

Eight Principles of the Hand to Plow Process

Mission— Healthy and growing congregations are driven by the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Leadership— Using the right form of leadership at the right moments is essential to developing healthy and growing congregations.

Vision— Vision is the way that a group of people in a particular context and a particular time will live out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Worship— Healthy and growing congregations celebrate worship that is Christ-centered, relevant to their context, passionate, and draws people closer to God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Preaching— Great preaching alone will not help a congregation become healthy and growing, however being a healthy and growing congregation requires great preaching.

Missional Life— Healthy and growing congregations do not only have a missions committee, they understand themselves to be the mission of God embodied in their context.

Evangelism— Healthy and growing congregations are actively engaged in sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ through actions and words working in concert to invite others into the journey of being disciples of Jesus Christ.

Structure for Transformation— Healthy and growing congregations have a structure that is focused on developing disciples of Jesus Christ.

“The effort and commitment on the part of the Conference to offer the Hand to The Plow sends an encouraging message of reassurance to the smaller rural churches in the District: that supporting them, preparing them, and sustaining them into the future is an important goal.”

— Hand to Plow Participant

VITAL
Congregations

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Peer Learning Groups



Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

Hand to Plow

Peer Learning Groups

Over the course of ten months gather with others from your region for worship, prayer, fellowship and learning. Sessions begin at 10am and conclude at 4pm. Between the sessions the learning continues as each local congregation meets together, clergy and laity, to apply the learning in their context.

Clergy Session Overview

Session	Title
1	Overview and Orientation
2	Mission and Vision
3	Leadership
4	Vision
5	Worship
6	Preaching
7	Missional Life
8	Evangelism
9	Structure for Transformation

Laity Session Overview

Session	Title
1	Overview and Orientation
2	Mission and Vision
3	Worship
4	Evangelism
5	Structure for Transformation

Here is what others are saying:

“This process puts the involved laity in touch with the same literature as the pastor is reading, so there’s a greater awareness of the “why’s” and “how’s” of change.”

“It has benefited me being with people from other congregations by learning what they are doing in their churches. It gave me new and different ideas in how to bring people in our community closer to God. The pastors were wonderful speakers. It gave me a lot of input and ideas.”

“There’s opportunity for laity to be part of the change, to support the changes, to help make the changes.”



Registration

The Hand to Plow process is an open enrollment opportunity. The clergy person and each lay person participating are asked to register. Registration will open in June via the Conference website.

Cost

To ensure the financial sustainability of the process, each congregation enrolled in the Hand to Plow process will be asked to pay \$150. This is a one-time fee for the entire congregation, and will be due with the clergy registration. The fee is the same no matter the number of people participating.

