

Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship “Five Practices” Survey

This survey has been developed by the Board of Directors for the Charlotte District School of Christian Discipleship to assist us in assessing the strengths and needs of our district as we plan leadership training and disciple-making events. We’re interested in knowing not only the areas where we need to grow, but also where we have strengths within the District, so that, in the spirit of our Methodist connection, we might share our churches’ best practices that God’s Kingdom might be realized in our churches and communities, our district and the world.

Using Bishop Robert Schnase’s “Five Practice of Fruitful Congregations” as a guide, we have compiled a number of statements that express something of what each practice might look like in a local church. For each statement, please consider whether the area is an area of strength or an area for improvement for your church and check the appropriate column. If it’s strength, we’d like to know if your church would be willing to share what you’re doing with other churches in the district. If it’s an area your congregation would like to improve, we’d like to know if you would be interested in learning more through district training events, workshops or seminars.

Practice 1: *Radical Hospitality* (The active desire to bring people to Christ and his Church.)

| | Strength | Need to Improve | Want to Learn | Willing to Share |
|--|----------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Our church practices new and creative acts of welcoming. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. We have a ministry strategy to reach the un-churched. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Our church family reflects diversity and inclusiveness. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. We have an effective follow-up program with visitors. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. We help new members engage in ministry effectively. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. We have an effective communication plan to “get the word out” about who we are and what we have to offer. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

For those areas you sense are a strength, please describe specifically what your church is doing that might be useful in other congregations.

Practice 2: *Passionate Worship* (Fresh encounters with God that transform lives.)

| | Strength | Need to Improve | Want to Learn | Willing to Share |
|---|----------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 7. Our worship generates energy, inspiration and excitement. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Our preaching creates an encounter with God and proclaims the good news. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. The worship design(s) seek to involve worshippers in meaningful ways. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Music is appropriate, singable and inspirational. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 11. We offer worship that speaks to all ages. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Our congregation understands the meaning of our ritual and liturgy (Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion). | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

For those areas you sense are a strength, please describe specifically what your church is doing that might be useful in other congregations.

Practice 3: *Intentional Faith Development* (Learning together in community.)

| | Strength | Need to Improve | Want to Learn | Willing to Share |
|---|----------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 13. Our church offers dynamic educational opportunities that encourage Christian growth for all ages. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 14. We have small group opportunities to address various interests, needs and circumstances. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 15. Members are encouraged to discover their spiritual gifts in ministry. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 16. Members are held accountable for growth toward Christian maturity. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 17. Our confirmation program is engaging and meaningful. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 18. We provide quality instruction on beliefs and meaning of church membership for adults. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

For those areas you sense are a strength, please describe specifically what your church is doing that might be useful in other congregations.

Practice 4: *Risk-Taking Mission and Service* (An outward focus that changes the world and invigorates the church.)

| | Strength | Need to Improve | Want to Learn | Willing to Share |
|--|----------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 19. We are involved in varieties of local mission and service. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 20. We are involved in varieties of mission and service beyond our local area. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 21. Members are regularly encouraged to become involved in mission/service projects. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 22. We regularly share stories of mission/service to inspire and challenge others. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 23. Our current outreach ministries demonstrate a commitment to risk-taking mission and service. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

For those areas you sense are a strength, please describe specifically what your church is doing that might be useful in other congregations.

Practice 5: *Extravagant Generosity* (Sharing that exceeds expectations.)

| | Strength | Need to Improve | Want to Learn | Willing to Share |
|--|----------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 24. Most members understand the biblical lessons regarding faithful stewardship. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 25. A biblical theology of stewardship is taught. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 26. Members are encouraged to grow in the grace of giving toward tithing. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 27. A systematic plan for fundraising is used that challenges and inspires members to grow toward becoming more faithful stewards. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 28. We are a church that stretches toward more extravagant generosity as an expression of our faith. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 29. Members understand that growth in the grace of giving is an essential expression of discipleship. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

For those areas you sense are a strength, please describe specifically what your church is doing that might be useful in other congregations.