

Discovering the Possibilities

A study of missional opportunities for the local church

The **Discovering the Possibilities** (Ministry Action Potential Study) is a facilitated process designed to assist congregational leaders understanding the realities of their ministry context and current ministries, and to begin discerning possibilities for their future in ministry. We believe that every congregation has the potential to be faithful and fruitful in ministry. Statistics are clear, however, that this is not the current reality for many of our congregations. **Discovering the Possibilities** is a process designed to give congregations a realistic sense of what fulfilling their ministry potential might mean.

Preparation:

A Leadership Team will be identified by the pastor in consultation with the facilitator and key church leaders. The Leadership Team will be responsible for working with the facilitator behind the scenes throughout study and assisting in preparation of the final report.



Data Gathering:

During an initial meeting with key leaders, the facilitator will give leaders a list of information to be gathered including: bulletins, newsletters, financial reports, vision & mission statements, charge conference reports, a facility walk-through, Missional Vital Signs (worship participation, professions of faith, number of people in small discipling groups, and giving) for the current year and the last 10 years, the church profile, an Excel list of members and addresses (for developing a congregational plot), a calendar of church activities, information about their current ministries and key issues facing the congregation. This information will be gathered and presented to the facilitator before the Current Realities Workshop.

Current Realities Workshop(s):

During the first half of a six hour workshop (held in one day or over the course of two days/evenings), church leaders will be asked to interview one another regarding their “best practices” in each of the 5 disciple making practices. Participants will then be involved in creating a visual history of the congregation, called a Journey Wall. Participants will review the material gathered by leaders regarding missional vital signs, current ministries, leadership, and facilities

Ministry Opportunities Workshop(s):

In the second half of the 6 hour workshop, church leaders share information with participants from their interviews with community leaders and think about their ministry context through the lens of Acts 1:8. Participants will examine together demographic information for their ministry context. They will then begin to identify mission opportunities: given the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” given the current congregation with its history, ministries and assets, and given the ministry opportunities in their ministry context – what might Christ be calling them to do as a congregation? Finally, they will explore through asset mapping the resources God has provided them for use in ministry

Discovering the Possibilities Final Report:

The congregation’s leadership team and facilitator will assemble a written report capturing the findings of their work together. In addition to summarizing findings in an easy-to-understand fashion, the final report will also suggest possible options for consideration by the congregation’s leaders as they seek to live into their ministry potential. Finally, the report will be shared by the leadership team with the whole congregation for their discernment and decision regarding next steps.