

Overview of Process Comparisons

Many churches in our conference are involved in a process of revitalization because they are seeking to live as a more obedient community of faith and increase their capacity to live in the mission and ministry to which God has called them. There are numerous ways to engage in such revitalization and each local congregation must determine the most appropriate method or model for itself, understanding its style, history, and the community in which it is located. Two of the most frequently employed models are the **Purpose Driven Church®** and **Natural Church Development®**.

The **Purpose Driven Church®** model is built on the five purposes of the church contained in The Great Commandment and The Great Commission. Through The Great Commandment we see two purposes: Worship (Love God) and Ministry (Love Others). The remaining three purposes come from The Great Commission: Evangelism (Go), Membership/Fellowship (Baptize), and Discipleship (Teach).

While the purposes themselves are scriptural instead of denominational, the congregations in our conference have integrated Wesleyan theology and traditions into the teaching elements and classes that are a part of the model. For example, how we fulfill the purpose of Ministry (loving others) finds great resonance in the Wesleyan tradition of justice and social holiness.

Natural Church Development® is a survey tool to help a congregation assess its health. Healthy congregations will grow naturally but if a congregation is not growing, the question to be asked is: what is holding back this natural process?

Through world-wide research in numerous denominations German theologians have discovered that there are eight quality characteristics present in healthy, growing congregations. They are: Empowering leadership, Gift-oriented ministry, Passionate spirituality, Functional structures, Inspiring worship service, Holistic small groups, Need-oriented evangelism, and Loving relationships.

The next two pages show how the 10 Timeless Values mesh with each of these major models and can easily be integrated into a current revitalization process.

Process Comparisons

If you are working with the Purpose Driven Church model of congregational revitalization, you can see in the chart below how the 10 Timeless Values fit into that design.

Purpose	What is taught	10 Timeless Values
Membership/Fellowship	Baptism UMC Theology Importance of small groups for relationship-building	Baptism Christian Conferencing
Discipleship	“Holy habits” as the lifestyle of the disciple: prayer, devotional life, spiritual disciplines, and tithing	Prayer Scripture Fasting Sabbath Stewardship
Ministry	Everyone has a S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experience) that guides them toward the ministry to which God is calling them	Justice Ministry
Evangelism	We are called to share with others the Gospel of Jesus Christ	Witness
Worship	We express our adoration of God and celebrate the New Covenant of Christ in worship	The Lord’s Supper

Process Comparisons

If you are working with the Natural Church Development assessment system for congregational health, you can see in the chart below how the 10 Timeless Values fit into that design (some Values fit more than one Quality Characteristic).

Quality Characteristics	Concept	10 Timeless Values
Holistic Small Groups Loving Relationships	Small groups help Christians find intimate community and practical help	Scripture Christian Conferencing
Passionate Spirituality	Faith is to be lived out with commitment, fire and enthusiasm	Prayer Fasting Stewardship Justice Ministry
Gift-oriented Ministry	The role of church leadership is to help its members identify their gifts and integrate them into ministries that match	Justice Ministry
Empowering Leadership	Leaders are to equip, support, motivate and mentor individuals to become all God wants them to be	
Functional Structures	Forms and structures in the church must fulfill their purpose	
Need-oriented Evangelism	The Gospel must be shared in ways that meet the need of non-Christians	Witness
Inspiring Worship	Worship must be an inspiring experience for those who attend	The Lord's Supper Baptism Sabbath