If you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get the church.”

Mike Breen, Building a Discipleship Culture
Intentional Discipleship

In this edition of our Circuit Rider, we are going to explore our Reseda church’s mission. Close your eyes and try to recite the mission of United Methodist churches. Can you do it? Here it is! (you can now take a look)

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Think about it?

Reseda’s mission is the same as every other United Methodist congregation.

We are to be making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“For too long, the United Methodist Church has looked for a quick fix to help guide our discipleship efforts, and it’s not working. ... Our focus must move away from “fixing” churches, towards making and growing disciples!”

I’m sure you have seen similar advertisements. But, guess what? -- they don’t work!

God has brought you to our church in Reseda for such a time as this. It is going to require much prayer and hard work. Our neighborhood has changed. Families in Reseda used to arrive early just to get a parking spot at our church. Not anymore.

Don’t be discouraged. Our mission as a church in Reseda remains as important as ever. We are called of God to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Don’t give up. These questions which you are being asked to reflect upon are important. Let us encourage one another.

Jesus is Lord.

Junius Dotson, Developing an Intentional Discipleship System, p. 5
What does being a church member mean for you? In what ways is being a disciple similar to or different than being a member?

What are the stages of growth for a disciple? What stage are you in?

What tasks in your church have become chores, things you feel you should do, or have to do? How might they be re-imagined?

It has become common for United Methodists to desire that their churches become Vital Congregations.

Vital congregations are:
- Spirit-filled, forward leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Gal. 3:28)
- Places where disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)

Vital congregations have:
- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small Group ministries
- Strong children’s & youth ministries
The Five Practices of Vital Congregations

Years ago, when you decided to make our Reseda church your home, do you recall what it was that made you stay? Why was it so meaningful to be here?

1. Radical Hospitality
2. Passionate Worship
3. Intentional Faith Development
4. Risk-taking Mission and Service
5. Extravagant Generosity

Looking back, can you see how these practices in our church helped you to grow as a faithful disciple of Jesus?

If you would, please answer these questions. Take notes and share your answers.

These questions were prepared by Discipleship Ministry leaders of the United Methodist Church.
(SeeAllthePeople.org)

Name ways your church currently helps disciples grow in faith?

What is one thing you really love about your church? How does it cultivate discipleship?