

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 a 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.	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Strength	Need to Improve	Want to Learn	Willing to Share
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.