

Congregations make intentional discipling a priority. Faith formation and education for the congregation, connecting with the wider community, are vital for discipleship and mission.

Congregations are 'open systems' of discipleship - regularly bringing in outside people and resources, making active connections with the wider church and world to nourish lively faith.

Congregations are 'calling communities' - active and permission-giving in encouraging people to discover and develop their gifts in response to God's call to mission.

Congregations are 'sending communities' - actively sponsoring people to new experiences beyond their community, and then intentionally learning from those they have sent.

Congregations identify one or more active local community mission emphases that (re)shape their common life as disciples.

Congregations give a strong focus to discipling children and young people in ways that creatively mix Scripture, active learning, contemporary culture, and local culture.

Some faith communities are new - a 'fresh expression' of mission in their community, requiring leadership development, community development, and the beginnings of faith formation.

Congregations place a particular emphasis on creative, participatory worship as a central dimension of their faith identity.



Congregations and leaders see the dynamic activity of God in worship as a regular catalyst for growth and transformation, and shape their lives for this.

Some congregations shift focus away from Sunday morning as the primary expression of 'being church' in the local community towards other times and ways to express and explore faith.

Faith formation takes place in relationships and conversations; faith permeates everyday interactions, whether on church premises, around church activities, in households or community life.

Congregations pay particular attention to faith development within culture, from culture and across cultures as vital for the formation of Christian identity.

Congregations give significant attention to being intergenerational communities of discipleship, with attention to formal and informal faith sharing, learning, worship and service.

Congregations offer structured seasons/series of biblical and theological preaching and teaching as concrete steps in moving adults to mature faith, often with the ordained minister as teacher.

Congregations are intentional about training and mentoring leaders for education and discipleship groups and programs, particularly small groups.

Leaders speak regularly and positively about hopes for learning, growth and transformation in the journey of discipleship.



Leaders are seen by others to be learning and growing in their own faith and discipleship and sharing this openly with the faith community.

Leaders explore and speak of faith beyond traditional language and forms in ways that engage with people both within and beyond congregational life.

Leaders model mission in their engagement with people beyond the congregations - in evangelism, advocacy, community development, hospitality, faith conversations - in ways that are visible to congregation members.

Leaders speak of a strong sense of ‘team’ among the leadership of the congregation and describe a church that is willing to reshape its structures around discipling and/or mission.