

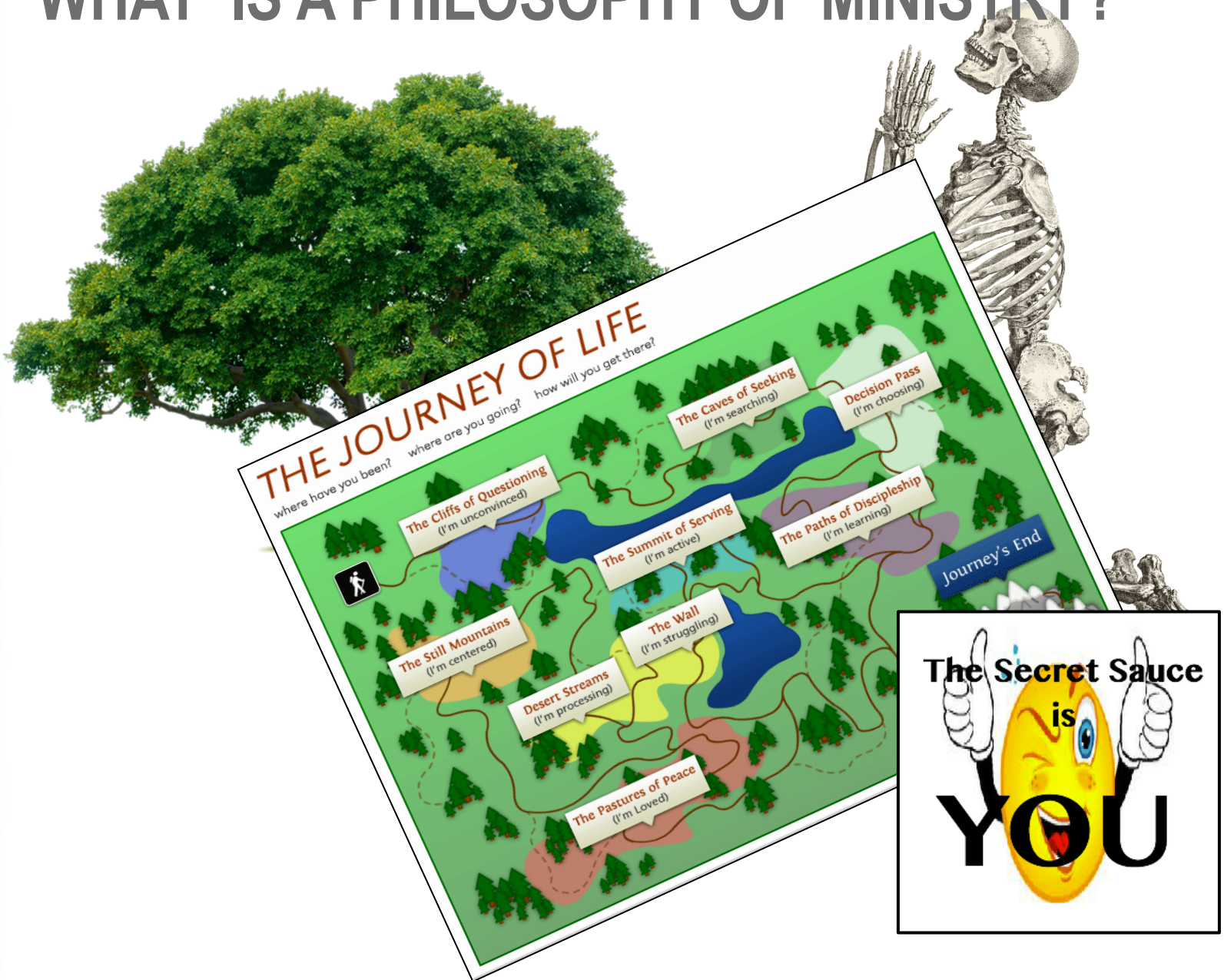


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A ministry of CCMBC

Discerning A Philosophy of Ministry for Your Church

WHAT IS A PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY?





OUTLINE:

- Definition of a Philosophy of Ministry
- Importance of a Philosophy of Ministry
- Content of a Philosophy Ministry – What it Answers
- An Approach to Developing a Philosophy of Ministry
 - Principles
 - Processes

DEFINITION:

- A dynamic framework of ideas, values and principles that govern a church's leadership in decision-making, evaluation and approach to ministry
- It is what we do and why we do it
- Philosophy is the meeting point of beliefs and task.

IMPORTANCE OF A PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

- Informs leaders of what they do, why they do it and how they do it.
- It allows leaders to plan effectively based on overall principles and strategy
- It unifies the congregation in matters relating to spiritual focus and ministry direction
- It allows an effective environment for discipling and empowering leaders and people

CONTENT:

What a Ministry Philosophy Often Answers:

- Why we exist (Biblical Purpose and Mandate)
- Who God has called us to reach (Mission Focus)
- Who God has shaped us to be (Core Values)
- Where we are going (Vision)
- How we will get there (Strategy and Plans)
- How we are led (Leadership)
- Who does what (Governance and Roles)
- Other possibilities...

DISCERNING A PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Principles

- Discovery Oriented
- Spiritually Anchored
- Personally Experienced

Discovery Oriented

- Three Basic Questions
 - Where have we been?
 - Where are we going?
 - How will we get there?



Spiritually Anchored

- Three Postures
 - Surrender
 - Quiet Reflection
 - Dependence
 - Transparency
 - Brokenness

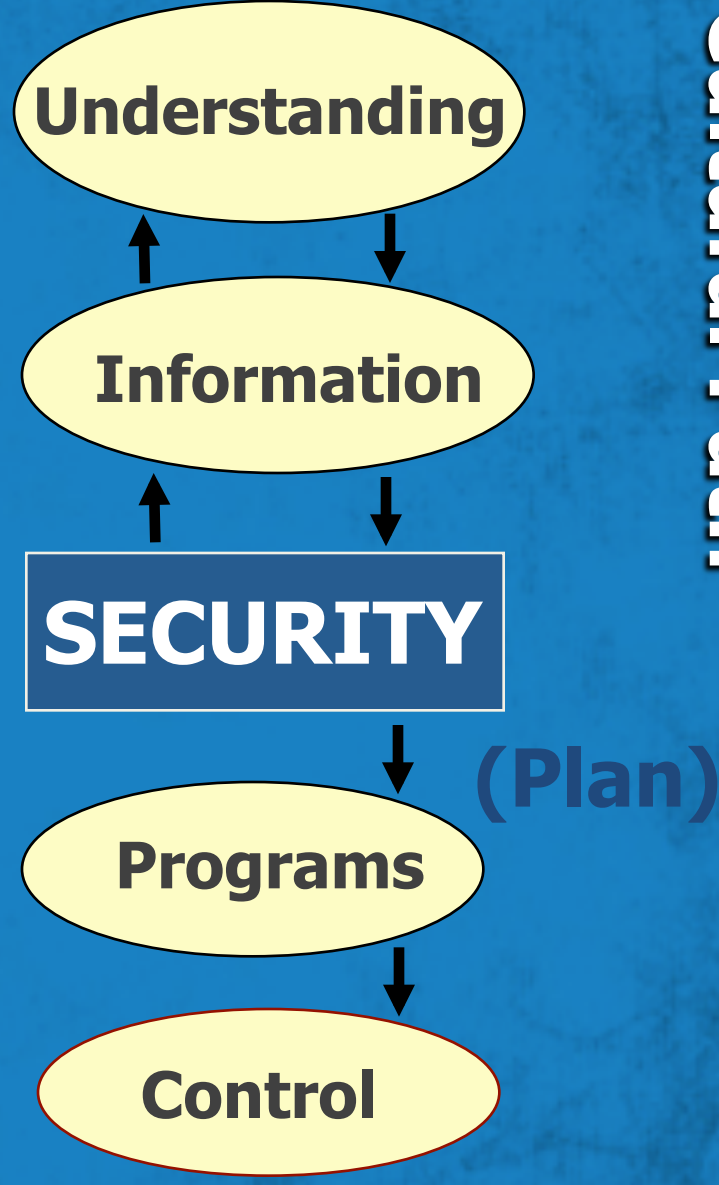


Spiritually Anchored

- Paradigm
 - God is always at work
 - If so, our task is not to invent the future but to discern what He is doing
 - On understanding what He is about, our task is to get in line with what he is doing and join Him
 - Alignment always requires...

...Absolute Surrender!

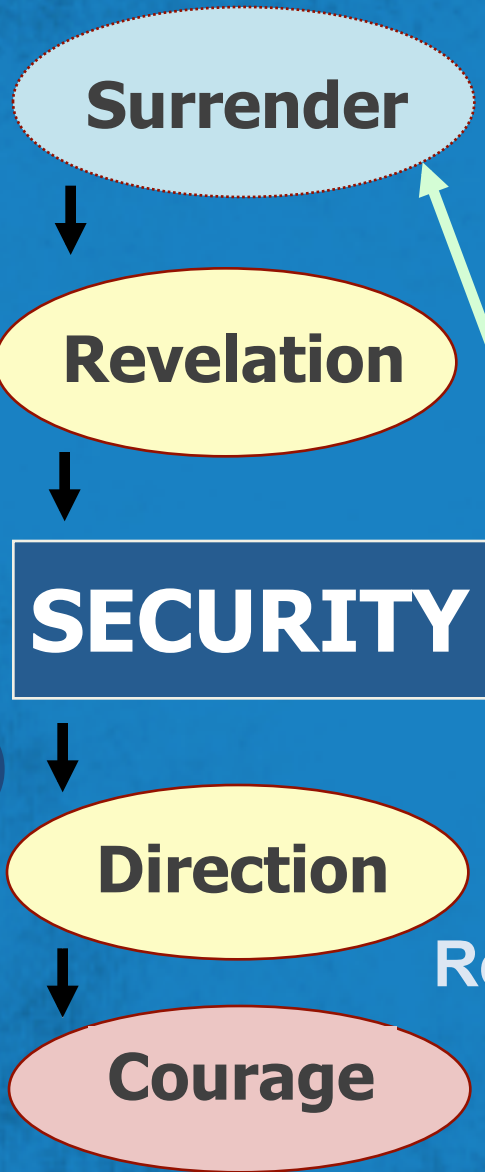
Kingdom Path



Cultural Path

Kingdom Path

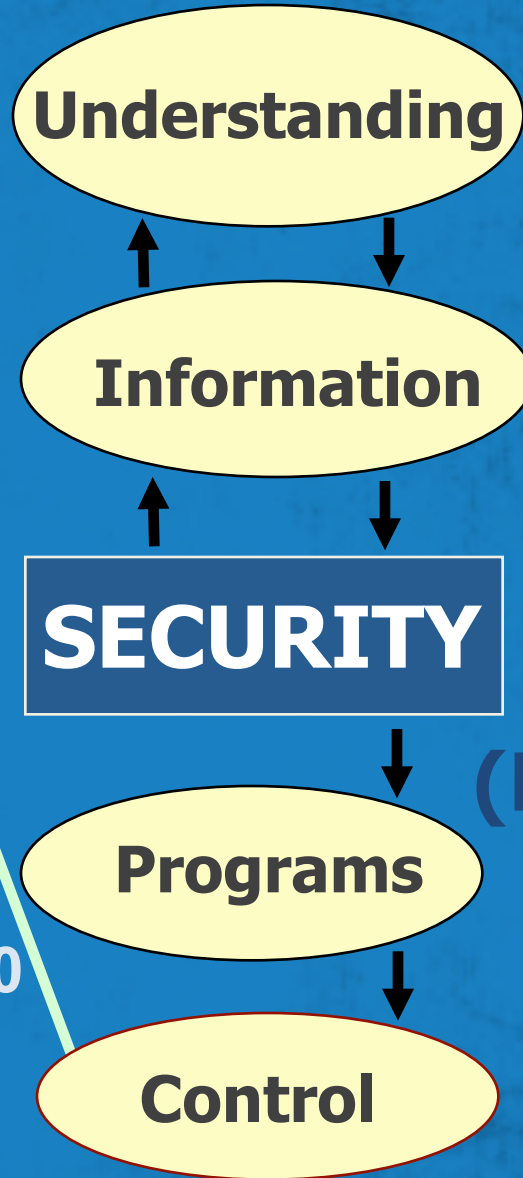
(Person)



Rev. 3.20

Cultural Path

(Plan)





Personally Experienced

- **Transformation Axiom:**
 - Personal transformation precedes and is integral to corporate transformation
- **Character Axiom:**
 - Effective ministry flows from being – deep then wide...



Possible Steps to a Philosophy of Ministry

Step One: Personal Preparation

Step Two: Where Have We Been?

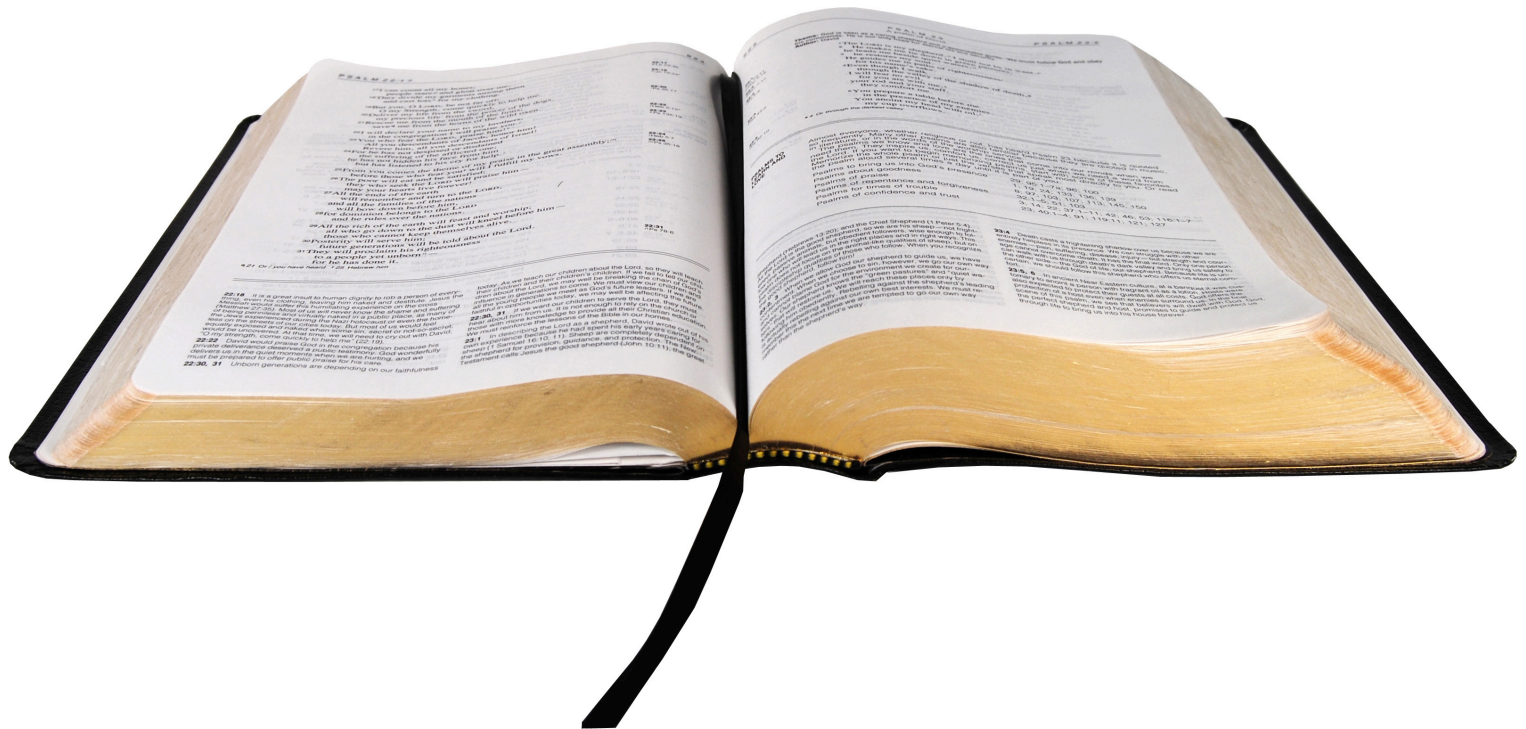
Step Three: Where Are We Going?

Step Four: How Will We Get There?

- What will we do?
- How will we do it?
- Who will do it?

Step One: Personal Preparation

- Prepare the “Church” to listen to God
- Triads with a liturgy...
- Meet nine times in ninety days



Example of a simple liturgy...

- Each person shares where they are at personally - physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually.
- Each person shares what God has been impressing upon them through His Word since they last met.
- Each person shares the name of one person they believe God wants them to reach out to who doesn't know Jesus yet. They share how that relationship is going.
- Each person prays out loud for the others in the group and each person prays for the church leaders (elders, ministry leaders) and asks God that we will hear his direction.

Step Two: Where have we been?

- How has God been shaping us?
- What have we actually valued?
- What is God saying to us?

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LOOKING BACK
EVERYTHING IS SO DIFFERENT

Biblical Command: Remember

- *A Theology of Remembrance*
{Deut. 8, Psalm 106, etc.}
- The Feasts
- The Lord's Supper

The Tool?

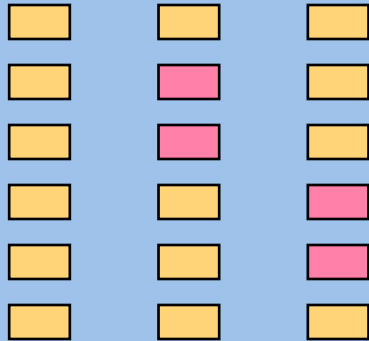
- A Journey Wall



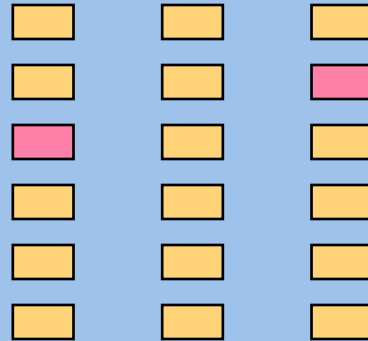
Building A Journey Wall

1912 -- 1950 --- 1970 ---- 1980 ---- 1990 --- 2000

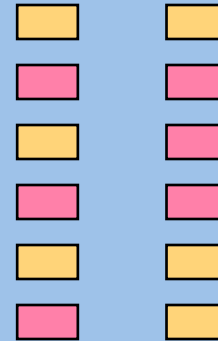
Vision - Enthusiasm



Steady as She Goes



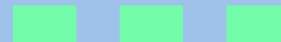
The Refiners Fire



Starting Over



Lessons:



How To Build a Journey Wall

1. Brainstorm: What things in our history have shaped us into the people we are today? Individually then in groups - Events, Circumstances, People
2. Build the Wall
3. Have them explain the wall and add any omissions
4. Identify the Chapters

How To Process a Journey Wall

1. Discuss:

- Which cards are you glad to see?
- Which cards are most painful?
- Any connections / patterns / themes among the cards?
- How did we respond?

2. Discover the Lessons

- What have we learned about God?
- What have we learned about ourselves?

3. Discern Actual Values

- What do our behaviours reveal our actual values to be?

4. Identify the Critical Issues

- If God is to have His way, what will we need to release?
- If God is to have His way, what will we need to address?

Step Three: Where are we Going?

- What is our Mission?
- Who are the people of our Mission field?
 - Jerusalem
 - Judea
 - Samaria
 - Ends of the earth
- How will our values need to shift?
- What will it look like if we are obedient? i.e. We live out our mission to the people God has given us, the way he has shaped us?

How to Clarify Mission

- Define it well – the task God has given the church, not the nature... Nature is who we are to be, task is what we are to do
- Importance - “There is an important place for diversity on the team as well as for unity. But one place you cannot have diversity is on the question of mission. If you create a tossed salad of leaders with different agendas...you will have hard and painful division or soft and putrid compromise”
- Clarify who determines the mission...

Defining the Mission Focus



Example

Our Jerusalem – People we are currently reaching

- **Churched Families with children – teens**

Our Judea – People we could be reaching

- **Unbelieving families with children - teens**

Our Samaria – People we could be reaching down the line

- **Homeless, Other language groups, etc.**

Identifying Preferred Values

- Start with what is...
- If we are going to reach the people God is giving us, how will our values need to change?
- Work in groups and discern together....



How to Begin to Write Vision

Imagine you are a photo-journalist, five years from now you shoot a photo essay to portray the life and influence of this church. What would be in those pictures? What is happening? What do you see?

- Who are we reaching? Who is new?
- What are we doing?
- What are we feeling?
- What is new...different than today?
- If time and money were unlimited... what do you see?

Step Three: How will we get There?

- Clarify Ministry Model
- Identify Big Rocks – Critical Issues
- From here – core leadership take it away!
 - Develop a Ministry Plan addressing the Critical Issues....

Based on what has been discerned:

- What will we do
- Why will we do it
- How will we do it
- Who will do it

Discerning a Ministry Model

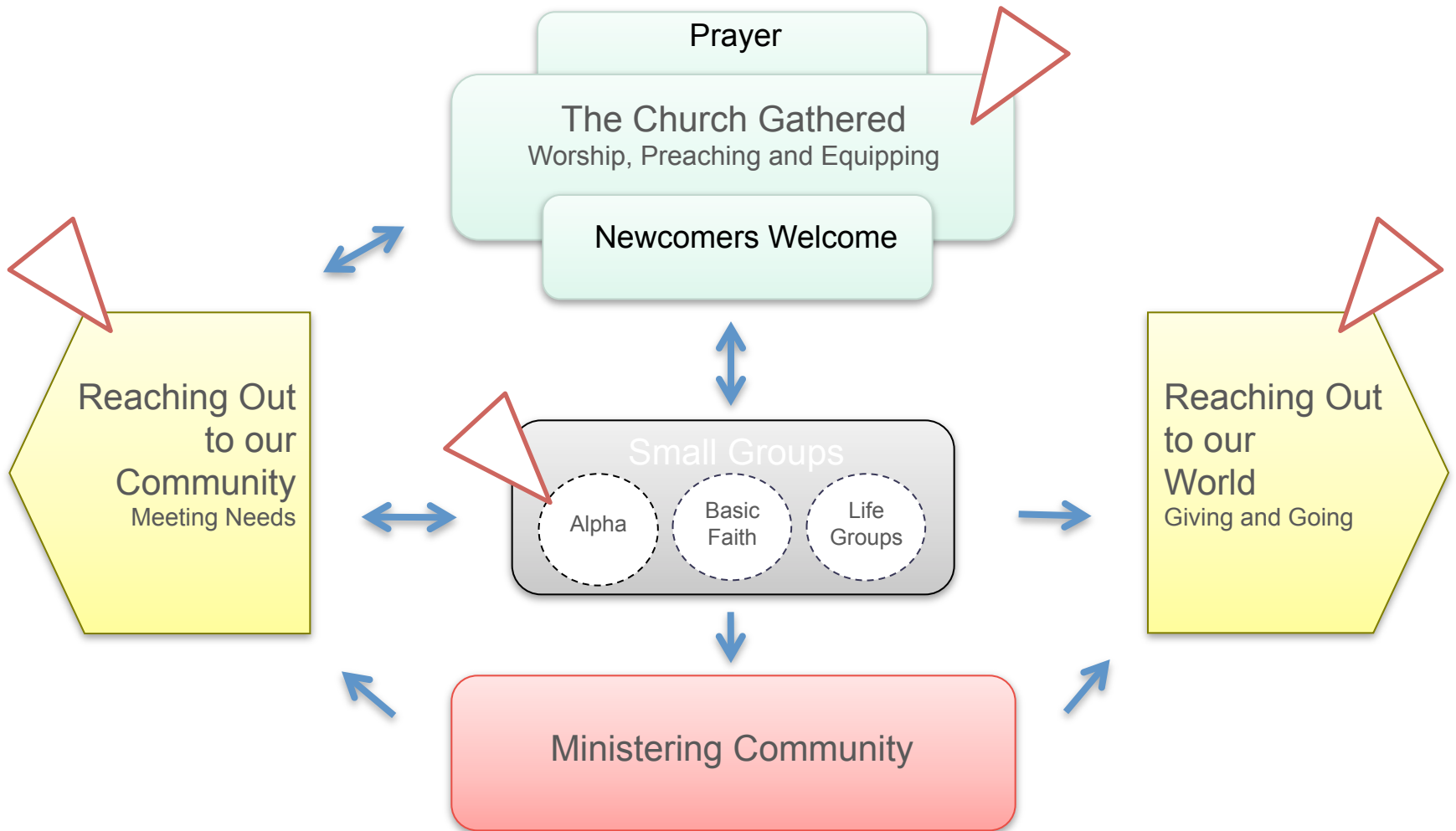
The Napkin Exercise

How Does Our Church Work?

- IMAGINE... Lunch with a visitor
“I want to get involved... tell me how all the ministries fit together.”
- DRAW a diagram that shows how the ministries of the church flow together.

Discerning a Ministry Model


- A conceptual diagram of how people flow through the life of a church.
- A Ministry Model Diagram clarifies:
 - How vision is accomplished
 - How different ministries work together



 = People Engaged

 = People Invited

 = People Integrated

 = People Invested

Identifying the “Big Rocks”

- A time for God to speak... Prayer...
- Engage the team in answering the question:
- If our church is going to live out our biblical purpose, live by our values, effectively reach the people of our mission focus, and accomplish the vision God has given us...
- What 2 major initiatives do we need to launch in the next two years?

Examples

- Develop a process to welcome people into meaningful fellowship and ministry
- Develop Functional Governance
- Put an intentional and evangelistic “edge” on all our current ministries
- Develop and implement a strategy for healthy small groups
- Develop a strategy and process for equipping and discipling
- Identify and develop a process to reach one group in our “Judea or Samaria”

Developing a Plan

- Addressed by Staff or small team
- Proposals “pulsed” Listening is key...
- Modifications made...
- Plan affirmed by

PLAN B

~~PLAN A~~

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Questions and Comments?

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