

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FIVE FUNCTIONS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

REACH • GROW • SERVE • BELONG • WORSHIP

A guided conversation for pastors, ministers, and church leaders



What does a healthy church look like?

Think about the church you lead—not only the church you hope to lead.

REACH

People who need
Jesus

GROW

People becoming like
Jesus

SERVE

People experiencing
Christ's compassion

BELONG

People connected to
the body

WORSHIP

People centered on
God

Which function is strongest in your church? Which needs the most attention?

REACH

A Compelling Witness

PRIMARY TEXT | Acts 2:41–47

Evangelism is a culture, not an event.

**“When you hear
“evangelism,” what
comes to mind?”**

DISCUSS • LISTEN • CHALLENGE • APPLY

Let's talk

- 
- A background image showing two hands, one from a lighter-skinned person and one from a darker-skinned person, reaching towards each other in a gesture of connection or offering. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if holding something gently.
- 1 What did evangelism look like when you first came to Christ?
 - 2 Has the way we reach people changed? What should never change?
 - 3 Are we reaching people who aren't like us—or mainly attracting people already comfortable with us?

Go deeper

- What might we do that unintentionally makes it harder for a newcomer to connect?
- What is one barrier we could remove?

REACH

THREE TAKEAWAYS

- 01** **KNOW** who you're reaching
- 02** **REMOVE** unnecessary barriers
- 03** **TELL** your story and God's story

WHAT IS ONE ACTION WE CAN TAKE?

GROW

Comprehensive Discipleship

PRIMARY TEXT | Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 2:2

Discipleship moves people from information to formation to transformation.

DISCUSS • LISTEN • CHALLENGE • APPLY

“How do we know when someone is actually growing spiritually?”

Let's talk

- 1 Is attendance a measure of discipleship—or only one part of the picture?
- 2 What helped you grow spiritually?
- 3 Can someone attend church for years and remain spiritually immature?



Go deeper

- Are we offering different pathways to the same biblical formation?
- Where is one gap in our discipleship pathway?



GROW

THREE TAKEAWAYS

01 TEACH the Word

02 PRACTICE the Word

03 BECOME like Christ

WHAT IS ONE ACTION WE CAN TAKE?

SERVE

Compassionate Service

PRIMARY TEXT | Acts 2:45

Compassion meets real needs in the name of Christ.

**“What does
our church do
for people who
may never
become
members?”**

DISCUSS • LISTEN • CHALLENGE • APPLY

Let's talk

- 1 Is service a strategy to get people into church, or part of who we are?
- 2 What would our community say our church is known for?
- 3 What needs do we see in our community today?

Go deeper

- What is one need—and one realistic way a church could respond?

SERVE

THREE TAKEAWAYS

01 SEE the need

02 MEET the need

03 SHOW Christ

WHAT IS ONE ACTION WE CAN TAKE?

BELONG

A Caring & Welcoming Community

PRIMARY TEXT | Acts 2:42, 44, 46; Hebrews 10:25

Welcome is a moment; belonging is built through relationships.

“Can someone attend for six months and still feel like a stranger?”

DISCUSS • LISTEN • CHALLENGE • APPLY

Let's talk

- 1 If so, whose responsibility is it?
- 2 What made you feel that you belonged when you were new?
- 3 What helps different generations feel seen—and what makes them feel overlooked?

Go deeper

- How do we honor what previous generations built while making room for those coming behind us?
- What moves someone from welcome to meaningful connection and service?

BELONG

THREE TAKEAWAYS

01 WELCOME people

02 CONNECT people

03 EMPOWER people

WHAT IS ONE ACTION WE CAN TAKE?

WORSHIP

Dynamic Worship & Prayer

PRIMARY TEXT | Acts 2:42, 47

Worship is more than what happens on Sunday; it centers the church on God.

**“What makes
worship
meaningful or
powerful to
you?”**

DISCUSS • LISTEN • CHALLENGE • APPLY

Let's talk

- 1 Can a service be excellent and still miss the heart of worship?
- 2 What has changed about worship—and what should never change?
- 3 How can worship speak to culture without being controlled by it?

Go deeper

- Is prayer foundational, or does it get whatever time is left?
- What is one practical way to strengthen prayer and response?

WORSHIP

THREE TAKEAWAYS

- 01** **PREPARE** the service
- 02** **PURSUE** God's presence
- 03** **MAKE** space for response

WHAT IS ONE ACTION WE CAN TAKE?

REFLECTION

Where will we lead differently?

Our church's greatest strength:

Our church's greatest gap:

The function I need to strengthen:

One action I will take in the next 30 days:



A HEALTHY CHURCH

**Healthy churches don't happen by accident.
They are cultivated by leaders who lead with intention.**

REACH. GROW. SERVE. BELONG. WORSHIP.