
Bringing Disciples In/ Sending Disciples Out

A Holistic Approach to
Evangelism and Outreach
and Mission and Social Justice Ministries

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Session III



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Curriculum Outline

SESSION III – August 22, 2010

- A Holistic Approach to Social Ministry
 - Four Social Ministry Types
 - Relief Services (giving a hungry person a fish)
 - Personal Development (teaching a person to fish)
 - Community Development (giving people fishing equipment)
 - Systemic Change (helping everybody get fair access to the fish pond)
 - Characteristics of Holistic Social Ministry
 - Developing Healthy Community Partnerships
- Our Top Ministry Priorities/Patterns (survey results)
- Recommendations for Sending Disciples Out
- Obstacles to Holistic Ministry

Review

- Holistic Ministry acknowledges the whole gospel, addresses the needs of the whole person and whole creation, and takes place through whole churches.
- A whole congregation is one in which the disciples of Christ live out their salvation in loving fellowship that embodies and reflects the characteristics of the coming Kingdom we proclaim, namely, justice, love, healing, hope, forgiveness, restoration and transformation.
- Building a whole church and reaching out beyond the church are not conflicting priorities. When the church functions rightly as the body of Christ, it will also serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
- A holistic approach to ministry, therefore, means that the whole church pulls together toward a unifying ministry vision. However, unity does not necessitate uniformity in our theological views about salvation, the christian life, the church, and society and social change.

Review

From a holistic ministry perspective:

- Evangelism and social justice are not ministries that are separate “arms” of the church.
 - Share what we know; live what we share.
 - Social justice ministries are not a hook to introduce an evangelical message.
 - Evangelistic tools can provide a background for our understanding and efforts without being used totally verbatim. Be sensitive to the moment in which you are witnessing!
 - Share what God’s word says about worry, grief, and other life issues that weigh on the minds of people.
 - Be relevant by being a student of the world so you don’t appear out of touch with the world.
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Four Social Ministry Types

Social Ministry Type	Examples		Ministries fitting this type in your church
	Housing	Family Brokenness	
Relief Services	homeless shelter, emergency housing	family crisis hotline, family services information and referral clearinghouse	
Personal Development	home ownership seminar, credit counseling	parenting classes, family counseling, divorce recovery support group	
Community Development	affordable housing construction and rehabilitation	legal aid clinic that offers family services, partnership with family mediation court	
Systemic Change	lobbying against redlining and other unfair lending practices, suing slum lords to improve housing conditions	encouraging employers to adopt "family friendly" policies, promoting pro-marriage legislation	

Sample social concern

- **Alternatives for Battered Women** exists to enhance the quality of life and empower individuals affected by, or at risk of domestic violence.
- Relief Ministry – offer temporary shelter to victims and their families.
- Personal Development - offer support groups
- Community Development – offer legal aid clinics, educational clinics, employment clinics, child services clinics.
- Systemic Change – conduct legislative boot camp and go to Albany to lobby for laws that help victims of domestic violence.

Sample social concern – Student Readiness/Success

- Dramatic disparities exist within our community, which generally reflect the demonstrated relationship between income status and educational performance. Our region's 76% on-time graduation rate is below the statewide rate of 80%, and the Rochester City School District, home to the largest concentration of low-income students, achieved an on-time graduation rate of only 42% for the most recently recorded year (2009).
- Project Boomer Mentors aims to link 200 baby boomers to member programs of [Rochester Mentors](#), an alliance of mentoring organizations that promotes safe and effective mentoring.
- The [Attendance Initiative](#) seeks to identify and eliminate barriers to student attendance.
- The PENCIL partnership strives to link local leaders directly with school principals to provide support and advice.

The social concern we will address.....
to be provided by CoS membership



Characteristics of Holistic Social Ministry

- **Targeted:** Scattering ministry efforts dilutes their impact. Churches tend to support a million things in a tiny way. Instead, select an area of concern that best fits your church's unique gifts and vision, and where you seem most poised to have an impact.
- **Multi-layered:** Impact is enhanced by addressing a particular area of social need from several angles. For example, if we only focus on relief services, i.e., giving people a fish, we may perpetuate dependence by doing things for people. If focus only on teaching people to fish, we fail to address systemic reality that no one on French Road has permission to use the pond. This approach seeks to meet the surface need as well as to dig into its underlying personal and social causes.
- **Collaborative:** Impact can be multiplied by finding out who else is addressing the social issue related to your area of concern and pool resources, each organization contributing a different facet of ministry/service. In particular, make an effort to build bridges with those providing services across racial, ethnic and religious lines.

Characteristics of Holistic Social Ministry

- **Relational:** Pay attention as the people you are helping are talking about their struggles and educate yourself about the broader issues that affect their lives. You may discover systemic factors or personal internal barriers that are thwarting change.
- **Incarnational:** We are not giving aid alone; we are giving ourselves. When someone is grateful for support, it is not because we gave them this or that but because we were “there” for them in mind, body and spirit.
- **Growing:** We have to start somewhere but hopefully we won’t end there. Adding, expanding, modifying are constant actions of an active holistic church. A low-cost laundromat for inner city families ten years down the line may grow into a multi-million dollar complex of programs in health care, counseling, housing, education and job creation.
- **Evangelistic:** Find ways to share the Good News of salvation with those you serve on whom is stamped the unique image of God.

Developing Healthy Community Partnerships

- The partner comes alongside a church with the resources the church needs to flesh out its vision for holistic ministry.
- The church supplies the partner with volunteers or funding, and in return the partner provides the church with a ministry outlet that does not require much administrative effort.
- The church allows the partner to use its space. In this mutually beneficial arrangement, the partner gets the use of the church's facilities, for free or at a discount, and its clients often gain access to the host church's other programs. The church gets an onsite ministry which adds to its reputation in the community as a service-provider and often provides an additional ministry resource to its own congregation. Hosting a program can also bring unchurched people into relationship with the congregation.

Developing Healthy Community Partnerships

- A partnership develops when the church is the parent of a ministry program that spins off to become its own entity.
- A partnership develops through a history of cooperation and joint project sponsorship, based on personal relationships and shared ministry goals.

Developing Healthy Community Partnerships

1. ***Healthy partnerships share a compatible core mission.*** Decisions made in the partnership are consistent with the church's ministry vision.
2. ***Healthy partnerships do not hinder the faith or evangelistic witness of the church.*** The partnership does not inappropriately restrict a ministry's freedom of religious expression, or lead the church to contradict biblical teachings, compromise its values, hide its Christian identity, or secularize its programs outside the collaborative project.
3. ***Healthy partnerships are founded on relationships of mutual trust and respect.*** Neither partner feels intimidated or overpowered; neither is always on the "receiving" end.

Developing Healthy Community Partnerships

4. ***Healthy partnerships have a sense of ownership on both sides.*** The congregation feels connected to the aims and rewards of the ministry, takes pride in the outcomes, upholds the importance of the shared mission, and recognizes that the church's participation matters.
 5. ***Healthy partnerships do not substitute for the gifts and resources of the congregation.*** The partnership is an investment that expands the church's resources for mission, not a crutch for its inadequacies. The church continues building its own ministry capacity.
 6. ***Healthy partnerships have clear communication and accountability.*** The partners have an explicit agreement about goals, roles, and standards, and communicate regularly.
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Getting our priorities straight

- The results may be preliminary or they could actually be representative of the congregation as a whole
- First let's look at our ministry priority as a congregation. Knowing our ministry priority will help us determine what kind of ministry focus best "fits" us as a community.
- There are six ministry foci (see handout)
- And the survey says....

Our Ministry Priority Focus

- And the survey says:

Priority 6: With a spirit of Christ-like servanthood, the church challenges the community's often cynical perception of Christianity and models a meaningful alternative to our materialistic, me-first, anything-goes culture. The church seeks to become a home to spiritual seekers hungry for authentic justice, compassion, integrity and love.

Our Ministry Priority Focus

- And the survey says:

Priority 5: Through the church, God's redemptive power flows to the root of the divisions of race and class in our society, healing scars and creating new patterns. Reconciliation ministries bear fruit in multicultural worship, cross-cultural personal relationships, cross-cultural ministry partnerships, and challenges to entrenched racism in the wider society.

Getting our patterns straight

- What ministry pattern fits us, i.e., how will we challenge the spiritual seeker's cynical perception of Christianity and model a meaningful alternative to a lifestyle driven by the acquiring of things? How will we become a home of authentic justice, compassion, integrity and love? How will we promote multicultural worship, cross-cultural personal relationships and cross-cultural ministry partnerships? How will we challenge entrenched racism and classicism, heal the scars and model a new pattern of relating across societal barriers?
- And the survey says...

Our Ministry Pattern

- And the survey says:

Pattern 1: We encourage individual members to engage in ministry through their daily lives, in informal, relational ways.

Our Ministry Pattern

- And the survey says:

Pattern 3: We form partnerships with other entities, with a collaborative approach to ministry.

Getting our evangelism pattern straight

- What evangelism pattern fits us, i.e., how will we evangelize as we engage in daily life ministry and how will we evangelize as we engage in ministry partnerships that challenge entrenched racism and classicism?
- And the survey says...

Getting our Evangelism Pattern Straight

- Relational Evangelism

Implicit evangelism is our current evangelistic pattern (see handout).

We do not presently have a strong commitment to explicit evangelism. Explicit evangelism may not be seen as part of the church's mission.

Who We Are “Now”

- Social Concern: ????????
- We are a body that provides an alternative to a lifestyle driven by the acquiring of things, a body that models authentic justice, compassion, integrity and love, a body that challenges entrenched racism and classicism, a body that seeks to heal the scars and model a new pattern of relating across societal barriers by promoting multicultural worship, cross-cultural personal relationships and cross-cultural ministry partnerships.
- How we will address Social Concern:
 - Daily life ministry and through ministry partnerships
 - Implicit evangelism – we model the gospel in our daily lives

Recommendations for Sending Disciples

Our Vision Statement: The Mission and Social Justice Committee (MSJC) at Community of the Savior (CoS) works to develop the “response-ability” of the local congregation, i.e., the ability of the local congregation to respond to **Anyone, Any Need, Anywhere** on an individual as well as a collective basis.

So our recommendations center around developing the response-ability of not only CoS congregation members but members of other local church congregations as well, i.e., develop a church member’s ability to respond to the whole person/creation, by:

- Educating church members about a social concern and local organizations addressing that concern;
- Encouraging members to become more familiar with social issues by volunteering with local organizations;
- Providing members with Relational Skill Development Workshops such as Connecting People to “Community” Services (where “Community” represents the CoS community as well as the local community); Understanding the Stages of Grief; Conflict Resolution, etc.;

Recommendations for Sending Disciples Out

- Becoming an information and referral clearinghouse by
 - Developing a database of available “community” services that can be accessed via CoS’ Edgewood website
 - Developing a database of local volunteer opportunities
 - Placing contact information for “key” community services on the back of our church business cards
- Developing partnerships with organizations/churches ministering or who wish to minister in the same area of social concern

Obstacles to Holistic Ministry

- **Over-commitment:** "Everyone's already too busy. There's no way we could do more."
- **Leadership:** "It's not a high priority on our pastor's 'to-do' list."
- **Conflicts:** "Every time someone brings up community outreach, it stirs up trouble in the congregation. We just can't agree on what to do or how to do it."
- **Internal needs:** "We've got lots of problems in our congregation that need attention before we can even begin to think about reaching others."
- **External resistance:** "The neighborhood will complain if we use the building for service ministry."
- **Family ties:** "We can't seem to make new people really feel at home in our church family."
- **Timidity:** "Most people in our church don't feel comfortable sharing their faith."

Obstacles to Holistic Ministry

- **Theology:** "Frankly, we don't believe it's the church's job to do social work."
 - **Immaturity:** "Our people aren't ready to do ministry — they're still learning the spiritual basics."
 - **Finances:** "Within two years we will have paid off our debts on the new facility we've built. Then we're going to get serious about outreach ministry."
 - **Giving:** "We already commit X percent of our church budget to missions. How can we expect our congregation to give any more to support new programs?"
 - **Worship:** "There's nothing about our services that would attract and keep unchurched people."
 - **Doubt:** "Our congregation is so small, our budget so limited. How could we do anything that would make a difference?"
 - **Familiarity:** "We don't really want the church to change. We like everything cozy and comfortable."
 - **Security:** "Too risky! What if people damage our property, disrupt services, take advantage of us?"
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Obstacles to Holistic Ministry

- **Far-sightedness:** "We're great at supporting missions overseas, but we ignore our own backyard."
- **Ill-Equipped:** "Our members aren't educated about social concerns or trained to share the gospel."
- **Isolation:** "Our congregation is so different from the people in the community. We don't know how to build bridges from our church to the neighborhood."
- **Vision:** "We don't have a sense that God is leading us to do anything specific. We just respond to crises or opportunities as they come up."
- **Expectations:** "We have an annual food drive, and we invite our unsaved friends and family to church. Isn't that enough?"
- **Fear:** "Most of us feel anxious about getting involved. We'd rather let a few gifted people do ministry for the rest of us."
- **Prejudice:** "Why should we put ourselves out for *those* people? They'll probably never change."
- **Discouragement:** "We've already tried and failed. Nothing seems to work for us."

Q&A

Recommendations for Sending Disciples Out

To help us focus on a specific social concern, Ann Johnson, the new Program Director of ACT, will be the speaker for the September Mission and Social Justice Raising Awareness forum. ACT Rochester helps individuals and organizations "learn" about the issues, identifying the most pressing problems, "connect" with others who are passionate about the issue, and "act" together to make changes in the community.

September 19, 2010