

# Larger Church Consultation Event Workshop



## **PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK**

2013

**The people of the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church are grateful to its VCI faculty –facilitators, coaches and consultants-- for their generous reflections, observations, comments, questions and suggestions toward bettering up this and all VCI documents, manuals and guides. May the Holy One continue to shape them and us for renewing our earth and its inhabitants.**

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**Permission is granted for teaching purposes within the congregations having participated in the Michigan Area Conferences Vital Church Initiative.**

**Core Purpose**

To assess the current health, vitality, and direction of the congregation.

To learn principles related to the Vital Church Initiative.

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**Ground Rules**

- Please turn off or silence your cell phones.
  - Ask questions if you do not understand something.
  - Be engaged by participating openly and honestly.
  - Be respectful of other opinions and open to new ideas and concepts.
  - Understand that the session goes quickly so the facilitator may need to move things along in order to stay on track.
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**Introductions**

- Name
  - How did you come to this church?
  - How long have you been attending?
    - What service do you attend?
  - How did you become a United Methodist?
    - Were you a Christian before?
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## Four Questions

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**What is the best thing about your church?**

**What needs to be changed?**

**What should your church look like in five years?**

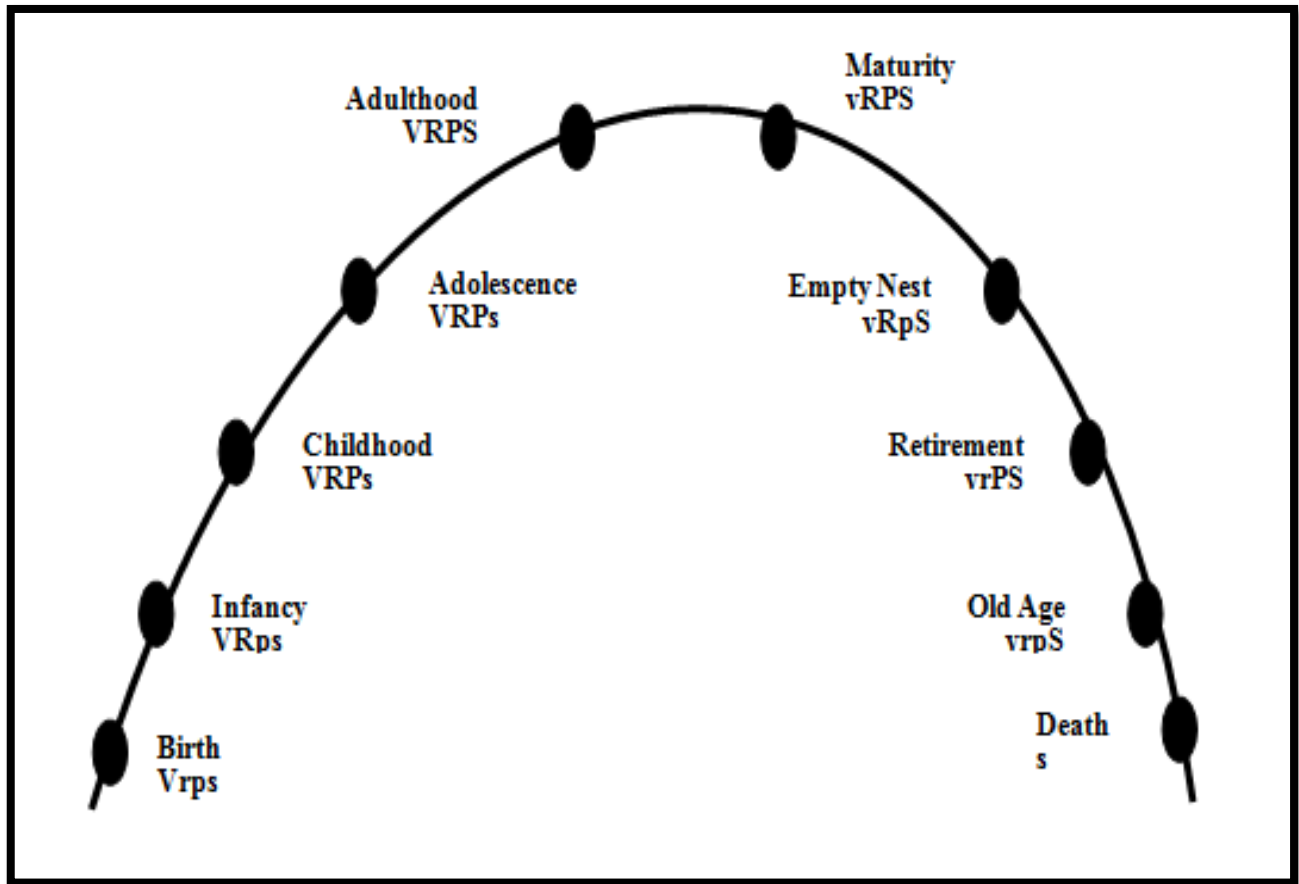
**What are you expecting this weekend?**

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### **The Church in the USA**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest unchurched nation in the world
- 18.7% of our overall population goes to church on a weekend
- Average church attendance is 75
- 90% of churches are plateaued or in decline
- 50 congregations close their doors each week

## Church Lifecycles



### Key Components

- V = Vision (Heart) Where should we go?
- R = Relationship (Arms) Whom should we bring?
- P = Program (Hands & Feet) How will we get there?
- S = Structure (Skeleton) What should we avoid?

*(If a stage is capitalized it is a driving force in the church.)*

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## Church Lifecycles, Continued

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### Vision

- A clear understanding of “Why” the congregation exists
  - A clear and compelling picture of where the congregation is heading
  - Convictions that have an outward focus
  - Always in the driver’s seat as the church heads up the curve
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### Relationship

- Relationships are in the passenger seat on the way up the curve
- Meaningful and sustained friendships are the norm
- Newcomers find people connections easily because relationships are **open!**



People are like Legos...



- The larger the church, the more 3<sup>rd</sup> places need to be created
- Interest groups and triads
- The goal is to move people from visitor to disciple
- Churches grow as groups multiply

How easy is it for new people coming into your church to make new friends?

What are some ways that you personally can fill your Lego<sup>®</sup> with unchurched friends?

What are some potential interest groups you might start?

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## **Church Lifecycles,** Continued

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### **Programs**

- Programs are in the back seat on the way up the curve
  - Programs should support the vision
  - Programs are the hands & feet (the doing part) of the vision
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### **Consumer Expectations**

- Worship
- Relationships
- Care
- Meet family needs
- Education
- Preaching
- Well-kept facilities
- Financial stability

Our role is to turn consumers into disciples

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### **Structure**

- Structure is in the back seat on the way up the curve
  - Structure holds the body together
  - Structure allows the proper management and coordination of the vision
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## Accountable Leadership

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**Bureaucratic**      Responsibility – Authority = Safe but not Effective

**Autocratic**      Responsibility + Authority – Accountability = Effective but not Safe

**Accountable Leadership**      Responsibility + Authority + Accountability = Safe & Effective

- Board / Council = Role is governance
- Pastor = Role is leading
- Staff (paid & unpaid) = Role is managing
- Members = Role is ministering

Position	Players	Functions	Metaphors
Ministry	Members	Outreach first then care for one another	Teammates, champions, athletes, etc...
Management	Staff	Equipping and coordination	Assistant coaches and specialists
Leadership	Pastor	Vision, direction and teaching	Head coach, or quarterback, captain, etc...
Governance	Board	Accountability and support	Commissioner, umpire, scorekeeper & cheerleader

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## Church Lifecycle – Activity

What is one thing we can do in each area to help start a new lifecycle?

<b>Vision</b>	<b>Relationships</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Structures</b>

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

– Jesus, Matthew 28:19-20