

# WHAT'S YOUR CORE PROCESS?

The core process of every local congregation is to offer H.O.P.E. to the community it serves. Paragraph 122 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* offers a model for a discipleship system in local congregations that includes proclaiming, seeking, welcoming, leading persons to commit their lives to God, nurturing persons in Christian living, and sending persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ. One easy-to-remember example of this core process of discipleship is H.O.P.E.

## Hospitality:

*Reaching out and receiving new people.*

What would happen if your congregation began to pray, "Send us the people no one else wants?" or "Help us receive the people you are sending to us?"

## Offer Christ:

*Offering opportunities to make a commitment to Christ*

What would happen if you took John Wesley seriously and began to "Offer them Christ" as they became part of the fellowship of your congregation?

# DISCIPLE-MAKING PROCESS

## Engagement:

*Helping transform the surrounding community.*

What would happen if your congregation began to develop relationships in the community with local schools, with persons living in poverty, with health care facilities?

## Purpose:

*Growing in faith through participation in the means of grace.*

What would happen if your congregation began to meet in small groups and developed relationships through the practice of spiritual disciplines?

## HOW IS YOUR CONGREGATION MAKING DISCIPLES AND OFFERING HOPE TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

SHARE YOUR STORY OF H.O.P.E. AT [LAITY@UMCDISCIPLESHIP.ORG](mailto:LAITY@UMCDISCIPLESHIP.ORG).



God is actively present in the lives of all members of the Body of Christ. Our children and youth are all called to and engaged in the core process of H.O.P.E. For age-specific resources, and for more information about the H.O.P.E. process, visit our website at:

[www.UMCdiscipleship.org](http://www.UMCdiscipleship.org)

**FOR MORE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ON LAY MINISTRY, CONTACT:**

Office of Laity & Spiritual Leadership  
[laity@umcdiscipleship.org](mailto:laity@umcdiscipleship.org)

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## TOOLS FOR LAY MINISTRY **H.O.P.E.** TRANSFORMATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP



We as United Methodists are called to change the world by offering **H.O.P.E.** with the love of God experienced in and through Jesus Christ. May God bless you and your efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Discipleship Ministries  
PO Box 340003  
Nashville, TN 37203

 **DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**  
The United Methodist Church



## Hospitality

REACHING OUT AND RECEIVING NEW PEOPLE.

**Hospitality** is a means for people to explore a relationship with Jesus. Through **hospitality**, one encounters and responds to the call of God and finds a sense of belonging among the church body when disciples proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome, and gather persons into the body of Christ.

### DISCIPLESHIP PATH:

#### INDIVIDUAL

I offer the love of God to those around me and live in such a way that I am a faithful witness to Christ.

#### CONGREGATION

We create systems that connect, welcome, and disciple newcomers.

### EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES & WAYS TO ENGAGE:

- Fun activities to build relationships and a sense of belonging
- Intergenerational Opportunities
- Community Networking/Neighborhood Ministries
- Welcoming Ministry 101
- “Charting a Course of Discipleship” Workbook
- “Joining God’s Mission”
- #SeeAllThePeople - “Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations”
- “Leading Missional Small Groups”



## Offer Christ

OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHRIST.

To **Offer Christ** is to lead persons to commit themselves to Christ. Opportunities are provided to make a commitment to Christ through baptism by water and the spirit, profession of faith, and for growth in personal holiness through relationship with Christ and others.

### DISCIPLESHIP PATH:

#### INDIVIDUAL

I intentionally take advantage of opportunities to grow in my faith and commitment to Christ.

#### CONGREGATION

We create systems that offer opportunities for people to make a commitment, to grow in Christ, and to begin their journey as disciples.

### EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES & WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Journey 101 Course: “Knowing God” (Church of The Resurrection)
- “ALPHA” Course
- “The Meaning of Baptism in the UMC”
- Confirmation
- Walks to Emmaus/Chrysalis/Face to Face
- “Transformational Evangelism” - LSM Course
- “Disciple” Bible Study



## Purpose

GROWING IN FAITH THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE MEANS OF GRACE.

**Purpose** is the preparation and equipping for Christ’s service. One finds a sense of **purpose** in life as a disciple by learning what it means to live out one’s belief through acts of piety and acts of mercy, sharing one’s faith, being nurtured in the faith, and engaging in service.

### DISCIPLESHIP PATH:

#### INDIVIDUAL

I live out my purpose through sharing my faith through the ministries of my church and growing in my connection with God.

#### CONGREGATION

We create systems that enable people to bear fruit through the deepening of their relationship with Christ, giving to others, worshiping in community, and practicing spiritual disciplines.

### EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES & WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Journey 101 Course: “Loving God” (Church of the Resurrection)
- Lay Servant Ministries BASIC and Advanced Courses
- Covenant Discipleship Groups for adults and children
- Small Groups/Faith Formation/Sunday School
- “The Meaning of Holy Communion in the UMC”
- “Our Membership Vows in the UMC”

## Engagement

HELPING TRANSFORM THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

**Engagement** is the sending out of grace-filled followers of Jesus Christ who are putting their faith into action. Through engagement, one offers hospitality to the stranger, inviting him/her into the fellowship of the body. Thus, we are on a continuous journey as disciples.

### DISCIPLESHIP PATH:

#### INDIVIDUAL

I engage others outside my church by using my talents, gifts, and skills to share God’s love through word and action.

#### CONGREGATION

Through engagement, we connect gifts with ministry opportunities, develop leaders, and empower disciples to go out and engage in relationships that build the body of Christ.

### EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES & WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Journey 101 Course: “Serving God” (Church of the Resurrection)
- Lay Servant Ministries/Certified Lay Ministry
- UM Volunteers in Mission/Individual Volunteers
- “God’s Mission...Our Journey” - LSM Course
- Children’s Fund for Christian Mission
- “Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders”