

RE:VITALITY

CONNECT TO DISCIPLE

Congregational Outreach

OVERVIEW

Connect To Disciple uses a three-part process of “Create Connections, Build Relationships, Make Disciples” to guide and equip congregational leaders in developing an effective outreach approach for their congregation. The workshop provides tools, including the Outreach Funnel and Outreach Pathways, to aid the congregation with creating and implementing planned and intentional actions to assist people with moving from connections to disciples.

The desired outcomes of *Connect To Disciple* include:

- A better understanding of congregational outreach and its unique characteristics;
- The identification and assessment of the congregation’s current outreach activities;
- A working knowledge of the characteristics of an effective outreach approach; and
- The ability to identify and plan congregational activities for effective outreach.



APPROACH



Connect To Disciple begins with capturing and evaluating the “as is” outreach of the congregation. Through this exercise, the participants begin to assess what makes for effective outreach and how their current outreach efforts can be enhanced for more effective outreach. Additional exercises lead participants through identifying an outreach approach, evaluating the outreach approach, evaluating current and potential outreach activities, and developing Outreach Pathways to plan the intentional actions the congregation will take to implement effective outreach activities.

THE CONNECT TO DISCIPLE PROCESS

The process for *Connect To Disciple* is centered in the “Create Connections, Build Relationships, Make Disciples” Outreach Approach. Based on 1 Corinthians 3:6–8, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth,” this Outreach Approach is described as “we plant, we water, God gives the growth.” Congregations are free to use the Outreach Approach as it is presented or to modify it to meet their context and circumstances.

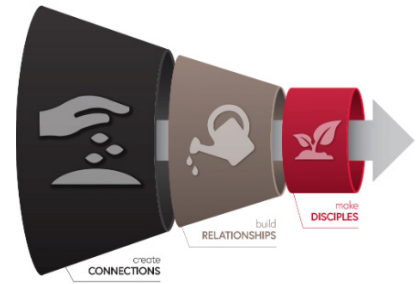


CONNECT TO DISCIPLE TOOLS

The **Outreach Funnel** is a graphical depiction of the “Create Connections, Build Relationships, Make Disciples” Outreach Approach. It is used in the exercises to help participants visualize how the outreach approach works and to evaluate the congregation’s “as is” outreach efforts.

The **Evaluating Our Outreach Approach** tool walks the participants through a discussion-based evaluation of the congregation’s outreach approach using the *Nine Characteristics of an Effective Outreach Approach* presented in the instructional video and detailed in the participant’s workbook.

Outreach Pathways captures how the congregation intends to guide a person from the point of connection into the Word and Sacrament ministry of the congregation where the Holy Spirit makes disciples. A pathway identifies the “who?” and the “what?” of an outreach activity in a sequence that reflects the Outreach Approach.



FORMAT

Connect To Disciple is made up of a 7-hour workshop and post-workshop implementation.



The workshop starts with discussing the “what?” and “why?” of outreach, though the bulk of the workshop addresses the “how to?” of inviting, welcoming and receiving people from outside of the church. The workshop includes about 90 minutes of instructional videos and video case studies. The balance of the workshop is made up of exercises using the congregation’s own information and addressing its unique context.



The evaluations and planning that take place during the workshop form the beginnings of an implementation plan that the congregation develops and implements after the workshop. This plan incorporates the process and tools that the participants learn and explore through the workshop’s exercises.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Connect To Disciple is designed to equip leaders of the congregation who are involved in aspects of ministry that seek to reach people in the community with the Gospel or that can be readily modified in order to be more outreach-oriented. Participants are committing to developing Outreach Pathways for their ministry areas and to incorporate those pathways into the work that they are doing.

GETTING STARTED

CONTACT US for more information about or to schedule *Connect To Disciple* for your congregation at

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FOR MORE INFORMATION about *re:Vitality* please visit

 lcms.org/revitalization

 facebook.com/LCMSreVitality

