

DISCIPLESHIP: The Church must provide a variety of experiences in order to fully disciple – Jesus did! Jesus disciplined by teaching His disciples, but He also simply lived with them, camped, journeyed, played, laughed, served others, went to parties, went to Temple (and synagogues), asked questions, and helped them make a difference in other people’s lives. Discipleship in Church must also be multi-faceted. The following will help in the development of their strategic discipleship plan, as local churches incorporate and provide these elements of discipleship for their members.

- We are asking all churches to create a “Discipleship Plan” as a part of their own “3-5 Year Ministry Plan” or strategic plan. Local church strategies will consider the following (A-E) as they develop their own contextual definition:

A. Jesus-discipleship is highly relational; therefore, we should understand discipleship as an intentional, organic and transformative relationship that Jesus modeled for each of us, wherein 2 or more people meet regularly for the following purposes:

- i. nurturing church family;
- ii. learning God’s Word in order to apply to daily life;
- iii. learning to hear and listen to God;
- iv. prayer-worshipping;
- v. discovering gifts and participating in God’s work in other people’s lives (Matthew 28:19) and
- vi. healing, deliverance, and wholeness in Christ.

B. Jesus-discipleship includes fellowship with the local Church family. This may include the following:

- i. Small group;
- ii. Participation in local Church ministry (assuming that all local Church ministries are teams / groups of people who both connect as a team, and they serve others);
- iii. Fellowship activities where Church family laughs and enjoys each other (potlucks, clubs, sports);
- iv. Sunday morning corporate worship experience;
- v. Prayer meetings;
- vi. Church classes, seminars, conferences and other training opportunities.

C. Jesus-discipleship includes coaching / mentoring: There are differences between coaching and mentoring, however, for our purpose it is sufficient to say that local Churches should provide both of these. Coaching is defined as a help given by an expert to an individual for the improvement of her performance. Mentoring refers to an activity where a person guides a less experienced person. Coaching is task oriented, but Mentoring is relationship driven. Coaching is for a short term. Some FMCiC coaching / mentoring opportunities include: “IF”, “3DM”, “Radical Mentoring”, “Transformational Leadership”, and of course the FMCiC network system for our ordained leaders.

D. Jesus-discipleship may include spiritual direction: Spiritual direction is a soul-care relationship in which a person journeys with another believer in order to listen to the Holy Spirit’s leading. The Spiritual Director is someone attuned to God and particularly gifted as a listener. The director listens to God, self and the directee. Together they discern God’s calling for the directee in each new life season.

E. Jesus-discipleship may include Christian counseling / psychotherapy.