

Go and Make Disciples

In January of this year, Benton First renewed an important journey. Making disciples of Jesus Christ at Benton First has been our mission from the beginning. This year we set out with a process to appraise how we make disciples and be committed to partnering with the Holy Spirit to press on to what John Wesley called “holiness of heart and life”.

The United Methodist church believes that God calls all disciples of Jesus to a life of grace. Grace, whether prevenient, justifying or sanctifying, is all God’s grace that springs forth from God’s unconditional love for His children. It might be helpful to briefly describe these active forms of God’s grace.

- ◆ **Prevenient grace** is where, even before we were aware of God’s presence, He loved us and called us to Himself.
- ◆ **Justifying grace** saves us through a rebirth of life in Christ. Accepting that we are sinners, hopelessly lost without the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf, this grace allows us to accept eternal life.
- ◆ **Sanctifying grace** is where the Holy Spirit meets us where we are and works in our lives in what the author of Hebrews called made perfect, being made holy.

This vision for our plan has been chosen to inspire our programming to focus our energies to advance a dynamic, multigenerational congregation, committed to making disciples.

This personal MAP is intended to be a tool to help you identify where you find yourself on the journey of faith. It is for your use and intended to help you find a place or a program within the life of the church to meet you where you are, or to walk with you to the next place. We trust it will be a catalyst for you to consider where you are, and create the opportunity for you to explore the possibilities on the path ahead.

The directional indicators are intended to be helpful for you in finding a group. If you are unsure about where that might be for you, or have other questions or concerns, please contact the church office. Brother David or one of the staff will be happy to talk with you.



How to Use the MAP

On the inside of the MAP you will find six sign posts illustrating the various stages of discipleship. Each stage has three components:

1. One with Christ
2. One with each other
3. One in ministry to the world

Each description is intended to help you place yourself in the stage that best describes where you are now. This will help you select a program activity that might appeal to you and support your discipleship.

The components across the top are matched to our definition of a disciple. Being “One with Christ” reminds us of the importance of a personal relationship with Christ that is Biblically and theologically formed. “Being one with each other” calls us to be an active member within the community of faith. “Being one in ministry to the world” is to actively be participating in a mission or outreach to all people.

As you read down each category, look for words that seem to describe you best and place a check in the box on the left of those statements. This is not an exact science. There are truly no right or wrong answers. You may easily place yourself at different stages in the three different categories. Be at peace.

Once you feel you have placed yourself, look for opportunities that fit your discipleship needs. As always, we look forward to your questions, comments or concerns.

Benton First United Methodist Personal MAP Ministry Action Plan

Be One!

Mission Statement :

To grow toward Jesus and make God known.

Christian Disciples are:

- ◆ *One with Christ*
- ◆ *One with Each Other*
- ◆ *One in Ministry to the World*

Vision Statement:

Benton First United Methodist Church will be a dynamic, multigenerational congregation committed to making disciples of Jesus, utilizing staff and lay people to intentionally carry out God's work through various member, community and connectional ministries.

Where are you on the journey?

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Getting Your Bearings



Finding a Path



On an Adventure



Deeper Exploration



Discipling Guide



Quest for Holiness

One with Christ

- I am curious about God, and interested to know more about this church. I am not sure this is for me but it won't hurt to check it out.
- I regularly attend worship here. The worship seem authentic. I am becoming comfortable in risking the personal investment to know more about God and worship.
- I have made a commitment to God and to this church. I am more intentional in learning more about God and the Scriptures through daily bible study.
- I enjoy Bible studies and Sunday School or other small groups and am beginning to take some leadership. I am wondering what God wants from me. I am feeling like I am being directed by OUTSIDE of my comfort zone, but God is sustaining.
- I am practicing living as a Christian in every area of my life and sharing with others the things I have learned about God. I have been feeling lately that there is more God wants to do in my life. I am beginning to see the bigger picture and starting to understand my call
- I am daily walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ and I am responding to God call on my life. I am practicing a spiritual disciplines to live a Christ centered life. I am seeing the fruits of the spirit in my life.

One with Each Other

- I am wondering if the people in this church will accept me or if I will fit in. I knew a few people but not many and I feel self conscious.
- I have made some friends at church. I think they are interested in me and I feel comfortable here. I enjoy getting to know them. Some have a relationship with God that I would like to develop.
- I have made good friends at the church. I am excited about being in a Sunday School class or a Bible study. I would like to find a way to develop deeper relationships. I feel like I am developing trust in others.
- I enjoy my Sunday School class and small groups. I have lead class a few times and I really enjoy being able to contribute to the group. I am looking for ways to invite others.
- I am eager to share what I know with others and to be in a small group where we can support one another in our faith journey. I am interested in growing deeper in faith and want to lead others.
- I am involved in an covenant group that is accountable to one another in our spiritual disciplines and faith development. I enjoy the committed relationship with others and am serving as a mentor to those who are moving to deeper stages in their journey.

One in ministry to the World

- I am aware there are a lot of people in need in the world around me. I am not sure that I can do anything to change that, but I am willing to check it out.
- I am aware that the church is trying to feed the hungry and help those in need in our community. I have heard about a number of ways we do that and I am interested in finding a place to serve.
- Having received the grace of God, I am eager to share it with the world around me. I am committed to serving in a ministry that will share God's love with others.
- I have been regularly working in local ministry projects and I am ready to do more. I am interested in a mission trip that will require more of me. I am seeing the needs of those around me more clearly and quickly.
- I am involved in ministry to the community around the church as well as committed to supporting mission projects outside of the immediate community. I am willing to take leadership as God calls.
- I am actively seeking ways to serve God by serving others and responding to God's call. I am willing to share my time and my resources SACRIFICIALLY to care for God's people.