

REVIEW: WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY?

Christian discipleship is the disciplined habit of thinking and acting in Christ. Discipleship is growing closer to Christ and more like Christ and deeper into Christian community with other believers.

A discipleship pathway is a framework that guides the intentional discipleship of the local church community.



You developed a local discipleship pathway – **now what?**

BEST PRACTICES FOR IMPLEMENTING A DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Frameworks are just frameworks until you put the walls and the decorations up. What does it look like to put flesh on a discipleship pathway and live it out within the life of the local congregation?

Here are **5 qualities to look for** when implementing a discipleship pathway.
Is the discipleship pathway experience:

1. Meaningful?



- a. What content and tools are included in the discipleship pathway?
- b. How are the content and tools relevant and effective?

2. Formational?



- a. How does the discipleship pathway create spaces of formation, transformation, and reformation rather than simple information?
- b. How is formation of the whole person being considered?
- c. What practices are included in the discipleship pathway?

3. Communal?



- a. How does the discipleship pathway connect the disciple with the larger church community?
- b. How does the discipleship pathway contribute to a healthy church community?

4. Renewal?



- a. What connections does the discipleship pathway create with mission in the neighborhood?
- b. In what ways does the discipleship pathway prepare disciples for renewal and multiplication of ministry?

5. Rhythmic?



- a. What rhythms of discipleship does our pathway establish?
- b. How does it integrate with the ministry rhythms of the Hope and Love Avenues?
- c. How does it integrate with the worship calendar?

[From Centering Discipleship by Eun K Strawser]

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. What resources do you have available to you, and what resources do you need to get connected to?
2. How and how often will your team assess the impact of the discipleship pathway?
3. What process will be in place for any proposed changes to the discipleship pathway? Who needs to be included in those conversations?

THE ESSENTIALS:

The discipleship pathway comes to life in the implementing! Be thoughtful and flexible, as you live out the discipleship pathway. What do you see God doing? What is working well? What is not working well? What changes can be made? Allow your discipleship pathway to develop along with the needs and strengths of your community. Remember, the point is discipleship, not the tools we use along the way.

