



Going local: Joining God in changing the world

Who We Are & What We Are About

We help create communities of learning that allow congregations and systems to discover what God is inviting them into as they engage their tradition, the Scripture, and the context in which God has placed them.

Our Approach – The Spirit in Which We Do What We Do

Discerning

Because we believe that God is potently active among us today, our primary calling is to listen to what the Spirit is inviting us to be and do. Our job is to listen to ‘the other’ with honor, respect, and genuineness—not out of duty or obligation, but from a deep-rooted love and care for each other.

Forming

Since there are no easy answers today, we must reengage Christian practices and experiment as we seek to discover and learn how God is leading us today.

Joining

As followers of Jesus who are committed to living as fully as possible into who God created

us to be, we join ourselves to the heart of what God is doing in our communities and in our world to revitalize and restore all of creation.

Executive Summary

One process we make use of in our work, simply called *The 5 Step Process*, is designed to give *people in the congregation* the confidence that they can do the work God has in mind for them. It also gives the *church's leadership* the frameworks, resources and coaching to lead this process of discovering God's vision for the church in its own unique context/neighborhood.

The *5 Steps to Going Local* is framed around the following assumptions:

1. **God's Spirit is already out ahead of congregations working in the local contexts they seek to serve.**
2. **God's future is to be discovered among God's ordinary people.**
3. **Spirit-led discernment is the key to making the process work.**

5 Step Transformation Process for Congregations and Their Leadership

We believe that creating an environment for substantial and sustainable transformation involves working with congregations and their ordained staff and leadership side-by-side.

Cohort of Congregations: It is anticipated that there will be between 6 to 10 congregations participating as a "Congregational Cohort Learning Community." There will be *Guiding Teams* working in each congregation made up of five-to-seven (5-7) persons.

Cohort of Ordained Leaders of Congregations: It is also essential that the ordained leaders of the participating congregations be fully involved in this process. These persons will be expected to work with the *Guiding Team* within their own congregation as well as participate regularly in what will be known as "Ordained Leaders as a Learning Community."

Getting Started

Preparing the Ground – 3 months (Oct - Dec 2014)

Presbytery leadership reviews proposal for services and adopts it and then proceeds to prepare for the implementation of the process.

Planting the Seeds – 2 months (Jan - Feb 2015)

TMN works with Presbytery CD Task Force and Council to begin implementation of the process.

Guiding Teams Formed within Each Participating Congregation

Congregational Cohort Formed with Leadership Meeting with TMN Consultants

Training of Internal Coaches by TMN Consultants

5 Step Process for Going Local

ORDAINED LEADERS	CONGREGATIONAL COHORT
STEP 1: LISTENING & ATTENDING (MAR – MAY 2015)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to God through text Dwelling. • Listening to neighborhood through entering exercises. • Listen to congregation process to discern leadership skills/capacities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to God through <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> around Luke 10. • Listening to stories of God’s actions in the congregation through one another. • Listening to the community through neighborhood walking exercises.
STEP 2: DISCERNING (JUN – AUG 2015)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discerning leadership challenges through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership history • Engaging neighborhood • Design experiments by addressing question: “What primary leadership challenges must be addressed in this congregation over the next 12 months to move into missional transformation?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue listening to God and one another through <i>Dwelling in the Word</i>. • Reflect on Listening activities • Form Conversation Teams and plan for conversation group meeting
STEP 3: EXPERIMENTING (SEPT 2015 – FEB 2016)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out experiments over 6 months • Continue <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> • Bi-Monthly sharing and learning with clergy team and a coach. • Prepare learning report for church council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask, “What experiments might the Spirit be inviting us to engage in our neighborhoods?” • Design Carry out experiments over 6 months • Continue <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> • Bi-monthly meeting of experiment teams with coach to reflect on learning. • Teams prepare a report on their experiments, what they have learned, what they have sensed God doing, etc.
STEP 4: EVALUATING (MAR – MAY 2016)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> • Prepare Evaluate Results • Communicate experiment reports • Prepare for naming learning and determining next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> • Explore lessons learned from experiments • Explore communication of learning to synod and congregation.
STEP 5: LIVING INTO A NEW FUTURE (JUNE 2016)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning, Identify Implications • Plan next steps for leadership and congregation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregations plan next round of experiments.