

ST. MATTHEW'S NEW LIFE

DISCIPLESHIP PLAN



¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
-Matthew 28:18-20

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

The mission of SMNL is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and congregation. Our vision is to Meet Needs, Plant Seeds, and Build HOPE by creating a community of people who relate to God and one another through Jesus Christ. Building H.O.P.E. is not only how we live out our vision and mission, but it is also how we develop and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ. Building HO.P.E. is a continual process by which we experience God's grace.

BUILDING H.O.P.E.

Hospitality is reaching out and receiving new people by proclaiming the gospel, seeking, welcoming and gathering people, both strangers and friends, into the body of Christ as equals.

Offering Christ is offering opportunities for people to make a commitment to Christ through baptism by water and the Spirit and profession of faith, to grow in personal holiness through a relationship with Christ and others.

Purpose is preparing and equipping people for Christ's service by learning what it means to live out our beliefs through acts of piety and acts of mercy, sharing our faith and engaging in service.

Engagement is sending out grace-filled followers of Jesus Christ who put their faith into action. Through engagement we offer hospitality to the stranger, inviting him/ her into the fellowship within the body of Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

As a congregation, we endeavor to provide opportunities for those seeking to encounter God's grace through worship, family or community fellowship, spiritual formation, generosity, service and personal relationships. We accomplish this through a discipleship plan that equips persons for service in God's kingdom. Our Discipleship Plan has four foundational pathways to discipleship: **Encounter, Engage, Educate and Empower.**

- **Encounter:** Provide opportunities for those seeking God to encounter God's grace through worship, community, spiritual formation, service and personal relationships.
- **Engage:** Participate in the worship experience to engage the transformative love of God by committing to Jesus Christ, regularly attending worship service, biblical studies, praying, giving, generosity and serving others.
- **Educate:** Exploring the means of grace to become more aware of the movement of God in ones' individual, congregational, community, and everyday life. As well as practicing the means of grace and exercising the gifts and disciplines of God through the ministries of the church.
- **Empower:** Practicing and living a lifestyle of daily worship that empowers others to accept Christ through an example of worship, service, tithing and discipleship.



Vision Statement



Meet Needs

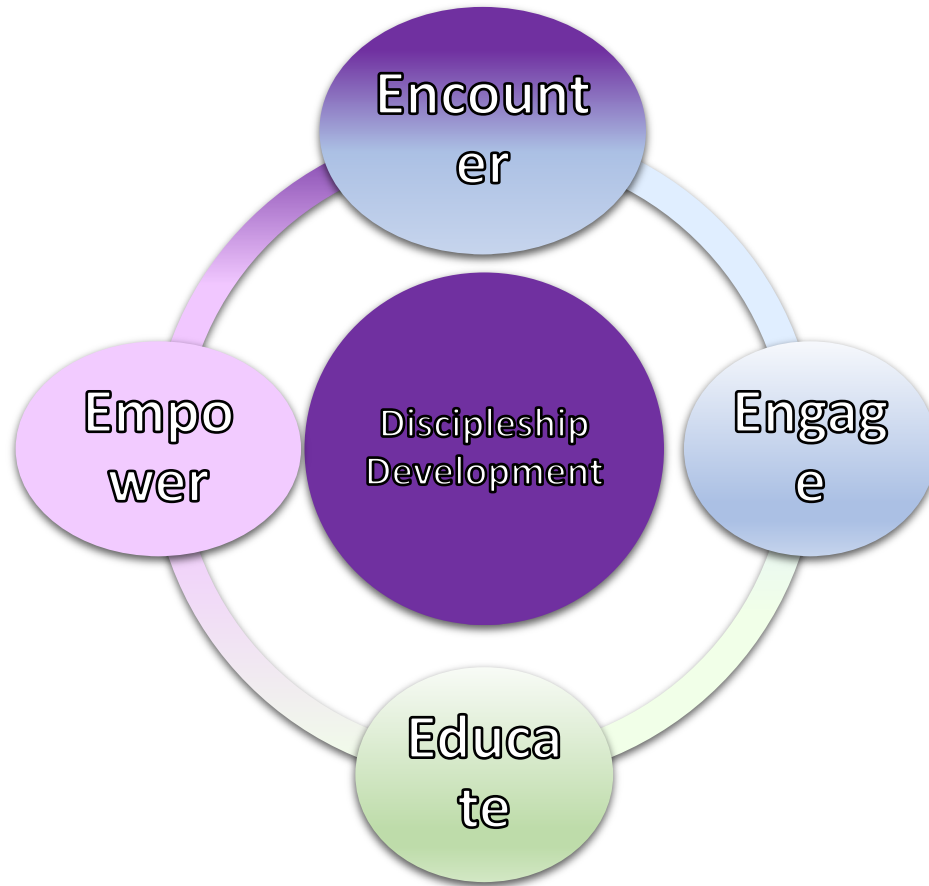


Plant Seeds



Build Hope







ST. MATTHEW'S NEW LIFE DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of Our Community and Congregation.

	<i>Prevenient Grace</i>	<i>Justifying Grace</i>	<i>Sanctifying Grace</i>		
	SEARCHING	EXPLORING	BEGINNING	GROWING	MATURING
Worship	Searching for something more in relationship with God and community.	Invited by a friend to attend worship. Attend sporadically.	Begin to worship regularly; becoming more aware of God in each day.	Attend regularly and begin to recognize daily moments of worship.	Begin to honor & worship every day in work and play; inviting others into a life style of worship and deeper relationship.
Community	Searching for genuine community connection.	Begin to feel strangely drawn to these followers of Jesus and feel warm acceptance by them.	Move from receiving gracious hospitality to offering it to others in everyday life.	Begin to look for ways to love, accept and relate to others in the same way that the church and God lovingly welcomed you.	Seek to build relationships with others and share with them the life and community that you have found in God.
Spiritual Formation/Disciplines (Means of Grace)	Interested in the Bible and if there are ways to experience God.	Feel drawn to the story of God's love and begin to explore scripture.	Begin to pray and read scripture regularly; begin to open up God.	Move to exploring means of grace (Prayer, Fasting, worship, communion, fellowship, Bible study, etc.); drawn closer to God on a daily basis.	Enjoy and practice means of grace/spiritual disciplines and begin to show others how to use them to grow in faith and be drawn closer to God.
Service & Generosity	Wonder if there is more to life than earning money and selfish gain.	Begin to give occasionally in worship and try a service project at church. See other people making a difference in the lives of others and seek to be a part of that.	Begin to give regularly of money, time, and talents; understand Christ's invitation to serve others and discover the grace God has given you to do this.	Try tithing my resources, time, and talent to God through the ministries of the church; exploring ways to use one's gifts, talents, and passions.	Tithe and occasionally give beyond when led by God; begin to restructure life and resources to join Jesus in mission to others.
Christ-Like (Personal Relationships)	The life and teaching of Jesus are intriguing.	Exploring the life of Jesus on your own by reading the Bible and attending your first Bible study.	Accept the call to follow Jesus and commit to the church; seek to become like Jesus and serve others.	Begin to daily apply the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.	Partner with God and invite others to explore the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
<i>(4 Pillars of Discipleship)</i>	ENCOUNTER	ENGAGE	EDUCATE	EMPOWER	
<i>Building & Becoming People of H.O.P.E.</i>	<i>H</i> ospitality	<i>O</i> ffering Christ	<i>P</i> urpose	<i>E</i> ngagement	



Discipleship Development
Ministries

Community Discipleship
Development Ministries

Congregational
Development
Ministries

Missional Discipleship
Ministries

Servant-Leader Discipleship
Ministries



St. Matthew's New Life 2016 Restructuring

Congregational Development Ministries

- Church Council
- Staff, Parish, Relations Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Committee on Finance
- Stewardship Team
- Nominations Committee

Community Discipleship Development Ministries

- 501(c)3—*Nonprofit*
- Community Block Party

Missional Discipleship Ministries

- United Women in Faith
- Church in Mission Team
- Hot Dog for a Handshake

Servant-Leader Discipleship Ministries

- Lay Servant Ministries
- Kerygma-Evangelism

Worship & Arts Ministries

- Music, Worship Leaders, Communion Stewards, A/V Ministry, Dance, Ushers, Acolytes, Flag Ministry, Greeters, etc.

Discipleship Development Ministries

- Spiritual/Christian Formation
- New Members, Membership Care, Baptism, Confirmation, Sacraments
- Hospitality and Bereavement
- Prayer, Fasting, Spiritual Guidance
- Sunday/Wednesday Biblical Studies
- Intentional/Age Focused Ministries
- Children's Church
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Senior Ministry
- Small Group Ministries
- Cancer Ministry
- Prayer Ministry





The Building Bridges initiative



ST. MATTHEW'S NEW

Meeting Needs | ~~Planting Seeds~~ | Building Hope

11/16

The logo features a purple arch with three vertical lines extending downwards from its base. Below the arch, the text "The Building Bridges" is written in a large, bold, purple serif font, and "initiative" is written below it in a smaller, purple, lowercase sans-serif font.

The Building Bridges initiative

Building Bridges Initiative: Bridging Discipleship

- Strengthen SMNL connection with its membership and strengthen Christian discipleship, formation, and connection to membership.
- Use church app as a discipleship tool.
- Better utilize social media and other technologies to connect to members.
- Realign ministry for online/virtual meetings.
- Establish new ministry, Christian formation, and spiritual formation opportunities online.
- Establish a more definitive online campus.
- Grow the SMNL Discipleship Plan

Building Bridges Initiative: Bridging Community

- Strengthen SMNL connection with non-profit community focused organizations, community associations, corporate and government agencies of Baltimore and Maryland.
- Reestablish relationships with the Barclay-Midtown-Old Goucher, Greenmount, Frankford, Parkside, and Belair Edison community associations.
- Continue efforts toward a 501(C)3 for community development.
- Strengthen and establish relationships with elected local and state government representatives.
- Establish relationships the various local and national corporations (i.e., Walmart, Ace Hardware, Home Depot, etc.) that will provide corporate sponsorships for programs in the community.





Tips for the
Journey



ST. MATTHEW'S NEW

Meeting Needs | *Planting Seeds* | Building Hope

2018



ST. MATTHEW'S NEW

Meeting Needs | *Plugging Gaps* | Building Hope

Life



SEVERNA PARK UMC

REV. LEE FERRELL



BACKGROUND

- Suburban church in Anne Arundel County, MD
- Current worship about 60% of pre-pandemic attendance
- All-church study of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Conversations* by Bishop Robert Schnase

SET UP

- Children and youth ministries well-staffed
- Main goal: to involve anyone who comes in the door in a study or small group opportunity
- Publicity enables people to look forward to “What’s next?”

OFFERINGS

- Seasonal studies: Advent and Lent
- Regular offerings: Bible studies, book studies, classes in the “off seasons” after Christmas, after Easter, and in the fall
- Short term and long term
- In person, online, hybrid, in homes
- Led by pastors and lay people whose gifts include teaching
- Special groups: Faith and Race, Sacred Worth, Retired persons,
- UMM and UWF groups, Young Adult small groups

HOW WE HAVE PROGRESSED

- New leaders and teachers
- More persons engaged in mission opportunities
- More persons witnessing in worship
- Expansion of local missional outreach

ADVICE

- Be intentional
- Publicize constantly and creatively
- Extend personal invitations
- Plan long range...work ahead
- Always be on the lookout for new teachers and leaders
- ABOVE All...let the Holy Spirit be your constant guide and help

Developing a Discipleship Pathway

- Context

- One Community In-Person AND Online
- Informal Pathway → Intentional Pathway
- Existing Infrastructure—Membership Pathway & Baptismal Covenant

- Process

- Belonging & Connection (Guest & Programming Focused)
- Integration & Membership (Leadership Development & Member Focused)
- Framing → Collaborating → Adopting

- Communicating the Pathway with Our Congregation





SHOW UP & WARM UP

Where Do I Start?

Worship

- In-Building @ 11:00am
- Online @ 11:00am
(mvpumc.org/livestream)

Experience

Community

- Young Adult Social Gatherings
- Theology on Tap
- Other Special Events

Have Coffee with
Pastor Donna

BASE PACE

How Do I Grow?

Pray with Others

- Monday-Friday @ 7:30am

Join a Small Group

- Monday Night Bible Study
- Wednesday Morning Small Group
- Well Women's Small Group
- Wired Word
- Parents Small Group

Spend Daily Time with God in Prayer and Study

Serve Like Jesus

- Serve with Community Partners
- Take a Meal to a Sick MVer
- Send Birthday Cards

Participate in "Get Connected with MVP" and *A Disciple's Path*

PUSH PACE

How Do I Go Deeper?

Increase Daily Time of Prayer and Study

Be A Leader:

- Facilitate a Small Group or Short-Term Study
- Organize an Opportunity to Serve Like Jesus
- Help Our Children and Youth Grow in their Faith

Tell Others About MVP and Invite them to Experience Our Community

Make a Commitment to Become a Regular, Intentional, and Generous Giver

Participate in a Retreat

ALL OUT

How Do I Love God with All My Heart?

Start Every Day with Prayer and Study

Help our Church Become All It Can Be Through Service on SALT, Ministry Table, or Nominations and Leadership Development

Regularly Ask If There Is Any Way You Can Make a Difference at MVP or in the Life of a Friend or Neighbor

Develop a Plan for Tithing (Giving Away 10% of Your Income)

Tell Others About the Difference God and the Church Make In Your Life



1) SHOW UP & WARM UP

Showing up is the most important part when it comes to starting any new discipline or learning. If we are going to get in better physical shape, we get started by signing up for one class, stepping on the treadmill at home, or going for a walk. Showing up is also the most important step in developing a relationship with God and a community of faith. And if you're ready to take this step, we cannot wait to meet you and welcome you to MVP.

3) PUSH PACE

At push pace, we push ourselves to move faster and go deeper. This pace is an intentional decision to allow our lives, routines, and priorities to be disrupted as we seek to love God and neighbor with a greater intentionality. We start to see what we can do when it comes to glorifying God with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We begin to see a change of the heart that comes when we push ourselves beyond our comfort zone.

2) BASE PACE

In the group workout that is inspiring this journey, base pace is "a challenging but doable pace" on the treadmill. It is a pace that increases one's heart rate but still reveals how there is room for significant more growth. This pace lays the foundation for all that is to come and pushes us to grow by giving more of ourselves to the experience.

4) ALL OUT

When we go all out, we make the transition from, "I'm not so sure I can do that," to being surprised by all we can do as our hearts reveal how much they have been stretched, strengthened, and transformed. When we go all out, we no longer seek to love God and neighbor when it is convenient or when it fits into our schedule. Rather, our discipleship becomes a way of life as we seek to love God with all that we have while loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.



A recent group workout trend that focuses on strengthening the heart through science, coaching, and technology inspires our Discipleship Pathway for the Faith Fitness Journey. This boutique fitness community founded in 2010, has grown to 1500 locations around the world where individuals participate in an hour-long class that includes walking, jogging, or running on the treadmill, rowing, and strength training. Coaches push participants to embrace a variety of paces throughout the class with each pace playing an important role in one's heart health.

What if our journeys of faith were to include similar paces as we, too, seek maximum results from the inside out?

Ways to Go Deeper and Make a Difference through Service to Our Church Community

- Lead a Small Group or Study
- Organize a Community Event
- Read Scripture in Worship
- Serve with the Audio/Visual Team
- Collect or Count the Offering
- Sing with the Choir
- Organize an Opportunity to Serve Like Jesus in the Community
- Help Our Children and Youth Grow in Faith
- Host Coffee Hour
- Serve as a Greeter



Mount Vernon Place
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FALL 2022

The Unfolding Impact of Formalizing A Discipleship Pathway

- External
 - Guide for Engagement
- Internal
 - Accountability & Programmatic Outline
 - Identifying the Core Questions



10 Practices for Leaders of Intentional Discipleship Pathways

Presented by T.J. Mount

Background Information:

- Local licensed pastor for 7 years.
- Served two congregations:
 - Araby UMC - 6 years
 - Rural transitioning to Suburban
 - Lisbon UMC - 1 year
 - Rural with new development occurring
- Introduced intentional discipleship to both congregations.
 - Araby UMC
 - Introduced in 3rd year with no engagement
 - Reintroduced in 4th year with 1 person engaged
 - 5th Year 4 people engaged and given leadership positions
 - 6th Year began discussions with other non-profits about how we could create a ministry that met a need that was not currently being met.
 - Reappointed in the middle of these discussions. One of the people engaged and in leadership appointed for the first time.
 - Lisbon UMC
 - Transition Meeting - Set clear expectations
 - 1st Year - Introduced Intentional Discipleship Pathway
 - Started 1st Bible Study Group called Grow Group
 - 6 people involved
 - Invited two people into one-on-one intentional discipleship
 - One is still in the process
 - 2nd Year - Started 2nd Grow Group
 - 5 people involved

#1 Listen more than you talk

#2 Always Ask What They Mean

#3 Shift from Technical to Adaptive
Leadership - Learn to Experiment

#4 Shift from Programs to Pathways (Frameworks)

#5 Know and Communicate Expectations

#6 Understand the Power of Questions

#7 Meet People Where They Are...
But Don't Leave Them There.

#8 Don't invite people to do discipleship, invite them to be disciples.

#9 Make Sure the Congregation Owns the
Pathway and not the Pastor/Leadership

**#10 Your Discipleship Pathway Must Connect
Your Congregation with Your Community**