

Training for Missional Engagement

Rhythm 1 Training

- Topic: Developing a Missional Ecclesiology
- Location: TBD
- Date: September 20-21, 2019
- Deadline to register: September 17, 2019
- Time: 8:30-3:30
- Cost: \$20 includes lunch
- Contact with Questions: temple@ntcumc.org
- Description: The theme of Rhythm 1 is looking at what it means to be an apostolic people leading apostolic churches. In the past our culture functioned with a Christendom mindset and as such the church was able to settle into the role of host. We planted our stake in the ground around the mantra of "If you build it they will come." However, the population of people who fit the Christendom narrative in the U.S. is shrinking and rather than seeking new expressions of being God's missionary people, we are busy competing for a "greater percentage of a shrinking religious market" (*Gibbs 2007, 163). The majority of our structures and strategies are still designed to reach a Christendom world and most of our current leaders were trained within a system primarily informed by Christendom. If we are to be effective in this new world we will need to explore new ways of being the apostolic church. This will necessitate (among other things) a different posture towards culture, revamped expectations around success metrics and a new kind of apostolic leader discipled into missionary engagement and given freedom to experiment as they seek to contextualize the gospel for their generation. In our Rhythm 1 training it is our goal to deconstruct the ecclesiocentric mindset that permeates much of our thinking around church structures and strategies and inspire a missional imagination for how you can a) engage and listen to your context b) form connected relationships and c) organize a discipling faith community.
- Outcomes - When participants complete the Rhythm 1 training they will have:
 - An understanding of their faith communities growth through the lens of human development.
 - Developed a clear understanding of a mission centered ecclesiology complete with a set of metrics to measure growth and success in each stage of the faith communities development.
 - Identified 3-5 specific social mosaics and begun to live into those mosaics for the purpose of a) engaging with and listening to their context b) forming connected relationships and c) organizing a new space for new faces for the purpose of discipleship.
 - Developed a database system for tracking contacts, potential partners and partners.

Training for Missional Engagement

Rhythm 2 Training

- Topic: Becoming an Incarnational Congregation
- Location: TBD
- Date: December 7, 2019
- Deadline to register: December 3, 2019
- Time: 8:30-3:30
- Cost: \$10 includes lunch
- Contact with Questions: temple@ntcumc.org
- Description: At the heart of gospel transformation is harmony in our relationships. In Genesis, when God creates humanity, God says that we are made in God's image or to bear God's image. Each of us has been designed uniquely to put certain aspects of God on display for the world to see. As image bearers we were designed to be a unique filter that allows the world around us to encounter the presence and mission of Jesus through our lives. Our filter is made up of three distinct parts; 1) Our story 2) Our personality 3) Our gifts/talents. As God's mission moves through us it takes on a unique shape that reflects these three aspects. Our ability to discover innovative expressions of the church is intrinsically tied to our understanding of our unique "filter." Therefore, as leaders who desire to incarnate the mission of God in authentic and creative ways we must commit ourselves to continually growing in an understanding of who God has made us to be as well as creating margins in our lives that allow us to rest and trust in the work God's spirit is doing through us. Honoring and caring for our relationship with ourselves leads directly into how we seek to relate to the world around us and follow Jesus into the neighborhood to put God's Kingdom on display. Theologically we refer to this as incarnation and, as such, incarnation serves as our template for how we posture ourselves in relation to the world around us. The incarnation is essential in our understanding and practice of mission. We must ask ourselves what kind of church we want to be. Will we be a church for the city, a church in the city or a church with the city? Developing a personal rule of life and living incarnationally will be the focus of the Rhythm 2 training.
- Outcomes: When participants complete Rhythm 2 of the Genesis Cohort they will have:
 - Developed a personal rule of life and reflected with peers on the experience of living into that rule.
 - Developed a method for contextual engagement with the goal of listening to their context and will have begun to design a plan for missional engagement in that context
 - An understanding for what community and connection mean in their context and begun to discern how they will foster that in their project and how they will move people in their discipleship journey towards forming community and authentic relationships.
 - An ability to clearly articulate what the gospel is in a way that connects meaningfully to their context.
 - Practiced sharing the gospel in a way that is meaningful to their culture and explained to their peers their rationale for why they believe the gospel as they have described it connects uniquely to their context.

Training for Missional Engagement

Rhythm 3 Training

- Topic: Developing Congregational Identity
- Location: TBD
- Date: March 20-21, 2020
- Deadline to register: March 17, 2020
- Time: 8:30-3:30
- Cost: \$20 includes lunch
- Contact with Questions: temple@ntcumc.org
- Description: The theme of Rhythm 3 is “Create.” In the Create Rhythm leaders will move through a systematic discovery process where they will begin to clarify the culture and values for an emerging faith community and from that sense of identity begin to plant the seeds of vision development. Flourishing and vital faith communities can only be born out of a flourishing and vital culture. One that allows for innovation. One that has the courage, fortitude and grit to embrace failure. One that is able to adapt to a changing world. A flourishing culture is the byproduct of a dynamic, adaptive structure held in tension with forward focused creative energy. Structure and creativity...two forces that seem to resist one another and yet are both necessary to give life to a vibrant faith community. In his book *Culture Making* Andy Crouch says,
"Creativity cannot exist without order - a structure within which creation can happen. On a cosmic level the extraordinary profusion of species could never survive if the world were an undifferentiated soup of elements. This is true of human creativity too. Without the darkened box of a theater, films would lose their compelling power. Without the lines and spaces that make up written English, this book would be a soup of letters. Creativity requires cosmos - it requires an ordered environment. So, in a way the Creator's greatest gift to his creation is the gift of structure - not a structure which locks the world, let alone the creator himself, into eternal mechanical repetition, but a structure which provides freedom."
- The goal of the Create rhythm is to develop and teach a process. This means that we are not looking for each leader to walk away with a defined set of core values and a fully articulated five-year vision that will be set in stone. Many of these things need to be developed in collaboration with the planter's core team. What we do envision for this rhythm is that each leader will walk away with some hypothetical's that will put them on the right trajectory and more importantly they will have worked through a process of discerning, developing and clarifying a vision that can be reiterated over and over again in all future ministry endeavors. For the Rhythm three training we will be doing a “Brand Sprint” together to help leaders get a sense of direction and identity for their congregation.
- Outcomes: When participants complete Rhythm 3 of the Genesis Cohort they will have:
 - Have developed a framework to question and evaluate the ethos of the new faith community that helps them identify; Mission/Purpose, Vision, Values, Rhythms, etc.
 - Have developed a strategy for integrating their vision and values into the life of the church.
 - Created a horizon storyline 5-year vision as well as a timeline for the execution of their vision from launch stage through expansion stage
 - Have developed the annual calendar rhythms for their new faith community.
 - Have begun to develop a pitch to cast vision for their faith community.

Training for Missional Engagement

Rhythm 4 Training

- Topic: Becoming an Incarnational Congregation
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 19, 2020
- Deadline to register: June 16, 2020
- Time: 8:30-3:30
- Cost: \$10 includes lunch
- Contact with Questions: temple@ntcumc.org
- Description: Far too often the vision and values we develop never move beyond some fancy quote written on a plaque hanging in our sanctuary. In order for those words to become flesh we must develop systems and accountability as well as build a team to help us breathe life into the vision that has been born in our heart. I have found with planters that it can be a challenge to clarify our vision so that others can join us in the journey. It is equally difficult for us to live into a strategy in order to actually embody that vision. To do this we must embrace the help and gifts of others. We must be able to build a team. We must understand our own strengths and weaknesses so that we surround ourselves with the right people to help us get where we want go...together. We have to embrace discipline and accountability that will make us dependent on others and vise-versa, an accountability that holds our feet to the fire and requires us to follow through on our commitments. We must make sure that we have opened opportunities for people to develop into leaders in order to help the vision become a reality. For this rhythm animating our vision will be the goal. This means knowing ourselves so that we can strategically build our team. This means that we have a clear discipleship ecosystem developed within our churches that is empowering people to follow Jesus and inviting them into the life of the church to become part of vision God has for the church. Finally, it means understanding how we structure our team so that we get the most out of the gifts and strengths of those God has put around us and empower them to effectively live into their own sense of calling.
- Outcomes: When participants complete Rhythm 4 of the Genesis Cohort they will have:
 - A clear paradigm for their leadership structure and communication strategies as well as the necessary roles for team members, including job description.
 - A clear system and rhythm for leadership/staff development.
 - Created a team covenant that includes a section where the team has developed a strategy for working through conflict.
 - Have defined discipleship, will have tools at their disposal for disciple making and will have created a disciple's journey map.
 - Created a project strategy, timeline and values