



**GUIDELINES**  
for Leading Your Congregation

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# EVANGELISM

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*Sharing the Good News*

*Written by Roger K. Swanson  
General Board of Discipleship*

## EVANGELISM

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# Our Identity, Call, and Mission

**A**bout now a small voice in the back of your mind may be whispering, “What am I doing here? To what have I said yes? What is my role?” At the same time you may be aware that your congregation has extended to you a *call—a call to serve*. And you have said *yes—yes to leading in a vital mission*.

***The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*** You have agreed to serve as a leader bringing your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to the church. When the leaders focus on the church’s purpose—*its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ*—and link that purpose to the passions of the people, amazing things can happen.

***The fundamental way we fulfill our mission is to reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ, to relate people to God, to nurture and strengthen them in their journey of discipleship, and to send them into the world to be the church—inviting and receiving others in the name of Jesus Christ. We call this the primary task of The United Methodist Church.***

Effective leaders keep the whole of the primary task in their sight, working to keep all of its aspects in concert.

***Leaders in the church must be first, and foremost, spiritual leaders*** who model and embrace Christian discipline and teaching. *By practicing the means of grace—prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, corporate worship, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy—church leaders stay tuned to the mission of the church and live out the primary task.* Members and would-be members should be able to look to a congregation’s leaders for spiritual example and direction because true leaders are known by their fruits. People’s lives are changed through their influence.

***Leaders use their gifts and talents to enable others to use their gifts and talents to the fullest potential.*** The flow of information, inspiration, guidance, and vision from leaders is an encouragement to others on their spiritual journey. Leaders help others to see new possibilities. When leaders are focused on the mission of the church, community is built and ministry occurs. The church focused on God is alive with creative energy aimed at transformation.

## Four Essential Leadership Functions

***Church leaders support and strengthen the church when they pay attention to these leadership functions: (1) help people discover the current***

*reality in which they live; (2) bring together the congregation's understandings of current reality and desired reality into a shared vision; (3) develop the plans to help the community move from current reality toward the reality of its shared vision; and finally, (4) monitor the whole work of the church as the congregation moves with God's guidance toward its vision.*

### 1. Discovering Current Reality

Accurately describing current reality—the way things are—may be the most important function of leadership. The booklets in this Guideline series offer suggestions for leaders to pay attention to the various committees of the church's ministry. In addition, it is critical for church leaders—lay and clergy—to spend time together discussing the ministry of the whole congregation. The conversation needs to include attentiveness to God's guidance and everything that describes a congregation's "what we are, here and now." Because God is always doing a new thing, this job is continuous. When we pay attention to change, we provide a base of integrity and strength from which to move into the future. Faith in Jesus Christ and a spiritual centering in God offers the strongest foundation to move people fearlessly through the massive changes of the twenty-first century.

### 2. Naming Shared Vision

Ask the question, "What do you want more than anything else in the world?" and most persons will give a response that indicates that they want to live in a world filled with love, faith, security, and meaning. Because persons desire a positive future, they are willing to invest themselves in organizations that are committed to it. By its very nature, the church is devoted to the creation of a better future. When the church promises to move people personally and corporately toward their desired reality, people will invest time, energy, and resources into the church. As people see their own desires linked to the congregational vision and a deeper understanding of God's future, they deepen their commitment and involvement. Building this link is a vital role of leadership.

Naming a shared vision is accomplished by asking people about their lives and their faith, and by listening very carefully. By listening, we mean deep listening—the kind that requires setting aside our own agendas and entering into the worldviews of others, and listening for God through the conversation. It is a significant shift in our understanding of leadership in the church to move from telling people what we think they need to know to listening to people in order to find out who they are and what their desired realities are. Effective spiritual leaders listen to the hearts of people and begin to articulate a shared vision.

### 3. Developing Bridges

To span the gulf between our current reality and the hope expressed in the shared vision, leaders must build a bridge. The third critical function of leadership is to plan actions and develop systems that create the bridge across this gulf. Leaders who are elected to administrative and program committees are responsible for the ongoing work of the church and must pay attention to the present. At the same time, leaders *must* be focused on the future—keeping today and tomorrow in tension—ensuring that the church does not get stuck in the past, present, or future.

Church leaders who are attentive to God’s leading and who can hold the tension between today and tomorrow are *visionary leaders*. Visionary leaders see it all—current reality, desired reality, and the bridges to get from one to the other.

### 4. Monitoring the Journey

Perhaps the most critical task for leaders is keeping an eye on the whole of the faith journey of the congregation. When leaders are constantly caught up in “doing” the administrative and program work of the church, there is not any time left for “being” with God in prayer to discern the leading of the Spirit for the congregation. Leaders must step back from “doing” constant activities in order to pay attention to the total direction of the church’s mission and ministry. All elected and appointed leaders must spend time together listening to God in prayer, Bible study, conversation, and other means of grace in order to lead the entire community in the work of Christ. Anything less is not Christian spiritual leadership.

## Why Evangelism is Important

**Y**ou have been chosen to be a leader in your congregation, with responsibility for the ministry area of evangelism, or witness. There is no more important work of the church than the task of reaching out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ, welcoming them with genuine Christian hospitality so that they may develop a relationship with God and live as Christian disciples.

Each of the Gospel writers, in his own way, describes how Jesus sent out his disciples to make other disciples for him. The best known is the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20:

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus

came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

See also Mark 16:14-20; Luke 9:1-6; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:6-8.

Obedying the Great Commission is not one option among many for a congregation; it is at the very heart of the Christian enterprise. Christianity is a missionary, evangelizing faith. On the night of Jesus’ birth an angel described his birth to simple shepherds as bringing “good news of great joy for all the people” and sent them off to find the world’s Savior “wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10, 12). The shepherds went to nearby Bethlehem, and finding Jesus and his mother and father, they “made known what had been told them about this child” (Luke 2:17). We can be sure that they later shared their discovery with their families and friends.

The first evangelist was an angel. Notice how the word *angel* (or messenger in Greek) shows up in the word *evANGELism*. That aside, the word *evangelism* is derived from Greek and literally is translated as “good message.” In succeeding translations it became “gospel” and “good news.”

What was the good news? It was Jesus himself. Jesus still is the good news that the creator God loves creation and acts toward it with grace and mercy. In Jesus Christ, God has come among us, identified with us, and continues to meet us in our deepest needs. The message is also what Jesus taught and preached. It was the good news of God’s kingdom come and God’s invitation for us to enter it and enjoy its benefits. Finally, the good news is what Jesus did. His death on the cross and God’s raising him from the dead offer the peoples of the world forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Good news always bears repeating. On the first Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds. They, in turn, told Mary and Joseph, and certainly their families as well. And the story goes on. Those who heard Jesus teach told their friends how he spoke with authority. Those who were healed told “their” good news. Those who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus could not suppress the news, as astonishing as it was. The disciples soon became apostles on a mission of telling the good news throughout the world of their time. Consequently, from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) onward thousands of people were drawn into the church. Those people became evangelists or heralds, sharing their faith in Jesus and their experience of a new life in Christ.

Even persecution did not keep early Christians from telling the Christian story. In Acts 8:4 we find that it was not just the apostles who took the gospel out from Jerusalem but those laypersons who were evicted from the city following the martyrdom of Stephen. In a word, if Jesus is who he says he is—the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)—then it follows that the work of evangelism, or witnessing, is central to Christianity and to each congregation of disciples.

Congregations gather for worship, learning, and fellowship. Congregations also scatter for witness and service, for telling and living out the good news of God’s love for humankind and the world God has made. It is the rhythm of the gospel. Christians gather and scatter, gather and scatter. It is much like breathing. Breathing consists of inhaling and exhaling. Which is more important, breathing in or breathing out? It depends on what you did last, doesn’t it? Wholeness in Christian experience requires the congregation gathered in community to worship and scattered throughout the community to serve! In fact, churches are unique in that they are the only groupings of people that exist not for members only but also for those who are not members, namely, the unchurched.

Our own experiences as Christian disciples empower us to share the gospel with others. As we experience God’s presence and power in our lives and our faith grows stronger, we want to share that faith with others. Then our church becomes a place that welcomes, supports, and cares for members and for our neighbors.

## The Process of Making Disciples

As you begin to think about the focus of your work as a leader in evangelism ministries, think of your own experience of coming to faith in God. What role did a congregation play? For most of us, we would not be Christians were it not for a Christian congregation or congregations that reached out to us and welcomed us, inviting us to commit our lives to Christ, and equipping and empowering us to live as Christian disciples. The truth is, it takes a congregation to make a disciple and to sustain a disciple in the personal Christian walk.

It takes a congregation to make a disciple.

Congregations make disciples not so much by holding events that welcome, invite, and support, but by developing a congregational lifestyle and an atmosphere, or environment, that is welcoming, inviting, encouraging, and empowering. A major factor that shapes congregational lifestyle and atmosphere is attentiveness to God and to the faith development of every

person in the congregation. Other factors are a vision to serve the community beyond the cozy walls of the church building, trust, generational and ethnic inclusiveness, hospitality, a positive self-image, and spiritual leaders, both lay and clergy, who embody and equip the congregation and its ministries.

In many congregations the work of evangelism has been limited to the upkeep of the church rolls and to sponsorship of an annual evangelism event. *Evangelism is, at its heart, sharing faith with others, particularly with those who are unchurched, and inviting them to follow Jesus Christ as Christian disciples.* Congregations that are successful in carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus have developed a disciple-making system that begins with welcoming and invitation and continues through a process of relating persons to God, and equipping and deploying them in ministry. Congregations that are not receiving new persons on profession of their faith or that are experiencing a high percentage of inactive members are, in fact, getting the results that their evangelism plan (or its lack) is guaranteed to produce. A new plan or system is needed. This resource will help you as a leader to work with your pastor and others in developing a system that invites people to follow Jesus, forms them as disciples, and sends them out as Christ's agents.

## Job Description

**A**s leader of the evangelism ministry of your church, you have various responsibilities:

1. Serving as team leader for those assigned to work with you, guiding the work of the team, planning agendas, presiding at meetings, and representing the ministry of evangelism in meetings of the church council and charge conference.
2. Working with the pastor and team in assessing your congregation's vital statistics that relate to growth, such as membership and attendance trends, as well as the way in which new people are received into the congregation and empowered for ministry.
3. Envisioning what God's will and dream for the congregation's future might be, and setting goals that are consistent with that vision.
4. Developing a plan for an overall evangelism strategy and/or system that reaches out to persons, welcomes them into the congregation, relates them to God, and equips and empowers them for ministry.
5. Implementing your plan.

# How to Get Started

## 1. Building the Evangelism Ministry Team

It is important to build a team of persons committed to the ministry of evangelism. A team differs from a committee in that a team is personally involved. Have you ever seen a committee play a game and win? A committee often is formed to be representative of a larger group. Committees can be contentious because of conflicting points of view of various parts of the larger body. *A team, on the other hand, is aligned around a single purpose.* Depending on the size of the congregation, a team should consist of no fewer than five or no more than a dozen. In other words, it should be a workable number. An evangelism team should be made up of persons who are already involved in evangelism ministries. Who are the welcomers and inviters in your congregation? They should be on the team. Include someone connected to youth ministry. Your team should represent a cross section of the congregation. However, do not include persons just because they might represent certain groups. *Personal commitment to the ministry of evangelism is vital.*

If you do not currently have an evangelism team, you might want to include as members your lay leader, any lay speakers in the congregation, and a youth.

Start building your team with prayer. Pray for God to guide and empower your team. Evangelism is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit. We can be effective servants and witnesses only as we nurture our personal relationship with God and seek God's guidance with others. At your first meeting determine a time of day when team members will be in prayer for one another and for the development of a common vision for the congregation's evangelistic ministry.

Agree on a reading schedule, and include this booklet on it. Ask your pastor to arrange for you to receive *The Interpreter*, the official program journal for United Methodist leaders. In addition, order some of the resources listed at the end of this guide. As team leader, you might want everyone to read the same resource, or divide up the resources among members of the team. You will find it helpful to set aside time at each team meeting for prayer and for a discussion of what each person is reading.

Read the Bible for your own spiritual formation, but also for models related to evangelism and faith sharing. Important passages in this regard include Matthew 9:35–10:23; Luke 4:16-21; Luke 8:26-39; Luke 10:1-20, 25-37;

Luke 15; John 1:35-51; John 20:19-31. Read the book of Acts for a description of the missionary evangelism of the early church and the way that a vital church reaches out to new people groups.

## 2. Assessing Current Reality

One of your first tasks ought to be to develop a sense of the strengths and weaknesses of the congregation. What is your church presently doing to reach out and welcome persons into the church's fellowship, to teach them and relate them to God? How effective are these activities? What are the results? You can measure these by assembling the vital statistics of the last five to ten years: membership, worship and Sunday school attendance, and faithfulness in stewardship. If these data are not readily available, check the conference journal. The statistical pages include every church's membership growth and average worship and Sunday school attendance. *The most important statistics concern numbers of persons joining the church on profession of faith, the net growth or decline each year, and the average weekly attendance at worship and Sunday school.* Statistics related to giving can also be helpful to measure growth in discipleship. Is giving on the rise? What is the percentage of giving to mission projects in and through the local congregation?

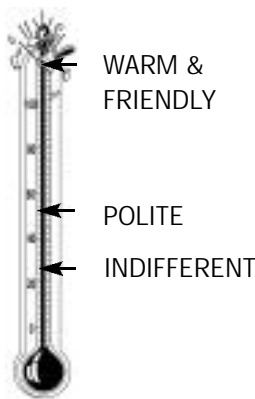
Another important piece of information concerns the numbers of persons who are considered inactive or marginal. Inactive or marginal members are embarrassments to most churches. There is also some degree of hostility toward them because they are not "pulling their weight." You must overcome reluctance to deal with this issue if you want to know the current reality in your congregation. So, name your inactive persons. Who are they? Doing this will take some effort, but often a group of six to ten persons, meeting together, can identify the level of involvement of each person in the congregation. The percentage of marginal members is a vital sign of the discipleship system currently in place.

Obtaining demographic data about your community is helpful. Your conference office may have such information for your community. If that office doesn't have it, you may contact the evangelism and church growth office of the General Board of Global Ministries directly, which can supply this information. (See Resources section for details.) From these findings, you will be able to determine the numbers and age groupings of people in your community. Undertaking an outreach ministry to single persons would be a futile endeavor if there are no significant numbers of single adults in your community.

When these data are assembled, spend enough meeting time to prayerfully analyze the material. What is God saying to you through it—"Well done, thou good

and faithful servants,” or “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”? How many persons have been received on profession of faith each year in the last five to ten years? In any given year in recent history, as many as half of United Methodist congregations have not received one person in this category. Yet more than any other, this category measures the success of the congregation in making new disciples. The percentage of inactive persons is also a critical number. A higher percentage of inactive members points to an inadequate system for keeping persons on the path to discipleship.

An important aspect of current reality that bears study is the climate of the congregation. Although it is difficult to define, a congregation’s climate is the first impression made on visitors. Is the congregation friendly? Or is it self-centered? Are people glad to see one another? Are people friendly only to their friends, or are visitors welcomed with genuine hospitality?



Attitudes and relationships affect the climate. What are the attitudes in the congregation toward change, the future, and the growth of the church? You would be surprised at how quickly visitors overhear attitudes. How do people get along with one another? Remember the “new” commandment Jesus gave his disciples, “that you love one another” (John 13:34). “By this,” he continued, “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Ask persons who have joined the church within the last six months to help you sense the climate of the congregation. These persons still have some objectivity left and can tell you what’s right about the climate and what, if anything, was a barrier, which by joining the church they obviously overcame. Various studies of new members show that between 75 and 90 percent affiliated with their present congregation because of a “relational factor.” Check this out with your ad hoc team of new members. How did they make friendships? What is the congregation doing to encourage this development? Does the church have a coffee hour at a convenient time on Sunday mornings? Are visitors invited?

In reviewing all of this information, the team should strive for objectivity. You are seeking to learn whether or not you have a discipleship system in place that is working, not to assign credit or blame, or to rationalize the data.

See “Our Church’s Hospitality to Visitors” on page 21, and discover how friendly the church really is.

### 3. Developing a Shared Vision

“Few, if any, forces in human affairs,” writes Peter Senge in *The Fifth Discipline*, “are as powerful as shared vision” ([New York: Doubleday/Currency, 1990], p. 206). Vision has been defined in different ways. It is the art of seeing the invisible, a visual image of a desirable future, hope with a blueprint. What we know is, vision is essential to growth, and a vision that is shared by a large number of people is already becoming actualized. In other words, a congregation’s vision is where it is actually heading. The author has asked dozens of church members about the future of their church. On occasion, someone will express a pessimistic view such as, “We probably won’t have a church in five years.” Oftentimes that vision comes true. On the other hand, a positive vision gives energy and direction.

*A process for developing a shared vision among an evangelism ministry team should begin with prayer.* People must be willing to let go of their pre-suppositions and personal agendas about what the church should be doing and center on discovering God’s will and dream. They need to learn what God blesses—not set forth what they want God to bless—and then do that. People need to listen to one another as well. Spend time in team meetings on the personal vision or hopes that people have for their church. Who are the people left out and/or ignored in your community? What one thing could the church do that would make the most difference? Build a consensus. Is there one vision that the team is willing to embrace and recommend to the congregation? Be sure it is achievable. You don’t want to waste energy on the impossible. Be sure, also, that everyone agrees on a goal. If people accept one vision as a compromise, without fully believing in it, there may be compliance but not commitment.

The vision must be shared with the church council and other teams in order for an integrated vision to develop, which will empower the congregation to move forward.

### 4. Establishing a Plan

*It is common wisdom that when we fail to plan, we plan to fail! Remember that the mission of the church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Vital, growing congregations will have a comprehensive plan for evangelism—that is, a discipleship system in place that reaches out to people wherever they are, receives them as they are, relates them to God, nurtures them in discipleship, and sends them out as witnesses to the love of God in Jesus Christ.* Your task is to lead the evangelism ministry team in designing your congregation’s discipleship system. This is more important than planning evangelism events. If the discipleship system in your church does not result

in professions of faith and a high level of involvement among your members, no evangelism event, no matter how well planned and executed, will be effective.

A discipleship system needs to focus on these areas: *welcoming, assimilating persons into the congregation, and equipping and deploying persons as disciples of Jesus Christ*. The following pages will assist you and your team in developing a comprehensive plan for evangelism.

## 5. Setting Your Plan into Motion

A bit of wisdom says that beginning is half done. Congregational inertia does not give way to plans. Action causes change to occur. Your whole discipleship plan does not need to be in place before you begin a part of it that your team believes is essential. If you have no greeters on Sunday morning, your team could take on that task as early as the next Sunday and keep on until a greeting ministry is more formally organized. Your team could choose to study personal faith sharing and covenant to begin by each team member filling out a F-R-A-N Plan (see “Implementing Your Evangelism Plan”) and agreeing to be held accountable by the team.

As a team leader in evangelism, you would do well to remember two more things: keep cool, and have fun. Jesus’ last words to the disciples on the Mount of Commissioning were, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Christ is the head of the church and has promised his presence in all your efforts, step by step. God’s work is not all work. There are friendships and deep satisfactions as we offer our best and creative efforts in the work of evangelism. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). As a friend likes to say it, if joy is missing in the work of evangelism, only the “news” section of the “good news” is present!

# Implementing Your Evangelism Plan

**T**he mission of each United Methodist church, according to the *Book of Discipline*, is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ.” Congregations need not spend time in defining the church’s mission. It is already stated. It is the primary task of the church, in fulfillment of that mission, *to reach out to people wherever they are, to receive them as they are, to relate them to God through Jesus Christ,*

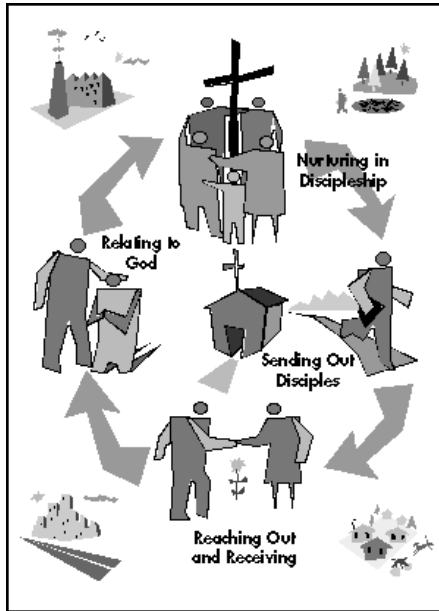
*to nurture and equip them for Christian discipleship, and to send them out into the community to be the church in the family, the neighborhood, the community, and the world.*

As you read, put a star by the ideas in the following categories you want to explore with your team and with the congregation.

## Turning Up the Thermostat

There is a difference between a thermometer and a thermostat. A thermometer registers the temperature; the thermostat changes it. The climate of a congregation is most affected by attitudes and relationships within the congregation. Attitudes and relationships, in turn, are affected mostly by the continual spiritual renewal of persons.

My relationship with God most profoundly affects my attitudes and relationships. In other words, focus on the spiritual! Helping persons find a sense of the presence and grace of Christ in their lives and in the life of the congregation will do more than any particular program.



John Wesley promoted a personal and congregational lifestyle focused on what was called the means of grace—the “means,” in other words, that lead to the sense of Christ’s presence. *These “means” are prayer and fasting, Bible study, worship and the sacraments, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy.*

In pursuing such means of grace, vital congregations commonly do three things: *they promote (1) the small group experience, (2) a congregation-wide, focused Bible study, and (3) personal involvement in ministry and mission.*

You may want to consider offering small group experiences to your members. (See Covenant Discipleship groups in the Resources section.) These groups are an adaptation of the early Methodist class meeting for the church of today. They are organized for the purpose of mutual support and accountability. Some churches offer Wesley groups for fellowship, prayer, and study. Remember that the Christian enterprise began with a small group experience of twelve persons.

*Disciple* Bible study groups have also been found effective for changing the congregational climate. *Disciple* Bible study groups gain the benefits of the small group experience while also having the possibility of aligning a congregation around a sharply focused Bible study. There are many testimonies from churches that started to grow in evangelism outreach as they became more involved with *Disciple* Bible study. After all, the Bible is the best source of what the church needs to become.

Personal and congregational mission involvement is transformational. United Methodists support the mission of the church at large by meeting their apportionment obligations. But they meet their Lord when they go in mission to a neighbor in need or a mission project in their own town or hundreds of miles away. Few things raise the spiritual temperature of a congregation like the personal transformation and ownership of the church's mission resulting from personal involvement in mission and ministry.

See the Resources section for helps in small group ministries, *Disciple* Bible study, and mission involvement.

## Invitation and Welcome

A widely held perception in American culture is that church property is private property and that churches are for members only. To change this perception, congregations must become more intentional in invitation and welcome. To whom does your church send its newsletter? To members only? What does that say? Be sure to include recent visitors, families of church school children, and—if you can get their addresses—persons who attend community groups in your church. Consider the following possibilities.

### Bring a Friend Sunday

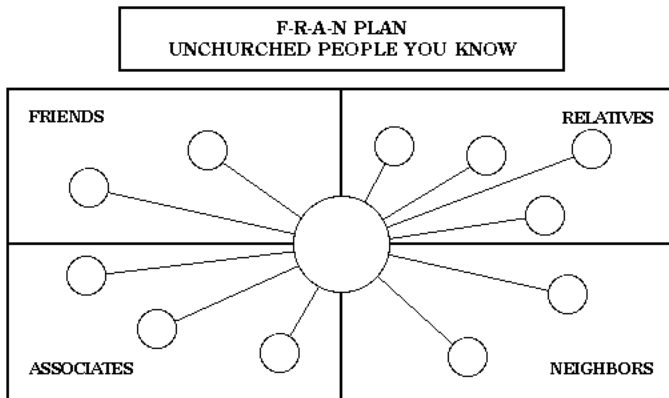
Set one Sunday each month, and ask your members to bring a friend. Have greeters at the door, and design the worship experience so that visitors will feel welcome. Printing the Lord's Prayer and listing the number in the hymnal of the sung responses would help. Ask your pastor to preach something very basic on that Sunday to help visitors understand what United Methodist Christians believe. The goal is to get United Methodists to be invitational until every Sunday becomes "bring a friend Sunday." In the meantime many churches have found this a good beginning. Recruit other congregations in your community to go along with the project and do joint promotion in the local newspaper.

### Faith-Sharing Training

United Methodist members are often reluctant to share their faith with their friends and even with family members and to invite them to church. They

feel inadequate and uncertain. They want to know what is appropriate and what is not appropriate in sharing personal faith. United Methodists do not want to be intrusive or dogmatic. Resources are available for a local church to inaugurate training in personal faith sharing that is neither intrusive nor dogmatic. You may want to start a pilot project with a small group or with a youth or adult Sunday school class using materials in the Resources section. Or you may want to consider incorporating faith-sharing training in your new member orientation and in meetings of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

### The F-R-A-N Plan



The F-R-A-N Plan is a part of the training in faith sharing that can be established independently. Ask your members to list unchurched friends (F), relatives (R), associates (A), and neighbors (N) who are not practicing Christians. Give them a diagram or the “Personal F-R-A-N Plan: A Ministry” leaflet available through Discipleship Resources. Ask your members’ commitment to pray for these unchurched friends each day and to invite them to church for worship or some other congregational event.

“I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ” (Philemon 6).

### Visit Your Visitors

It is a Christian courtesy for a congregation to respond promptly to a visitor’s attendance at worship or some other congregational event. *Studies indicate that the sooner a response is made, the better the chances that the person will affiliate with the congregation. The same studies show that a visit by a layperson or a lay couple is most effective.* The best setting for such a response is a face-to-face meeting in the person’s home or workplace.

Consider the cultural expectations in your community. Some areas expect unannounced visits; others are repelled by them. If there is doubt, call for an appointment before visiting.

You may choose to respond not only with a visit, but also with a small gift, perhaps a dessert for the family table or a loaf of home-baked bread. It would also be helpful to have a “leave-behind” information piece about the congregation with key telephone numbers and times for worship and Sunday school.

### Tell Your Story

The best advertising is always word of mouth, but there are innovative ways of telling your story. Only members read the church page in the Saturday paper. Consider an ad in the real estate section. Or if you are starting a new ministry or service of worship, your young people may distribute leaflets by putting them under the window wipers on cars in supermarket parking lots on Saturday mornings. Direct mail can be effective as long as it is not overdone. Consider a mailing about the values of a Christian education to all the addresses in the zip codes of your ministry area when public school starts in August or September. Many churches have an artist in their membership who could design a Christmas postcard to be sent to all visitors in the past year who haven't affiliated. Easter is another time when people are more conscious of their spiritual needs.

### Making Membership More Meaningful

Assimilating new people into the congregation needs to be a priority with the evangelism ministry team. Studies of congregational life reveal that as many as one-half of those who join churches become inactive in their first year of membership. This situation reveals a broken system of assimilation of new members. Remember that the mission is to make disciples, not members. The task is not complete, in other words, when people join the church. The issue in welcoming visitors is for them to feel like honored guests. The issue for people who actually join the church is for them to feel like members of the family. How can the evangelism ministry team help?

When new members are graciously and intentionally assimilated, they

- continue to grow spiritually through small groups;
- have at least seven personal friends in the congregation;
- have identified gifts and callings and are exercising them;
- understand, identify with, and support the mission and vision of the congregation;
- are excited about the congregation and naturally invite friends, family members, and neighbors to become disciples of Christ.

To assist in this process, assign sponsors or fellowship friends to each new member person and/or family. These “shepherds” would help introduce newcomers to other congregation members and Sunday school class leaders, and get them invitations to fellowship events.

Design and manage, under the pastor’s direction, a plan whereby persons interested in exploring Christian faith or church membership could have opportunities to learn about Christianity, United Methodism, and the mission and ministry of your own congregation.

Assist newcomers in the congregation in identifying their own visions, gifts, and callings. Evidence exists that each person has to be connected to a congregation in three ways to stay connected: a worship connection, a fellowship connection, and a service connection. If newcomers can’t attend worship, don’t make any friends, or feel as if they are not needed, they will drift into inactivity.

*Keep your eyes open! Maintain records to ensure that members are promptly missed and contacted if they begin to drift away.* Register everyone’s attendance at worship and Sunday school. In smaller congregations a subgroup of three or four persons could check the registration sheets each week and check off attendees. Retired persons could be recruited to make telephone calls from church in the daytime or from their homes at night. People feel important when they are missed! Studies of inactive people show that, in many cases, people will test out becoming inactive to see whether anyone will respond. One man, who had been absent for a few weeks, responded to a team from church, “I wondered if anyone would miss me.”

### Relating People to God

Your congregation’s spiritual life is nurtured in a variety of settings: worship, personal devotions, private and group study of the Bible, personal faith sharing, small groups for learning and practicing the spiritual disciplines, as well as discovering and using spiritual gifts. *The goal is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

It is important for the ministry team to spend time at each meeting in intentional spiritual formation. Ministry area members might share their own experiences of being formed in Christ. Asking questions, “Who have been the two or three most spiritually influential persons in your life?” and “What one circumstance has influenced you the most in your spiritual journey?” can be discussion starters. Faith, we say, is caught more than taught. Leaders need to be the most contagious!

You might consider having a spiritual life emphasis sometime in the

“great fifty days” between Easter and Pentecost. You will want to review carefully the information offered in these pages on the “New Life Mission and Key Event Celebration” and the “Lay Witness Mission.” If the Walk to Emmaus is active in your area, it can be a valuable resource for helping people relate to God. The same is true of the wealth of resources available through The Upper Room that encourage and facilitate spiritual formation. You might consider sponsoring and supporting a person to attend the Academy for Spiritual Formation, sponsored by The Upper Room.

## Equipping People for Service

Jesus announced that he had come “not to be served but to serve” (Matthew 20:28), and that he has set us an example, “that you also should do as I have done” (John 13:15). A disciple of Jesus is, first of all, a servant, who sees God most clearly in the needs of others and reaches out to meet those needs. Service is the heartbeat of discipleship. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” says Jesus to the church today (John 20:21). Discipleship is being sent forth to serve with the gifts God gives for that purpose.

Disciples are sent forth into their homes, schools, workplaces, and communities at large. The possibilities of service are beyond counting in the ministry area of every congregation. What has this to do with evangelism? Doing acts of mercy is one of the ways we tell the Christian story. Being in ministry is an evangelical act; it testifies to the grace and love of God in action.

Your team can assist by working with your pastor and with other teams in helping people identify their gifts for ministry and service, as well as where God is calling you to work in a community. It may be a food bank, a Habitat for Humanity project, an after-school tutoring program, a Meals on Wheels program, or a prison ministry. Service is evangelism come full circle. You who have received Christ now offer him in word and deed.

Consider the possibility of assisting in the establishment of a new congregation. The most effective evangelism strategy is establishing new congregations. In our United Methodist connection, new church development is the responsibility of conferences and districts. Ask your district superintendent if there is a new church development planned in your area. Volunteers are always needed to help in community-wide surveys by visiting in neighborhoods or using the telephone. New churches need experienced Sunday school teachers to help them get started.

How can we know if we are being effective in our ministries? Bishop David J. Lawson (retired) suggests asking five questions:

1. Are persons growing in relationship to God through participating in our congregations? Are they freely yielding increasing portions of their life to the influence of Christ's teachings?
2. Are persons growing in their knowledge of Scripture, the wisdom of the Christian Movement, and the history of our church? Are they moving beyond an elementary level of understanding?
3. Are persons giving evidence of increased Christian commitment by the way they live?
4. Are persons growing in compassionate world citizenship, actively learning about and responding to needs of others, and finding practical ways to express membership in this global United Methodist Church?
5. Are persons viewing our congregations as supportive centers of excitement and joy? Are we inventing new approaches to worship and programming that are responsive to the needs of unchurched persons living within our assigned parishes? Are we discovering new ways of learning what these needs and interests are?

(David J. Lawson, in *Discipleship Dateline*, November 1993, General Board of Discipleship.)

## Our Church's Hospitality to Visitors

(10 points for each Yes, except numbers 5 and 6)

1. Does the church have ample parking? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
2. Is there a specific part of the parking lot designated for visitor parking? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
3. Are there greeters in the parking lot? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
4. Are there adequate signs directing visitors to parking, restrooms, nursery, the sanctuary, and Sunday school? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
5. Do greeters: (5 points each)
  - a. Offer a friendly welcome? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  - b. Introduce visitors by name to the usher? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
6. Do ushers: (2 points each)
  - a. Help visitors find a seat? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  - b. Provide each visitor with a bulletin? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  - c. Introduce visitors to other worshipers? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  - d. Give each visitor a visitor badge, ribbon, or cross? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  - e. Help a visitor find the nursery (if needed)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

7. Do the members wear nametags? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
8. Are visitors given the opportunity to register their attendance on a registration pad? (name, address, phone, and other information) Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
9. Is the congregation alert to give a friendly welcome to visitors? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
10. Does the pastor welcome visitors during the worship service? (*Deduct 5 points if visitors are asked to stand or raise their hand.*) Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
11. Do members get the names of visitors and introduce them to other members? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
12. Are visitors invited for coffee or other refreshments (before or after the service)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
13. If you have a “coffee time,” are there persons designated to spot new people and to introduce and involve them in conversation with other members? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
14. Does someone offer to take each visitor on a tour of the church building? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
15. Is every visitor invited to a Sunday school class? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
16. Are visitors provided an opportunity to meet the pastor? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
17. Does someone invite each visitor to be his or her guest or go with that person to a church function? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
18. Are visitors invited to a membership orientation class? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
19. Does someone call on each visitor within 48 hours? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
20. Is your Sunday school being used to train and equip members to “share faith,” reach out to people, and welcome newcomers into the fellowship? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

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### Key for Tabulation

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(10 points for each question, except 5 and 6. Total your score!)

- 0- 24 Church hostile toward visitors.  
 25- 49 Tolerant (cool) toward visitors.  
 50- 74 Visiting is permitted, but not encouraged.

### 22 Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation

- 75- 99 Lukewarm toward visitors.
- 100- 124 Visitors are casually prepared for.
- 125- 149 Visiting is encouraged.
- 150- 174 Visitors are important and prepared for.
- 175- 200 Visitors are treated like honored guests and potential members.  
Visitors will know you want them as part of your fellowship.

Copied with permission from *Evangelism Ministries Planning Handbook* by Suzanne Braden  
© 1987 by Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN, p. 29. Questionnaire developed by Rick Kirchoff.

## Resources

### New Resources in Evangelism

#### The Faith-Sharing Initiative

***The Faith-Sharing Initiative*** is a strategy for training the church's laity in how to share their faith. It is most effective when sponsored by annual conferences and districts, but individual congregations may secure the material and initiate the training. Five resources support the training initiative.

*Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation*, by H. Eddie Fox and George Morris, is a revised and expanded edition of the best-seller with more than 100,000 copies sold and published in several languages. The text answers the fundamental questions of why, who, what, when, and how of personal witnessing. (Discipleship Resources)

*The Faith-Sharing Congregation*, by Roger Swanson and Shirley Clement, outlines a strategy for doing evangelism based on the quality of congregational life, which includes building a discipleship system, paying particular attention to ministries of hospitality, personal relationships, storytelling, and the domestic church of the family and the church family as the Body of Christ.

*The Faith-Sharing New Testament and Psalms* is an inexpensive translation of the New Revised Standard Version with personal helps for persons wishing to be grounded in the Christian faith and to gracefully share that faith with others. (Cokesbury)

*Personal F.R.A.N Plan* is sold in groups of one hundred. These wallet-size leaflets are designed for praying and for sharing one's faith with a friend, relative, associate, or neighbor. (Discipleship Resources)

*Faith-Sharing Video Kit* is designed for faith-sharing training in a local church. This video presents a six-session study of personal faith sharing, based on the book *Faith-Sharing. A Leader's Guide* is included. (Discipleship Resources)

*10 FAQs of New Christians*, by Peter Harrington, presents responses to the ten most often asked questions by seekers and new Christians. It is available in Spanish and Korean. (Discipleship Resources)

*Turning Points* is a youth journal that includes Scripture and examples of faith in action. (Cokesbury)

*Youth Reaching Youth: Sharing My Faith with Others* is a workbook resource for youth. It is based on the premise that faith sharing can happen as a natural part of our lives. This resource can be used in Sunday school classes as well as in youth meetings. (Abingdon Press)

For more information, contact Faith-Sharing Initiative Office, General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

### Sharing Faith in the Family

*FaithHome* is a 9-week church-sponsored experience in which families learn how to talk to God and how to talk to one another about God and faith. FaithHome emphasizes home-based practice, supported by a weekly session at the church that can be led by a staff member or a layperson. Components: Leader's Guide, Family Guide, Pastor's Guide, weekly session video, music cassette, church publicity posters, overview video. Available from Cokesbury.

*FaithHome for Parents* was developed with pastors and family therapists, *FaithHome for Parents* booklets provide the immediate support that families need. Use them to provide an easy way to begin conversations about difficult family issues. Set of 14 booklets.

### *Talking With Your Child: Conversations for Life*

*Talking With Your Teen: Conversations for Life* both teach the basics for establishing good, two-way communication with children. In a supportive group setting, parents will learn skills for talking with children about respect, sexuality, handling emotions, success, failure, and grief.

### Invitational Preaching

*Come to the Feast: Invitational Evangelism*, by Roberto Escamilla, who is the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (METHESCO), features the text of the Denman Lectures delivered at the Congress on Evangelism, Kansas City, Missouri, January 1998, on preaching for response, healing, wholeness, and social concerns. (Discipleship Resources)

*The Key Event Celebration: A Guidebook for Leaders*, by Timothy L. Bias, includes three components: Cultivation, Celebration, and Communication. The Key Event is a creative celebration in which the foundation of Christian faith, the event of Jesus Christ, is experienced in both word and deed.

*Emmanuel! Celebrating God's Presence with Us*, by Timothy L. Bias, focuses on the key events in the life of Jesus: the birth, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Spirit given at Pentecost. Included are daily Scripture readings and prayers. Although it is designed for individual study, Sunday school classes, study groups, and evangelism ministry teams will find it very stimulating.

### Christian Initiation

*The Christian Initiation Series* is designed to open up a transforming process that focuses on evangelizing Christ to adults seeking God through worship, scripture study, prayer, and service. There are five books in the series. Available from Discipleship Resources.

*Come to the Waters: Baptism and Our Ministry of Welcoming Seekers and Making Disciples*, by Daniel T. Benedict, Jr., is an invitation to make the transforming power of God in Christ accessible to all persons.

*Echoing the Word: The Ministry of Forming Disciples*, by Grant Sperry-White, is designed by pastors and lay guides for seekers and new disciples. It shows how the basics of congregational life form the setting for welcoming, forming, and initiating new disciples.

*Accompanying the Journey: A Handbook for Sponsors*, by Lester Ruth, helps men and women to be faithful sponsors of children and adults seeking initiation into the Christian faith through baptism.

*By Water and the Spirit: Making Connections for Identity and Ministry*, by Gayle Carlton Felton, contains the official 1996 General Conference paper on baptism in a six-week study guide format.

*Gracious Voices: Shouts and Whispers for God Seekers*, by William P. McDonald, is a rich collection of short readings from many disciples based on inquiry, welcome, formation, calling to baptism, professing and praying, and baptism.

## Other New Resources

*Celebrating New Life: The Pastor's Practice Guide to Baptism* is a resource kit including three pamphlets: "A Guide to Baptism for Adults and Youth," "The Family Guide to Baptism," "The Sponsor's Practical Guide to Baptism." Available from Cokesbury.

*The Child Friendly Church*, by Boyce A. Bowdon, is based on a study of 150 congregations. It is a guidebook for congregations wishing to reach out to children and to receive them with hospitality. (Abingdon Press)

*The Contagious Witness*, by Ronald K. Crandall, provides practical guidance for all who are concerned with the ministry of evangelism. Through extensive interviews, Crandall and his associates have asked thousands of Christians how they came to believe. (Abingdon Press)

*Next Church, Now!*, by Craig Kennet Miller breaks new ground in evangelism by focusing on the number one evangelism strategy of the twenty-first century, the creation of new faith communities. Miller defines a faith community as a worship experience linked to a discipleship system. Topics covered include creating ministry with new people groups, forming a healthy core group, launching the public ministry, and having experience-based worship. (Discipleship Resources)

*Waking to God's Dream: Spiritual Leadership and Church Renewal*, by Dick Wills, is a testimony to the transformation that turned one church upside down (but right side up), changing its direction from declining to growing. This book will inspire and challenge readers to "go and do likewise." (Abingdon Press)

## Other Resources

*Creating a Church Home: Preparing Adults for United Methodist Membership* helps adults find their new church home in your local church. A three-ring binder includes the "Fellowship Friends" booklet (a guide for mentoring new members), "Multiply God's Love," "A Dictionary for United Methodists," and plans for nine sessions. Available from Cokesbury.

*Church for the Unchurched*, by George G. Hunter, III, Dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary, focuses on church history in the making. Based on thorough research of growing churches in America, the author shows us what growing churches are doing that sets them apart from declining churches and ones stuck on plateaus. (Abingdon Press)

**Demographic data of your church and community** are available through the Office of Research, General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Call 212-870-3840. Web site address: [www.gbgm-umc/research](http://www.gbgm-umc/research).

**DISCIPLE** Bible study, available in three phases, is a program of committed Bible study for small groups meeting each week.

*Christian Believer* is a thirty-week high-commitment study of the central teachings of the Christian faith. Contact 800-672-1789 or 800-251-8591; write DISCIPLE Bible Study, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202-0801; or visit [www.umph.org/disciple](http://www.umph.org/disciple).

*Evangelism Is . . .*, by Clinton M. Marsh, draws on his many years as a pastor as well as a national church leader and staff member for evangelism in the United Presbyterian Church (USA). Marsh confronts the declining membership in the mainline denominations with a practical book on growing the church into the twenty-first century. (Geneva Press)

*Postmoderns: The Beliefs, Hopes, and Fears of Young Americans*, by Craig Kennet Miller, is a helpful guide to congregations wishing to reach out to today's youth. The generation born between 1965 and 1981 offers challenges as well as gifts to the church. (Discipleship Resources)

## Program Resources

### The Lay Witness Mission

***The Lay Witness Mission*** is a strategy for evangelism that encourages laypeople to share their faith journeys with others. It encourages the formation of small groups, outreach to unchurched people, and prayer ministries. The mission takes place in a local church over a weekend and includes children, youth, and adults. Preparation includes a six-week period of prayer and study. Resource material includes *Lay Witness Handbook* and *Lay Witness Planning Set*. For more information, contact the Lay Witness Office, General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

### New Life Mission and Key Event Celebration

***The New Life Mission*** and ***Key Event Celebration*** are two models for a preaching evangelism event in a local church. Both models are based on thorough preparation, congregational participation, and a response of congregational outreach into the community. Both ministries are supported by resources, which include the following:

*New Life Mission Handbook: A Design for Local Church Evangelism*

*The Key Event Celebration: A Guidebook for Leaders* by Timothy L. Bias

*Emmanuel! Celebrating God's Presence with Us* by Timothy L. Bias

For more information, contact the Office of Proclamation Evangelism, General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

### FaithQuest

*FaithQuest: A Vision for Leadership in the Local Church* is a resource for congregational leaders to engage in an ongoing process of learning, vision-

ing, planning, and transformation centered in Scripture and the practice of the classical spiritual disciplines. The focus is on what it means to be the church in our ever-changing world. To learn how your church can become a FaithQuest congregation, contact the FaithQuest office at the General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

### Covenant Discipleship

***Covenant Discipleship groups*** are an adaptation of the early Methodist class meeting, offering mutual support and accountability in discipleship.

Resources, available from Discipleship Resources, include:

*A Guide for Class Leaders* by Grace Bradford

*A Guide for Covenant Discipleship Leaders*, by Gayle Watson

*Accountable Discipleship: Living in God's Household*, by Steven W. Manskar.

*Together in Love* by David Sutherland. Covenant Discipleship with youth.

*Sprouts* by Edie Genung Harris and Shirley L. Ramsey. Nurturing children (grades 3-6) through Covenant Discipleship.

Also available is the *Covenant Discipleship Quarterly*. For more information contact the Office for Accountable Discipleship, P.O. Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003.

Other Recommended Resources for Working with Small Groups  
*Grace Notes*, by M. Anne Burnette Hook, looks at the choir as a small group meeting weekly for preparation for ministry. (Discipleship Resources)

*Guide for Class Leaders: A Model for Christian Formation*, by Grace Bradford, provides direction for congregations that are attempting to recover the tradition of class leaders in a way that is relevant and meaningful to a twenty-first-century church. (Discipleship Resources)

*Starting Small Groups: Building Communities that Matter*, by Jeffrey Arnold, looks not only at beginning small groups but also at helping congregations build and implement a comprehensive and effective small group ministry. (Abingdon Press)

*24 Ready-to-Use Programs for Women's Groups* by Dorothy MacNeil is a collection of programs that can be used throughout the Christian year, adapted for fall, Advent, Epiphany, winter, spring, Lent, and general programs; includes suggested hymns and Scriptures.

*Spirit Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts* by Patricia D. Brown: participants in this dynamic group experience share together in study, reflective exercises,

worship, prayer, music, and group activities. Components include participant's workbook and Leader's Resources. Available from Cokesbury. *Heart to Heart Program Set* by Patricia D. Brown creates a group experience for women to help them grow spiritually and develop a true sense of community. A 12 week program; components include "Heart to Heart Guidebook" and "From the Heart Journal."

For Small Membership Churches

*24 Effective Ideas for the Small Membership Church*, by Steven Murray, offers ideas about how to make physical space more welcoming on a budget but also shares about using rocking chairs for parents in churches that do not have nurseries. (Discipleship Resources)

*Small Churches Can Make a Big Difference* (video), by Dr. Loren Mead, Dr. Carol Dudley, and a variety of other small-church leaders, shares stories that bring insights about the small membership church. Follow the stories of three churches that are transforming lives by nurturing disciples and reaching out. (Discipleship Resources)

## Spanish Language Resources

*Manual Compartiendo la Fe* (Faith-Sharing Manual). (Discipleship Resources)

*Manual de Evangelismo* (Evangelism Manual). (Discipleship Resources)

*La Congregacion que Comparte la Fe* is available in Spanish by the time this Guideline is printed, and the *Iniciativa Compartiendo La Fe Gua para el lider* and *Manual Del Participante* (title in developing stage) will be available in Spanish. (Faith-Sharing Initiative Office)

## Affiliate Organizations

Another resource for preaching evangelism is the ***National Association of United Methodist Evangelists***. This association includes in its membership the ordained elders who are appointed as general evangelists by their respective annual conferences, as well as lay or clergy people who work in other evangelistic ministries full or part time. For more information, or a recommendation for an evangelist, contact Charles Whittle at P.O. Box 24241, Fort Worth, TX 76124.

Foundation for Evangelism, 551 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 Phone: 800/737-8333, 828/456-4312.

Council on Evangelism Contact: Stuart Greene, P.O. Box 699, Duluth, GA 30136.

## Spiritual Formation

Resources for spiritual formation are available through The Upper Room, P.O. Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004.

Publications include:

*Alive Now* is a bimonthly devotional magazine that supports the spiritual life of small groups as well as individuals.

*Devotional books.* Each year The Upper Room publishes approximately twenty-five books that encourage and support the spiritual formation of Christian disciples. Write for a free catalog, or access the Web site at <http://www.upperroom.org>.

*Devo'Zine* is a bimonthly magazine designed to strengthen the spiritual life of teenagers. *The Devo'Zine Guide for Mentors and Small Groups* is a companion piece, published simultaneously with *Devo'Zine*.

*Pockets* is a monthly devotional magazine to help children grow in their relationship with God.

*The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide*, published bimonthly, helps people listen to God. It is published in sixty-three editions and forty-three languages around the world, including the very popular *El Aposento Alto*, published in Spanish. The English edition is available in large print and on audiocassette. The daily devotional is also available via e-mail or on-line at <http://www.upperroom.org/devotional>.

*Weavings* is a journal for spiritual leaders in the church, clergy and laity, who wish to deepen their spiritual lives.

## On the Internet

Many resources for evangelism are available on the Internet; here are some addresses:

The General Board of Discipleship: [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)

Discipleship Resources: [www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org)

The Upper Room: [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org)

The Foundation for Evangelism: [www.evangelize.org](http://www.evangelize.org)

Also Recommended

*Net Results* is a monthly magazine devoted to congregational vitality.

Subscription information is available by writing to *Net Results*, 5001 Avenue N, Lubbock, TX 79412-2993. Telephone: 806-762-8094. E-mail: [netresults@llano.net](mailto:netresults@llano.net).

Notes

## Notes