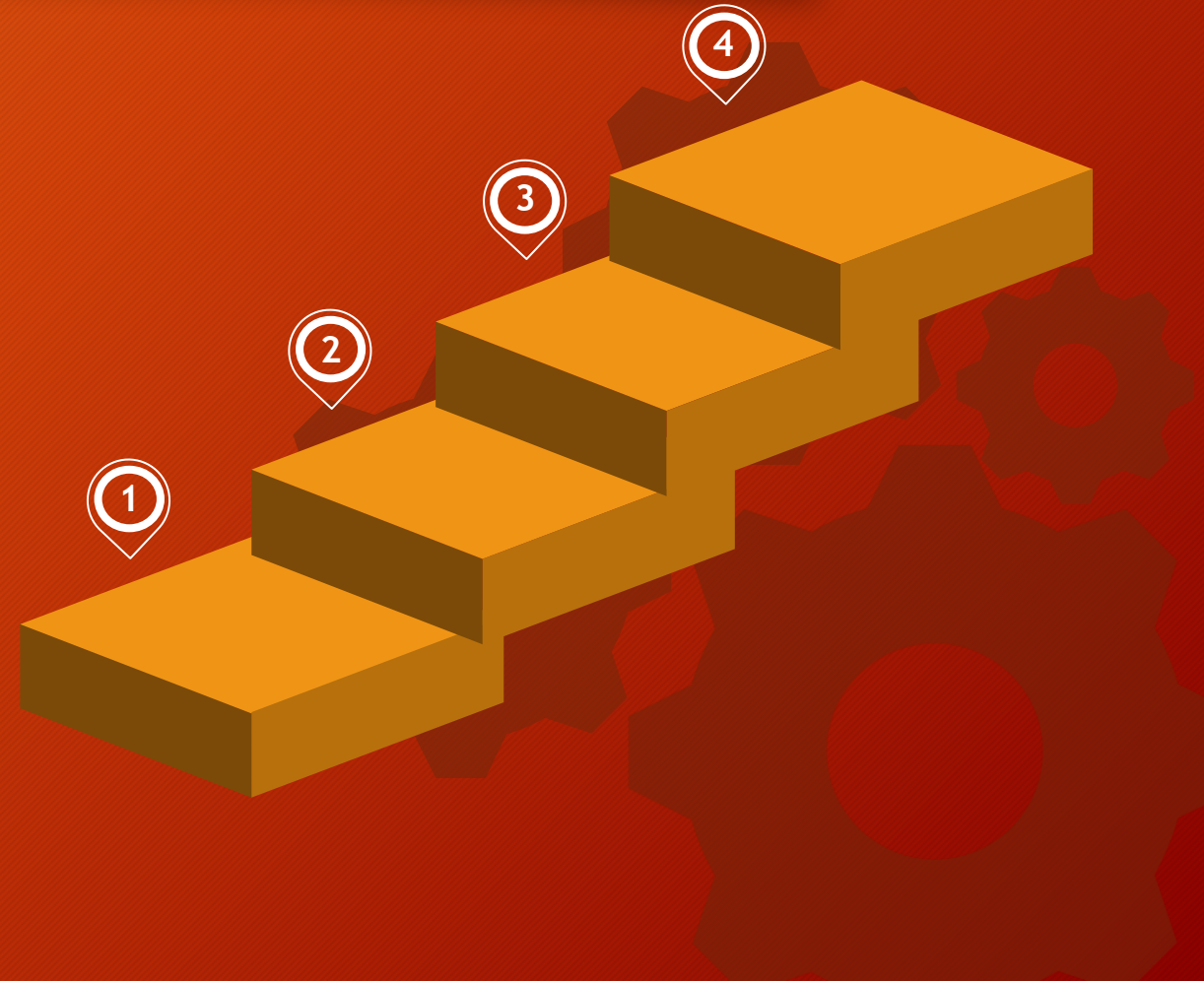
Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams, Dean, Southeast Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin Region

Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr., Presiding Prelate

LTS Objectives for the Week



- 1 Define Discipleship Models
- 2 Understand the evolution of Discipleship Models
- 3 Identify the essential elements of Discipleship Models
- 4 Draft a scalable Discipleship Model



What is a Discipleship Model?

Discipleship is also referred to as:

“Working out your soul salvation”

“Spiritual Formation”

“Doing Church”

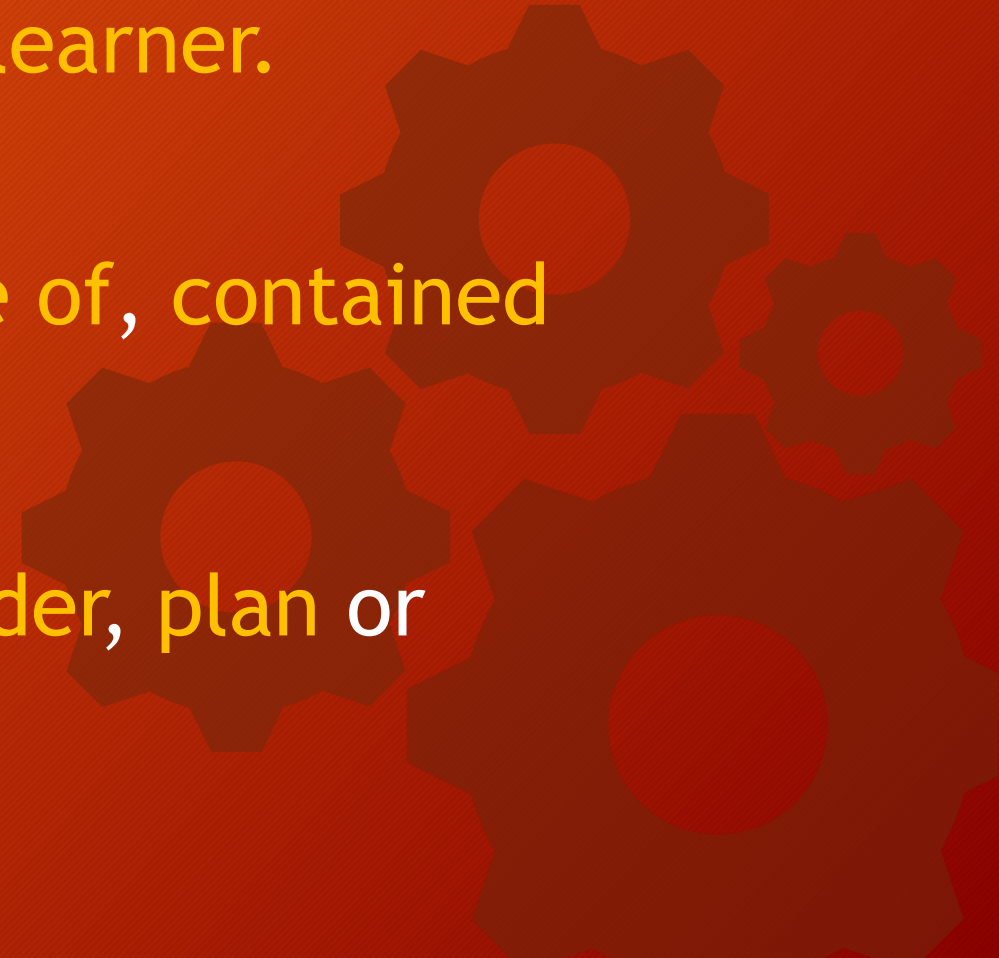


What is a Discipleship Model?

“Disciple” means continuous learner.

The suffix *“ship”* means state of, contained in, or condition of.

“Model” means a method, order, plan or process of doing.



What is a Christian Discipleship Model?

“A Christian discipleship model is a method, order, plan or process that contains or places individuals in a state or condition of continuous learning of the principles of living a Christ-centered life.”

What is the Church's Role in Discipleship?

“Spiritual formation is the task of the church. It represents neither an interesting, optional pursuit by the church nor an insignificant category in the job description of the body. Spiritual formation is at the heart of its whole purpose for existence. The church was formed to form”

(James Wilhoit, Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered).

What is the Church's Role in Discipleship?

Three (3) deliverables of the Christian Church

1. To lead individuals to become believers.
2. To help the believers mature to disciples.
3. To equip the disciples to live and function model discipleship.

Discipleship in Decline

Six Reasons for the Decline of Christian Discipleship

1. Cultural deterioration, affecting the church as well as the world, makes discipleship and the cost of discipleship less appealing to many rank and file Christians.
2. The surge of electronic media makes traditional discipleship methodology less appealing.
3. New and serious problems today have come up so suddenly that they have outpaced the ability of many Christians to speak effectively to them.

Discipleship in Decline

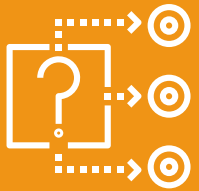
Six Reasons for the Decline of Christian Discipleship

4. The national loss of general biblical knowledge and understanding is so great that we must start at a very basic level.
5. The difference between people with no biblical background and those with strong biblical background is so pronounced, you cannot talk to both of them at the same time.
6. Some churches have ben over backwards so far to make church “easy” for people that they cannot make any demands on their congregations without alienating them.

What is a Christian Discipleship Model?

“A Christian discipleship model is a **method**, order, plan or process that **contains** or places individuals in a **state** or condition of **continuous** learning of the principles of living a Christ-centered life.”

Task 1



With three (3) people sitting near you, define a Christian Discipleship Model in your own words.
Help clarify when necessary.

Where has Spiritual Formation come from?

- Passing on what we believed from generation to generation. (Indoctrination-Fellowship)
- Sharing what we believed in a structured manner
 - Church School and Bible Study. (Education-Christian Education)
- Verbalizing what we believed outside of the fellowship through outreach and witnessing. (Proclamation-Evangelism)

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

6 Trending Models for “Doing Church”

1. Traditional Discipleship Models (Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, etc.)
 2. Purpose-Driven Models (Warren-Saddleback Church)
 3. Seeker-Targeted Models (Hybel-Willow Creek Church)
 4. Apostolic Models (end-time harvest)
 5. Revival Models (Azusa, Toronto, etc.)
 6. Cell-based Models (Seoul South Korea, New Life Church, etc.)
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How has Discipleship been approached?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

1. **Relational** - people grew in their relationship to Christ as they grew in their relationship to one another.

Reflected in the description of the Church in Acts 2. They met together and devoted themselves to the fellowship of the other believers.

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

2. Experimental - converts were taught about Christ and grew their relationship to him through a full immersion into a medieval multi-media experience.

Seen in the Tabernacle during the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites. Furniture, action smell was strategically designed and implemented by God to draw people closer to him.

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

3. Academic - believers were taught about Christ and grew in their relationship to him through a systematic, academic approach.

Seen in Romans where Paul (Romans 12) instructs his readers, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

4. **Personal** - the church provided people with materials and taught them how to develop a personal relationship with God, and people grew in their knowledge and relationship with God through personal pursuit.

Seen where Paul exhorts Timothy (2 Tim 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved...”).

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

5. Incarnational - people grew in their knowledge and relationship with Christ by seeking to become like him through service and outreach to others.

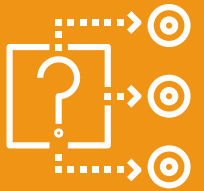
Seen where Jesus instructs us to take care of the hungry, thirsty, sick, poor, stranger, and prisoner (Matt 25).

Where have Discipleship Models come from?

5 Approaches to Christian Discipleship

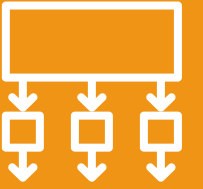
1. **Relational Approach** - discipleship would occur naturally when Christians live in **community** with one **another**.
2. **Experimental** - discipleship was directed at all five (5) **senses**.
3. **Academic** - discipleship is rooted in systematic **teaching**.
4. **Personal** - discipleship would occur as a result of a personal **relationship** with God.
5. **Incarnational** - discipleship would be as a result of **responding** to Jesus' call to **action** on behalf of the poor, sick and oppressed.

Task 2

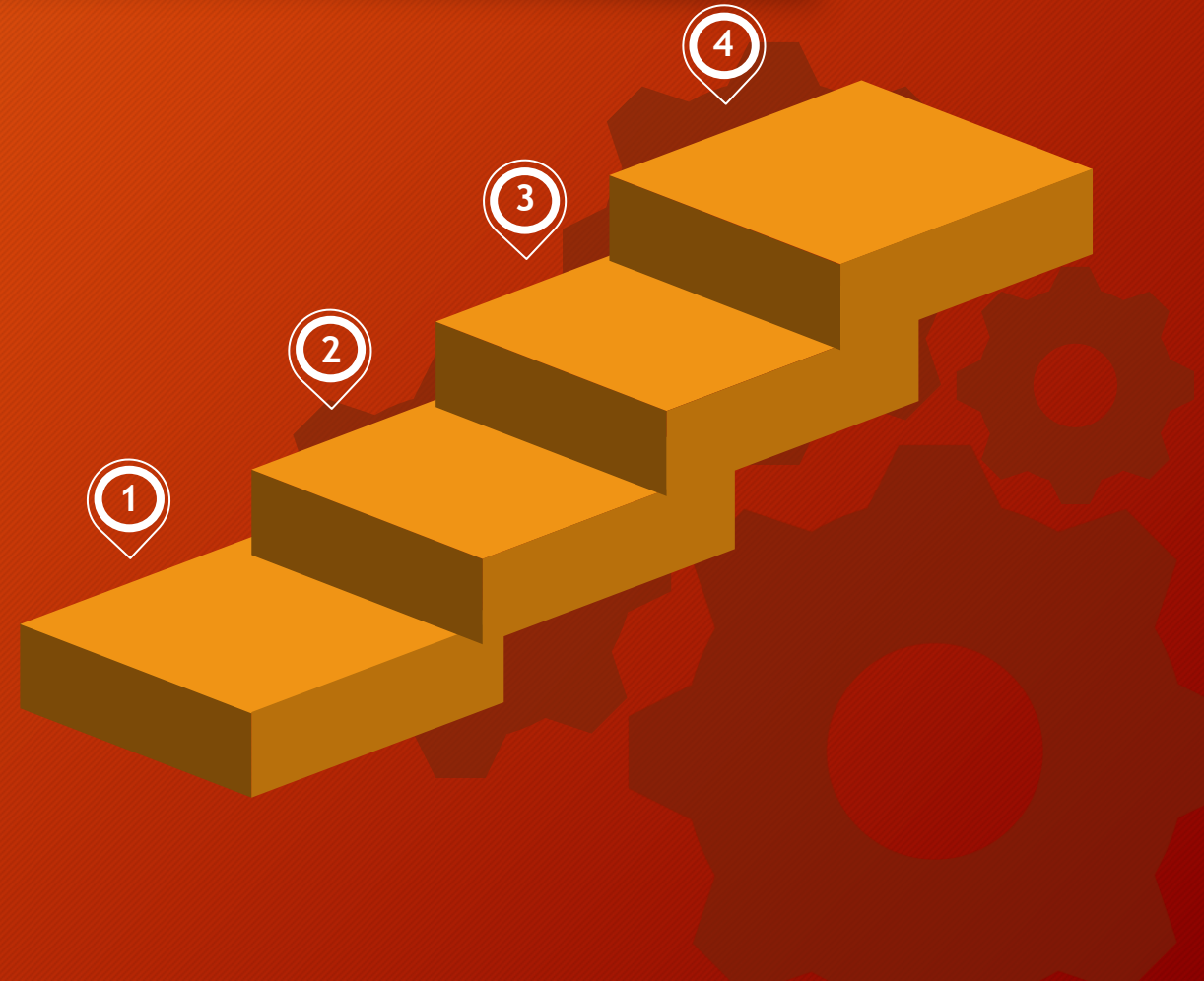


With the same three people sitting near you, identify the five (5) approaches to Christian discipleship and the focus of each? Help clarify when necessary.

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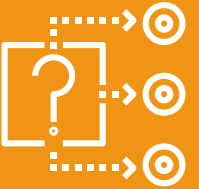




What did you learn?



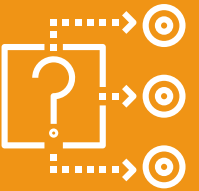
Breakout Task 1



With three (3) people sitting near you,

1. Define Christian Discipleship Model. Help clarify when necessary.
2. Based on the definition of a Christian Discipleship Model, discuss how well are our church doing.
3. Identify what's missing from our church's model.
4. Be prepared to share your responses.

Breakout Task 2



With the same three people sitting near you,

1. Identify the 5 approaches to Christian Discipleship and each focus. Help clarify when necessary.
2. Based on the evolution of Discipleship Models, discuss which model most defines our church today ?
3. What can be taken from the other four models to improve our model?
4. Be prepared to share your responses.