

A PROPOSAL FOR A SYSTEM OF TRAINING AND CERTIFYING “LAY EVANGELISTS”

For the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Committee on Evangelism - March 3, 2010

Proposed by David Kueker, Caseyville UMC, david@disciplewalk.com.

There are two streams of disciple making which could be described as “right hand” and “left hand” evangelism; we need both. Right hand evangelism is *church driven evangelism*, involving the familiar pattern of churches, worship, evangelists, revivals, altar calls, enthusiasm, follow up, Sunday School, invitation, hospitality, etc.

Left hand evangelism is a less familiar paradigm of *lay driven evangelism*, involving lay people going among the lost, making disciples in ongoing relationships, then mentoring their disciples, teaching their disciples to become missional servants and then disciple makers (¶126, 2008 BoD) and finally, helping with the spiritual grandchildren. It is multiplying generations of *disciples making disciples making disciples*.

District Evangelism Equipping - Monthly - DEE Groups
Model: CMA Greenhouse & CPM “Training for Trainers” (T4T)
Focus #1: accountability - each one names names, tells stories
Focus #2: skill building & community - connecting churches

ENTRY POINT

Disciple Making 101 - Jan/May/Sept - \$20
Online course at www.beadisciple.com
Focus #1: Equip for Basic Theory and Methods
Focus #2: Energize for Disciple Making

Annual Certification Retreat - 12+ hours April
Resourced by Path1 of GBOD (www.path1.org)
Focus #1: Advanced Theory & Methods
Focus #2: Organize and sustain a *Lay Missionary Movement* within our conference.
- Overnight at retreat setting (no commuting)

Application (if desired) for 3 year certification as ‘lay evangelists’ through IGRC Evangelism Committee to meet NAUME standards.
- annual participation 75% (9 of 12) district meetings to continue.
- must attend Certification Retreat at least once every three years.
- can submit application & interview once all three pieces are done.

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Requirements to join the leadership team which will operate district groups and plan the annual retreat:

- fulfill and maintain requirements for certification (clergy have same requirements as laity)
- take online course *with an active apprentice* and participate in separate special online equipping sections.
(*Leadership team members will eventually facilitate district sections of the online class discussion boards.*)
- assist District Evangelism Equipping Group leadership for one year as an apprentice leader.
- participate in Leadership Team Retreat on Friday afternoon before Annual Certification Retreat.

FIRST STEPS:

1. Persons interested in forming the organizing leadership team register for online class. (Jan or May)
2. Organize roll out for Fall 2010 entry point enrollments in online class. (Fall event feeds January class.)
3. Organize district groups in 2011 as possible to accept online class graduates for monthly accountability.
4. Organize first *Annual Certification Retreat* in 2011 or 2012 with Path1 leadership; seek scholarship funding.

COST TO IGRC BUDGET: Nothing. User fees, grants and donor gifts should provide minimal funds needed.

ABSTRACT

Diagnosis, Dialogue, and Decision: A Threefold Process of Revitalization For the Illinois Great Rivers Conference

David O. Kueker

Doctor of Ministry, School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2007

In 2004, I was one of six certified consultants working with the Office of Congregational Development of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, a judicatory unit tasked with the responsibility of responding within the next twelve months to over 120 requests for consulting in church growth and revitalization with individual churches. The large number of requests threatened to overwhelm the capacity of these part-time consultants to respond in a timely and effective manner. In order to meet this need, this study guide has been developed as a seminar-based Self-Study Process for church growth and revitalization combining my research as a Doctor of Ministry student at Fuller Seminary with the policies of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and its Office of Congregational Development. Seminars can absorb large numbers of participant churches and allow every church to receive some consulting support.

The first seminar, *Diagnosis*, will help churches understand their situations compared to the principles which guide the largest and fastest growing churches in the world, and particularly the discipleship system of the Yoido Full Gospel Church of Seoul, Korea. Grace, whether prevenient, justifying, or sanctifying, is a process of change; therefore, grace and the gospel are always extraordinary, entering systems as foreign influences contrary to the status quo. The second seminar, *Dialogue*, will blend insights from Peter Senge, Everett Rogers, and Geoffrey Moore in order to help churches understand how to overcome systemic resistance to change, including systemic resistance to the gospel, to grace and to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The third seminar, *Decision*, will offer examples of tools that make disciples and disciple makers and which integrate and apply the principles taught in the previous two seminars. The entire project will function as a gentle antithesis to homeostasis in order to provoke multiple conversations that lead to the adoption of disciple making innovations.

The seminars will incorporate the vision, mission and goals of our conference leadership and the Office of Congregational Development. This will facilitate outcomes congruent with these criteria and prepare pastors and participating churches for long-term cooperation with the Office of Congregational Development.

COMMUNICATING AN IDEA

- Attended Neil Cole's *Organic Church Planting Greenhouse* Training (Long Beach in 2002 & Grand Rapids in 2008) -

www.cmaresources.com. Proposal for St Louis Greenhouse Training, www.greenhouseSTL.org.

- Fall 2007 D.Min project published online for free download as PDF files at www.disciplewalk.com.

- Jan 2008 The specific system recommended in the Decision seminar is offered as an ongoing online course through the Richard & Julia Wilke Institute For Discipleship at www.beadisciple.com 3x/year (Jan-May-Sept).

Disciple Making 101 - January 18 to February 22, 2010 -- \$20

What is the simplest system one can use to make disciples and mature them spiritually to the point where they can make their own disciples? A flood of new ideas and methods in evangelism has made us skeptical. The innovation that is needed in churches today is far more elementary yet entirely sufficient: Jesus is Lord. How can we overcome resistance to this innovation?

This workshop offers a specific, step by step plan of spiritual formation based on the discipleship systems of the world's largest and fastest growing churches. Participants will learn practical spiritual disciplines based on the Great Commission that operate in pre-venient as well as sanctifying grace to develop Christians into better disciples and then disciple makers. This online workshop is based on Dr. David Kueker's 2007 Doctor of Ministry project on evangelism, church growth and organizational change at Fuller Theological Seminary (www.disciplewalk.com). This seven session course at an introductory rate is a great way to try out online learning at BeADisciple.com. Participation limited to 18. It will be offered January 18 to February 22, 2010.

- Aug 2009 - Training as a *Church Planting Movements* Strategy Coordinator through OMS International, Greenwood, IN. (CPM is the most successful lay driven evangelistic method in the third world, responsible for the conversion of millions in the 10/40 window and the strategic paradigm since 2000 for Southern Baptist foreign missions and domestic church planting (download booklet from www.churchplantingmovements.com). "In the West the church may be in decline, but the good news is your children and grandchildren will be reached by Chinese, Indian, Brazilian, Korean and Nigerian missionaries." Steve Addison, www.movements.net)

- January 2009 *Disciple Making 101* approved as Advanced Lay Speaking course for Mississippi River District.

- *Ascending Grace*, novelization of the dissertation self-published via Amazon.com - www.ascendinggrace.org

- *Disciple Making 101* available May 1, 2010 - book version of online course - www.createspace.com/3434819

- *Descending Grace*, novelization of specific lay disciple making methods - due by January 1, 2011 (resource for DEE Groups).