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## Devotion (Acts 1: 1-14, NRSV)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

3

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

4

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

5

Waiting, Being, and  
Discerning



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6

# Systems and Success

7

Nick Saban



8

When are  
championships won?



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9

Healthy systems=health



◆ “Healthier.” ©2009 Copyright Kevin Simmons. Licensed Under Creative Commons.

10

Healthy Systems Lead to  
Fruit



"rhymes with orange." ©2017  
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11



Grinding/Farming

"Grinding." ©2013 Copyright Andrew Fysh. Under Creative Commons.

12

What would we be working towards?

13

- ◇ Mission and vision in the form of a story
- ◇ Goals
- ◇ Values?

14

What systems would need to be in place to help us live into our mission/vision/goals?

- ◇ Intentional Ministries
- ◇ Church Structure
- ◇ Teams
- ◇ Overarching Schedule
- ◇ Discipleship Pathway

15

What might the end result of our discernment look like?

16

# Concept Art



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17

# Trellis



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## Sowing Seeds

"Parable of the Sower." ©2006 Copyright Fr Lawrence  
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## Mission and Vision

*Being Good News for Middletown by creating moments  
of gratitude, joy, and community.*

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# Values

21

## What guides our decision making?

- ◇ Mission
- ◇ Vision
- ◇ Values

22

## Possible Values

- ◇ Loving God
- ◇ Loving People
- ◇ Faith Over Fear

23

## Goals

- ◇ Intentionally design and execute three opportunities for gratitude a year
- ◇ Intentionally design and execute three opportunities for joy a year
- ◇ Intentionally design and execute three opportunities for community a year

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## Possible Intentional Ministries

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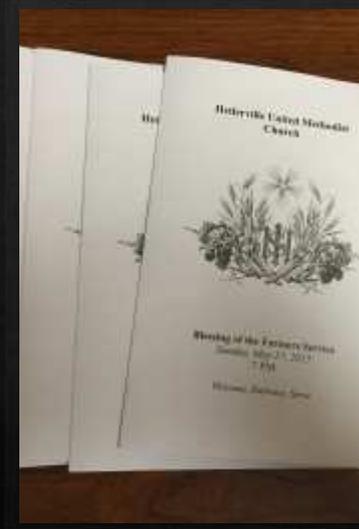
Thank you, meals, to people serving our community



26

## Create worship opportunities that might offer gratitude, joy, and community

Christmas hymn sing with Christmas cookies  
A worship service to bless people who serve in our community



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## Neighborhood Groups



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## Community Events

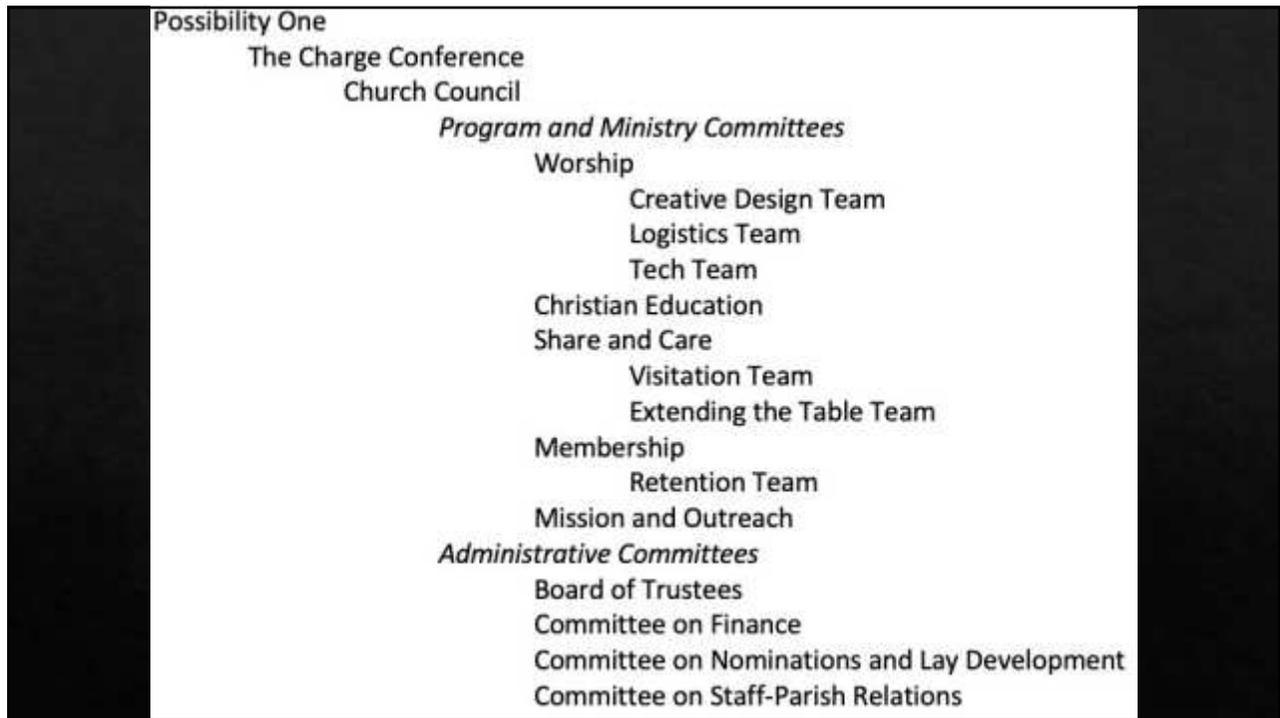
- Ice cream socials
- Pop-up food events



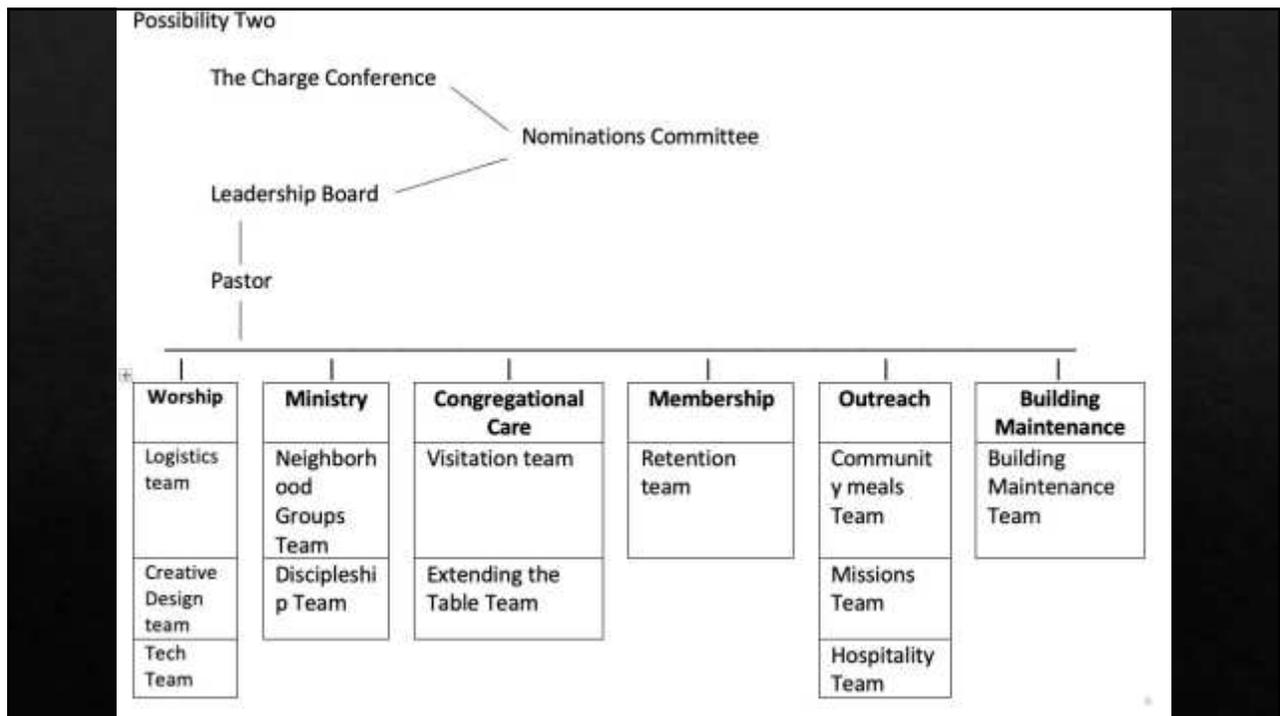
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## Possible Church Structure

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## Reoccurring Schedule

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## Sundays

- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ Worship
- ◆ Money Counting and Recording
- ◆ Extending the Table (*Communion Sundays*)
- ◆ Membership Retention (*reach out to folks missing average worship attendance*)
- ◆ Hospitality Team (*reach out to visitors*)

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## Weekdays

- ◇ Bible Studies
- ◇ Neighborhood Group Meetings
- ◇ Choir Practice

35

## Monthly

- ◇ Leadership Board Meetings
- ◇ Team Meetings
- ◇ Goal Events

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# Monthly Schedule

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January  
Commissioning of  
Leaders

March  
Leadership Retreat

June  
Blessing of the  
Graduates  
VBS

38



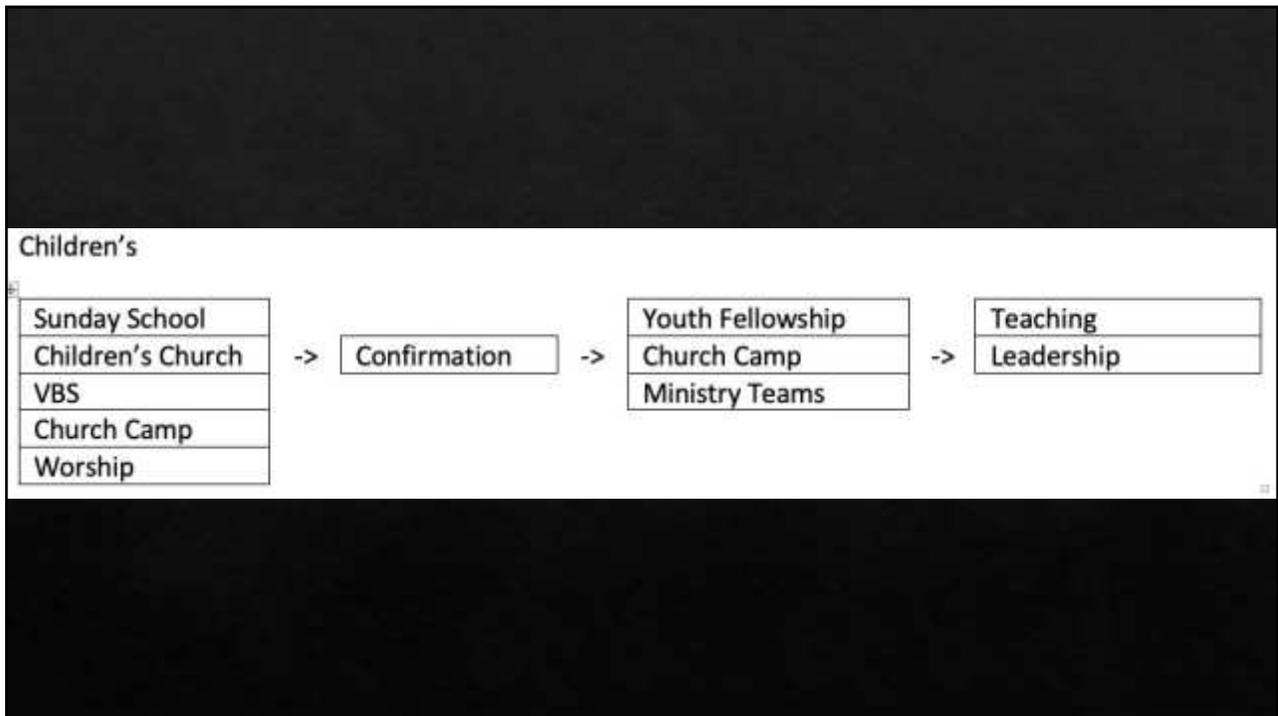
39



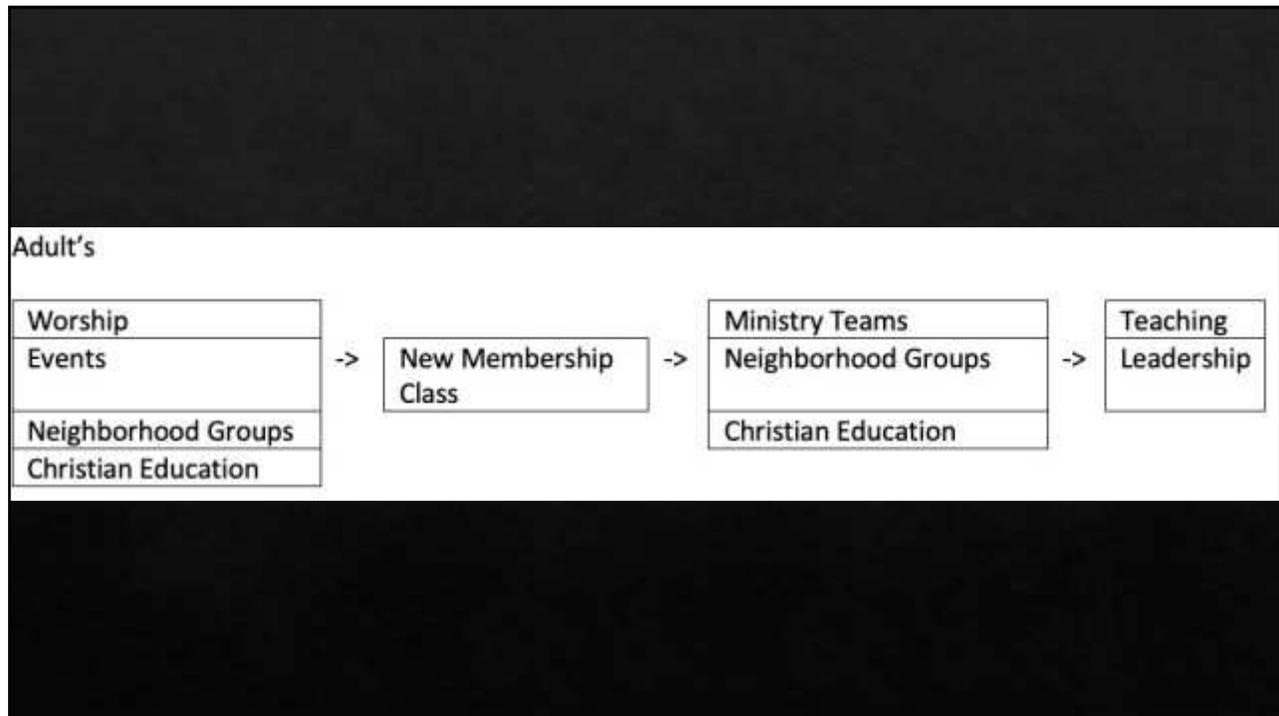
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# Discipleship Pathways

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43

Are you willing to meet again?

44

## Closing Thought

“If people can’t see what God is doing,  
they stumble all over themselves;  
But when they attend to what he reveals,  
they are most blessed.”

Psalm 29: 18, *The Message*

45

## Closing Prayer

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