

Mission Engagement that Opens Hearts, Minds, and Doors

Session 3

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Led by: Ashley Wilson, Andrea Wren-Hardin, Luana Cook Scott



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Asset-Map Debrief



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Relational Mission

“An emphasis on friendship in mission and ministry is closely related to **cultivating mutual respect** and **valuing time spent together**, not only because we are serving or helping the other person, but because **all of us benefit**. Friendship as a model for mission recognizes the importance of **sharing ourselves** and **cultivating trust**...

Heurtz and Pohl, Friendship at the Margins, pages 102-103



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Relational Mission

“An emphasis on friendship is, in a sense, an effort to round out the understanding of love that focuses exclusively on self-giving and self-sacrifice. Love certainly involves sacrifice-lots of sacrifice- but it also involves **deep relationships, mutual appreciation, and communion**. An emphasis on friendship is an effort to move us beyond duty-driven views of ministry.”

Heurtz and Pohl, Friendship at the Margins, pages 102-103



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Breakout Session - Examples in Scripture

What scripture passage about relationships resonates with you?

What does the passage reveal about relationships?



Examples in Scripture

- **Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-24)**
 - The widow housed and fed Elijah
 - Elijah revived/healed the widow's son when he fell ill and died.
 - Reciprocity, Mutuality
- **The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**
 - Took care of the man's immediate needs (first aid, travel and housing)
 - Likely got to know him as they traveled together and stayed at the inn
 - Checked on the man later
 - Noticing the other, seeing common humanity, hospitality, empathy



Examples in Scripture

- **Jesus hangs out with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)**
 - Jesus stayed at Zacchaeus' house and Zacchaeus was happy to welcome him
 - Seeing humanity, offering hospitality and showing up.
- Jesus' relationship with the disciples in general



Personal Examples – Chat

1. Reflect on a healthy close personal or missional relationship in your life.
2. In the chat, please list some characteristics of the relationship you reflected on?



Positive Characteristics of Relationships

- Listen
- Respectful
- Sincere
- Kind
- Learn about people and their hopes, dreams, goals, challenges, circumstances, etc.
- Share yourself/vulnerable
- Show up
- Shared power
- Shared Goals
- Effective communication
- Spend quality time/Nurture the relationship
- Mutuality
- Reciprocity
- Hospitality
- See common humanity (people are more than their circumstances)
- Recognize gifts
- Intentionality
- Trust
- Honesty



Building Relationships With Others

Establishing missional relationships/partnerships:

- **Be in it for the long haul. If you cannot, don't commit.**
 - It takes time and effort
 - Can we commit to the missional relationship through challenges and mistakes?
- **Build on existing connections**
 - Individuals, communities, organizations, etc.
 - What existing relationships can be leveraged?

*From David W. Scott, Crossing Boundaries:
Sharing God's Good news through Mission*



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Building Relationships With Others

Cultivating missional relationships/partnerships:

- **Hang Out**
 - Including un-structured interactions
- **Don't let work get in the way**
 - Relationship-oriented vs task-oriented
- **Listen, Listen, Listen**
 - Listen to understand and discern, not make judgements (good vs bad)
 - It's how we get to know people
 - Creates understanding



Building Relationships With Others

Being in relationship:

- **Make it not about you**
 - Incorporate the needs, wants, hopes of others into your mission work
 - Seek to understand the perspectives of others in addition to your own perspective
- **Be yourself**
 - People want to know you and how you see the world, even when there are differences
 - Be vulnerable emotionally
- **Demonstrate that you care**
 - Actions that flow from the relationship and demonstrate love



Implicit Bias

Merriam-Webster's defines implicit bias as:

A bias or prejudice that is present but not consciously held or recognized.

*Studies reveal that students, nurses, doctors, police officers, employment recruiters, and many others exhibit implicit biases with respect to race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, social **status**, and other distinctions.*



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Implicit Bias



Implications of Implicit Bias in Mission

- May not get to know/really see the people you are in mission with
- May fail to acknowledge and incorporate people's voices, gifts and assets or devalue their contribution
- Reduces mutuality and learning from each other
- Fail to see how history and systems are affecting people and communities
- May avoid or fear certain mission fields



Addressing Implicit Bias

- **See people as individuals**
- **Work on consciously changing your perception.**
 - Identify your perception, question where it came from, and modify your response. Put yourself in another person's shoes. Consider what factors have affected a person and how you would respond if it were you.
- **Get to know people who are different from yourself.**
 - Have conversations, attend cultural events, read, and more.
- **Learn more about individual and institutional implicit bias**
 - General Commission on Religion and Race (\$20 course)
 - General Commission on Religion and Race Webinar

Adapted from VeryWellMind (<https://www.verywellmind.com/implicit-bias-overview-4178401>)



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Questions?



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Exploring Mission Gestures & Mission Engagement



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Mission Gestures Defined

A Mission Gesture is something that we do to help others that does not necessarily build relationships with them. These efforts/gestures support those doing more hands-on ministry. These gestures are also short term or infrequent.

Definition from Shift 2.0 by Dr. Phil Maynard



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Mission Gestures

- In the chat, please list 1-2 “mission gestures” of your congregation.
- Examples:
 - *Backpacks for school age children*
 - *Collecting school supplies or winter items*
 - *Angel Trees*
 - *Community meals that take place infrequently (Thanksgiving meal; Summer bbq)*
 - *Writing to elected officials*
 - *Participating in advocacy events*



Mission Gestures

In the chat, please identify what these gestures have in common.



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Mission Engagement Defined

Mission Engagement involves hands on ministry with others that builds relationships with them. This engagement is ongoing and more long-term

Definition from Shift 2.0 by Dr. Phil Maynard



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Mission Engagement

- In the chat, please list 1-2 ways your congregation engages in “mission engagement.”
- Examples:
 - *Afterschool program*
 - *ESL classes*
 - *Volunteering at a Hope Center or Non-profit*
 - *Mentorship programs*



Mission Engagement

In the chat, please identify what these mission engagements have in common.



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Questions?



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Breakout Sessions

- Reflect on one of the mission gestures you named earlier in the workshop. What are ways you can help transform the gestures into engagement?
- In what ways is your mission relational? In what ways can it become more relational?
- Select one person to share one example with the larger group after the breakout session.



Possible Next Steps

- Invite Congregation to take **Spiritual Gifts Inventory** in order to match their gifts in mission
- Invite church leadership **complete an asset map** to match gifts with opportunities in the community
 - Include getting to know people in the community as well as community organizations and community leadership.
- Reflect on the church's mission and discern it can **become more relational**.
- **Share missional stories** from the pulpit, in small groups, church newsletters, etc.



Chat-Workshop Takeaways

How will you share what you learned these three sessions with your church to begin the process of engaging in mission that opens hearts, minds, and doors?

What will you commit to?



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Thank you!

Ashley Wilson

ashley.cr.wilson@gmail.com

Andrea Wren-Hardin

awrenhardin@afuturewithhope.org

Luana Cook Scott

LCookScott@morristownumc.org



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