

HIGH POINT

Equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship.
Measurable results. Eternal outcomes.



One Church's Journey Forward in Christ-centered Discipleship



Mike McClenahan
Sr. Pastor

Solana Beach Presbyterian Church began using sermon-based small groups, using classical spiritual disciplines and matching children's curriculum. Despite these efforts, a general dis-ease seemed present in some of the congregation.

SBPC enlisted Ascending Leaders to help them take the REVEAL discipleship assessment, to identify the church's barriers to better discipleship.



Paula Taylor
Discipleship Assoc. Pastor
1998-2021

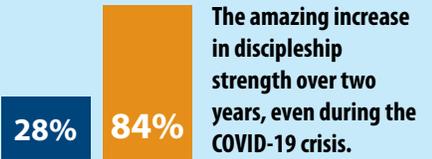
Ascending Leaders helped SBPC church leaders conduct a quality REVEAL assessment.



Jamie Nelson,
Students Assoc. Pastor

Ascending Leaders helped interpret the troubling REVEAL results and what it meant for the church.

Pastor Mike McClenahan inspired his leaders and congregants to humbly take responsibility for their own spiritual growth by inviting them to begin a daily "15 minutes alone with God in your favorite chair." Almost the entire congregation joined him.



Rather than seeing a decrease in small group participation during COVID, groups at SBPC saw an increase in numbers!

Ascending Leaders guided SBPC through the REVEAL assessment again. Results showed dramatic improvement in Christ-centered discipleship and leadership.



2003-2018

2018
Q3&4

2019
Q1

2019
Q2

2019
Q3

2020

2021
Q1



SAVE THE DATE!
SUPERSIZED Tuesday
 NOV 30, 2021
TAKE 2

See page 4

Church Discipleship Co-labs are effectively Equipping Churches in Christ-centered discipleship



In June, Ascending Leaders hosted a Lunch-and-Learn about two-year Church Discipleship Co-labs, both in-person at Good Shepherd UMC in Cypress, TX and virtually through Facebook Live. During the Lunch-and-Learn, AL Discipleship Coach Rev. Dr. Peter Cammarano interviewed Rev. Stephanie Hughes, pastor of St. John's UMC, currently being coached by DC Peter.

DC Coach Peter: **What benefits have you gotten in these first five months of this Co-Lab?**

Pastor Stephanie: I think the highlight so far is getting the results of our (assessment of the church's discipleship temperature) survey to see exactly where our people are. You get what I call a grade. Ours was 61. We knew we were a complacent

church, so when we scored as 'Complacent' we were like 'yeah, we knew that.' And it told us we were 'Troubled,' as well—'Troubled' and 'Complacent.' We are still wrestling with the 'Troubled' part.

DC Coach Peter: **Why do this now?**

Pastor Stephanie: Instead of pushback, people have been stirred up with this pandemic and are excited about change and moving. God has already troubled and stirred up the water, so they are going to be grateful for whatever is happening at the church.

View more of this interview in the Video of the **Lunch-and-Learn** on Ascending Leader's Facebook Page.



Ascending Leaders is Currently Recruiting more Co-labs to Start in early 2022

- ✓ **TEXAS** www.ascendingleaders.org/umc-colabs (application deadline is Nov. 15, 2021)
- ✓ **KANSAS** www.ascendingleaders.org/kansas-discipleship-co-labs
- ✓ More to come!

Scholarships provided by family foundations that care about the local church.

DiscipleOn! Virtual Discipleship Leaders Cohort Zoomed to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina

DiscipleOn! Cohorts - Basics trains pastors and church leaders virtually in discipleship concepts so that the entire church may experience personal discipleship growth. Laura Campbell, Director of Missional Discipleship at Oak Ridge United Methodist Church in North Carolina, participated in a cohort in 2020. Using the framework she learned, Laura formed *Fresh Expressions* which now reaches a wide range of people. Read how Laura transformed her discipleship ministry through *Fresh Expressions* and a DiscipleOn! cohort specifically for her FE leaders.



Why did you get into that first DiscipleOn! Cohorts - Basics?

What did you get out of it?

I joined a Cohort because I had known AL Coach Peter Cammarano for years. He was my mentor. It was great being able to put a language to the discipleship stages. I went to college and seminary, but there are so many more things that I didn't learn in class. DiscipleOn! teaches great concepts about discipleship. I learned that each stage of discipleship is important and has its own successes. You need those successes in order to grow.

Why did you request a DiscipleOn! Cohort - Basics specifically for your Fresh Expressions leaders?

You need a team. God does not want us to do it alone. I wanted the *Fresh Expressions* leaders to be on the same page regarding discipleship stages.

What was your favorite part of these Cohorts?

My favorite part was exchanging our testimonies in the context of discipleship stages. It was great getting my team together to tell our faith stories in that context. It came full circle with *Fresh Expressions*.

Tell us what the Fresh Expressions movement is.

I define it as a "third-space" ministry. There are three spaces: your first space is home, then work, and finally everywhere else, which is your third space.

This third space is directed at who God is trying to reach, which is everyone. Using this concept makes it easier to identify the gaps and go after them, which is a more organic approach.

What was Fresh Expressions at your church?

I defined it as "gastrochurch." Gastrochurch is where people gather over a good meal to have intentional conversations about spiritual things. It builds a deeper level of intimacy in Christ. It opens doors to allow more conversation and be able to establish relationships. Understanding discipleship by the stages helps us to create better conditions for people at their stage of growth.



Get more info about being equipped by one of our wonderful discipleship coaches through a DiscipleOn! Virtual Discipleship Leaders Cohort at

www.ascendingleaders.org/discipleon



Ms. Julia Johnson



Rev. Kate Walker



Rev. Marilyn Wadkins



Rev. Dr. Peter Cammarano



Rev. Jim Flagg



Rev. Matt McClure



Rev. Bob Johnson





SUPERSIZED

Discipleship through your SUPERSIZED Donation

SUPERSIZED Giving Tuesday 2020: One donor who began supporting our mission on Giving Tuesday 2019 was ready and excited to participate again in 2020. Due to a mathematical error, the donation amount was not increased and thus was NOT matched. We are now ensuring that does NOT happen again.



SUPERSIZED Giving Tuesday 2021: This year, EVERY Giving Tuesday donation will be SUPERSIZED.*

Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?

Jesus to the first disciples.
Matthew 16:9

TOGETHER we can meet and surpass our stretch-goal of **\$100,000** (donated Giving Tues. Nov. 30 through Dec. 31, 2021)!



ON GIVING TUESDAY, NOV. 30, 2021

All donations will be DOUBLED by our SUPERSIZERS. Some will even be DUPLD (x10) by our SUPERSIZERS (\$100 becomes \$1,000)*

Watch for specific information to come.

94%

of AL's large gift donors say AL clearly communicates how their gifts are used to accomplish the mission of **equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship.**

July 2021, ECFA Survey

For more info, go to

www.ascendingleaders.org/giving-tuesday



* To the max. of funds pledged by our SUPERSIZERS