



## Working it out

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1. Why do you think many churches act like the Great Commission is really just a great suggestion?

Francis Chan asked this question in the video clip, “how many people in our churches are actually going around making disciples?”

What changes need to happen so that our church excels in actually making disciples?

2. Which of the 6 mission and vision principles do you think would be the most difficult to live out in our church?

What would make it difficult? How could we excel in doing it?

2. Which one of the 6 mission and vision principles is the biggest challenge for you personally?

What would be the first step in addressing this challenge in your life?

3. Since the church is made up of people, what is one thing you could do to help our church prioritize efforts to reach our community?



## Praying Through

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1. Pray for the specific ways that you need to grow as the result of this study.
2. As we finish up the *Assess Church Health* stage of IPM’s process, ask the Lord to give our church family insight into His will and direction for our church.
3. Ask the Lord to help us as a church to discover His will and to grow through the journey and not just focus on the destination of finding our long-term pastor.

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Connect with Pastor Randy: [PastorRandy.CEFC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorRandy.CEFC@gmail.com) Cell: 518.772.7072



## Principles for Healthy Churches, Part 1

*Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*  
Ephesians 4:5-16 (NLT)

The Transition Team recommends the church adopts these priorities:

1. Clarify VISION, implement a strategy to accomplish it, aligning all ministries, programs, and events to it.
2. Become OUTWARD focused - prioritize efforts to serve and reach our community, especially younger families.

### Mission and vision principles for a healthy church:

1. The church is God’s chosen instrument to TRANSFORM individuals and communities through the power of the gospel.  
Luke 19:10; John 20:21; Matthew 16:18
2. The church’s mission, determined by her Head, Jesus Christ, is to MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations.  
Matthew 28:18-20

Christ Evangelical Free Church  
Pastor Randy Keeley

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3. The congregation must be captured by God's unique, empowering VISION and pursue it with intentionality.  
Acts 26: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 9:16; Colossians 1:28-29, Acts 20:24

Vision is a picture of the mission fulfilled and it intentionally drives the direction of healthy churches.

4. Guarding against mission drift, all ministries must be ALIGNED to the mission and vision of the church with no silo ministries.  
Judges 17:6; Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-12

5. Ministries must be EVALUATED regularly in light of their intended fruit and effectiveness in advancing the mission and vision of the church.  
John 15:1-2,8; Matthew 25:14-27; Luke 13:1-9; Mark 11:12-14, 20-21; Revelations 2:25

6. Creativity and change must be EMBRACED to align the church with God's Word, His mission, and to maximize effectiveness in reaching this generation in its culture.  
Psalm 78:1-8; Acts 10 & 11; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 9:22

## Reflection – Discussion – Application



### Warming up

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1. What is one of your favorite foods to eat?
2. Complete this statement: One thing I am passionate about is....



### Digging In

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1. Read the following passages and describe Paul's passion in life. How was it expressed and lived out by Paul?  
Acts 26: 15-20; 1 Corinthians 9: 1-23; Acts 20: 17-27
2. Read Psalm 78:1-8. Why is it important to prioritize reaching the next generation according to this Psalm?

What are some of the things that a church might do to make reaching the next generations a priority?