

Dover Connections Project Model
Dover Churches: "Connecting People to Christ"
March 6, 2010

Biblical Model: Luke 5: 1-11 the call of Simon James and John; Luke 5: 27-29 the call of Matthew; Luke 9: 1-6, the ministry of the twelve; Luke 10:1-7, 17-24 the Seventy sent

Communication: Creating a Vision that is God inspired, and unique to each church

Vision: To develop a "Missional" Model: "To Connect People to Christ"

Model: To help churches become more Missional and reach outside their walls to connect with their communities, introducing them to the love of Jesus Christ and the good news of the gospel (**Missional Model**). Many churches rely heavily on their ability to attract individuals with services and programs (**Attraction Model**), which in themselves are not bad, but we believe that if the full body of Christ is engaged in His mission right where they live, a churches impact on its community will be maximized for Christ.

- From the very foundation of the church, our mission has been to *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matt. 28:19-20). The Prince of Preachers Charles Spurgeon is quoted as saying "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter" and the 20th century missionary Lesslie Newbigin said "To be baptized into Christ, is to be baptized into His mission."
- The Dover Connections Team wants to invite you to join us on a journey of rediscovering Jesus' Model for carrying out His mission as He has revealed it in His Holy Word.

Vision Casting/Teaching: Before Jesus called and prepared his apostles for their mission, He shared a vision of the kingdom to His large flock in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7).

- In the same way the pastor will cast an initial vision to the congregation of reaching their surrounding community by intentionally creating new connections right there in their own neighborhoods.
- The Pastor will share the vision God has given and with the assistance of the church's "Connection Team" define the vision to church leadership and membership.
- Envision a church at the center of a community that is seeking the Lord's leading for new invitations to "Connect People to Christ".
- Throughout the year the pastor and the Church's Connection Team will recast the vision as an ongoing process and keep the congregation engaged. This will help prepare them to hear God's call and to join in the exciting mission of Christ going on right in their midst ("Experiencing God" Model Henry Blackaby).

Calling: To “Call Out “believers to Kingdom Development using God given passion and Spiritual gifts among His people (Luke 10:1 Lord appointed)

Model: By examining how Jesus and the early church called, trained, sent, commissioned, and celebrated the work of His “**Mission-aries**”, we can see His model for evangelizing the communities around us. Jesus always began everything by communing with the Father in prayer. Then He shared His vision of the kingdom to come with all who would hear. From that large group He selected His inner circle of apostles (Mentoring) whom He trained and prepared for His mission. Eventually, He sent them out in two’s in search of “men of peace” with whom to connect. Later He sent out seventy more again in pairs to where “He Himself was going to come”(Luke 10:1) and when each group returned, there was much rejoicing (Luke 10:17).

Church Connection Project Team: Each church must prayerfully select a minimum of 5 members who will become the key leaders on this journey and the first generation of disciplers ([Servant Leadership Model “Lead Like Jesus” Ken Blanchard](#)).

- When Jesus was about to call His inner circle of 12 apostles He “*went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them who He also designated apostles*” (Luke 6:12).
- When the church at Antioch was “*ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’*” (Acts 13:2)

1. **Pastor / Team Leader**

1. Identify and engage people called of God to lead the church in the Connections Project (form the Church Connections Team and commission them)
2. Stir up the “Vision” in the Team and the church
3. Attend and bring team to training events
4. Develop at least “one new thing” that will “Connect People to Christ”
5. Share “Connection Stories” at meetings

2. **Prayer Leader**

1. Prayer Walking: When Jesus and the early church had given enough training, they sent out their most gifted into the surrounding communities.
 - a. The teams will begin to prayer walk (their own neighborhoods/communities seeking God’s invitation for a connection. ([Follow Me Lessons for Becoming a PrayerWalker and Strong Walk by Randy Sprinkle](#)) Each one will have the autonomy to follow the Spirit’s leading as to whether and how to have organized efforts/events within their own communities. For example, one team may have a

passion for gardening, so they start a gardening club or another may have young children and they might start a playgroup most will start with “[Curb Side Connections](#)” that the Spirit provides. (“[Just Walk Across The Room](#)” by Bill Hybels)

- b. Shortly after starting their own connections these team leaders will begin to intentionally train/disciple others in the congregation to exponentially expand the gospels reach
2. Prayer Teams: Prayer Warriors within the church will pray for new and existing ministries and will share prayer requests with Associational Prayer Leaders
3. **Administration Leader**
 1. Administrative functions include coordinating the church’s Connection Project with the church calendar, budget and other resources needed for connecting with new people and conducting a new ministry
 2. Report information to the Dover Connections Team
 3. Keep records of how the church chose and conducted its “One New Thing”.
4. **Communication/Media Leader**
 1. Lead the team in internal and external communications.
 2. Identifying and use various media for sharing information within the congregation and in the community
 3. The Dover Connections Team expects to conduct an area-wide media campaign(s) leading up to Christmas 2010 and Easter 2011. The Communication/Media Leader will help the church build on this campaign(s) for connecting with new people and conducting a new ministry(s).
5. **Training and Consultation Leader**
 1. Identify church leaders to be trained, schedule training events, and otherwise help connect church leaders with the resources they need for connecting new people with Christ and the church, conducting a new ministry(s), and reporting the results.
 2. Attend Dover Connection Training Events and encourage other leaders to attend
 3. Assist the Church Consultation Team as they evaluate and implement strategies to disciple people that have connected to Christ.

Church Consultation Project Team: If the Church elects to participate in the Consultation Project a team will need to be formed and trained

1. Form a team representing the age groups of the Sunday School
2. Participate in the Consultant Training events
3. Communicate monthly with the consultant assigned to your church

4. Participate in the two week-end events
5. Implement new initiatives approved by the church through the Church Consultation Team

Commissioning: Send forth the “Called” to serve as God leads in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:1 Lord sent)

Model: Just as Jesus called the Apostles and disciples He gave them authority to proclaim the Kingdom of God then sent them ahead to places where He Himself would come.

- *“And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”* (Luke 9:1-2)
 - *“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.”* (Luke 10:1)
 - *“Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”* (Acts 13:3)
1. The Dover Connection Team will commission the Church Connections Team Leaders and Pastors at the Dover Semi Annual Meeting on April 25.
 2. Participating Churches should commission their Connections Team and Consultant Team before the church
 3. Formal commissioning of subsequent participants or teams, who have completed the training process, will take place as the church directs (This is not only biblical, but it should also create a sense of mission, purpose, and teamwork)

Connecting: Identify the church “One New Thing” and develop your process (Luke 10:1, 2x2 ahead of Him, where He Himself was going to come)

Model: Just as the Disciples went out into community and sought out “men of peace” and went to their homes where they stayed and shared the Gospel.

- *“And whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ “and if a man of piece is there, your peace will rest upon him; and if not, it will return to you. “And stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. Luke 10:5-7)*
 - *“The one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the one who sent Me.”* (Luke 10: 16)
1. Prayer Walking
 2. Small Groups
 - Home
 - Sunday Bible Study
 - Discipleship Courses

3. Worship
4. New Ministry
5. Child Care
6. Mops
7. Food Pantry
8. Church Events
 - Christmas/Easter services
 - Fall Festivals
 - Holidays
 - (See List provided)

Celebrating: Share with your membership and Association what God has done (Luke 10: 17 and 21, returned with Joy, He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit)

Model: Just as the seventy returned to Jesus with Joy the church should return to the Lord sharing the victories as people came to know the Lord.

- *“And the seventy returned with joy, saying “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name.” sand He said to them. “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightening. “Behold I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. ... At that very time HE rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit ...” (Luke 10:17-19 & 21a)*
1. The Dover Connection Team will share “Connection Stories” at the May 1, 2011 Dover Baptist Association Semi-Annual Meeting and the October 23, 2011 Annual Meeting
 2. Dover Churches should celebrate their “Connection Stories” at Worship Services, business meetings, small groups and publications
 3. Church Connection Teams should share stories at Team Meetings