

Prayers for Disciple-Making Congregations

What are the characteristics of a local United Methodist congregation that is actively and successfully engaged in making disciples of Jesus Christ? This is the question Dean McIntyre, director of music resources at The General Board of Discipleship, posed to almost 100 staff members. The results revealed seven driving forces behind vital, dynamic, and healthy disciple-making congregations whose mission is to transform the world.

This month we will cover these essential elements listed below in prayer as we seek to reclaim the power of the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:19 when Jesus commanded his disciples to “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”

1. Worship and Hospitality
2. Ministry of the Laity
3. Mission-Outreach-Evangelism
4. Nurture
5. Christian Faith and Life
6. Education and Training
7. Small Groups

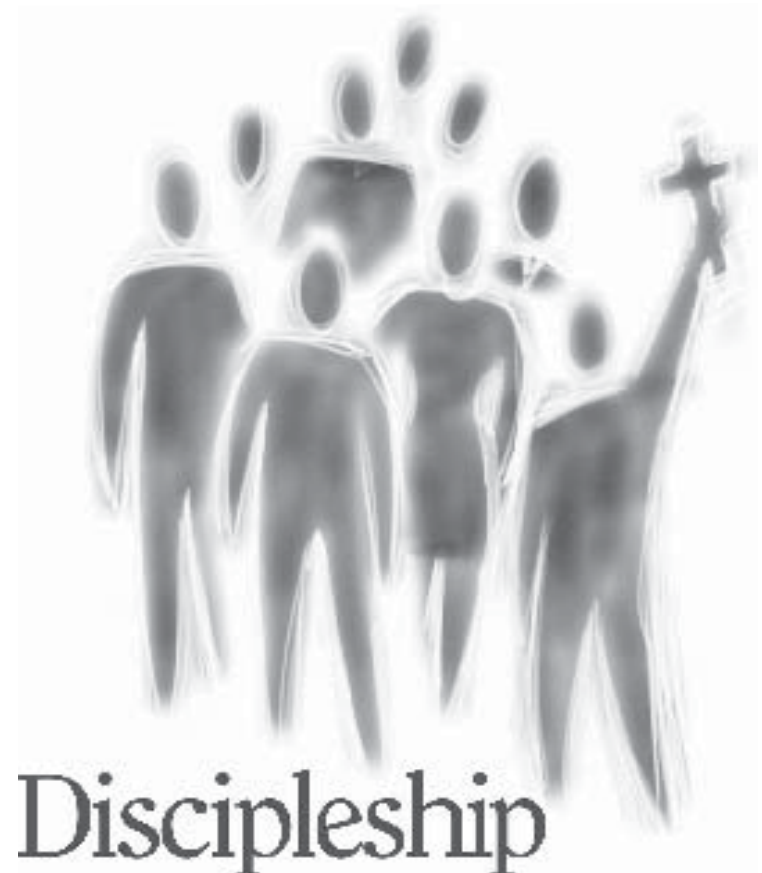
Adapted from “Fifty Characteristics of Disciple-Making Congregations” by Dean McIntyre. Copyright © 2004 The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, 877-899-2780, www.umcworship.org



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**“Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations.”
Matthew 28:19**

Prayers for Disciple-Making Congregations

<p>1 God, empower our congregations to actively and successfully engage in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Matt. 28:19</p>	<p>2 God, may our churches encounter the love, presence, grace, peace, and forgiveness of God through vital worship. Jn. 4:23</p>	<p>3 God, may our congregations treat visitors with such warm hospitality that they feel led to become active members. Ro. 12:13</p>	<p>4 God, may our churches have an open door policy and see themselves as a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. Lk. 15:7</p>	<p>5 God, teach us to worship with our eyes open to the needs and circumstances around our church. Deut. 15:11</p>	<p>6 God, enable churches of all sizes to offer numerous points of entry into congregational life. Rom. 12:4-5</p>	<p>7 God, teach us to love those whose lives don't measure up to conventional standards of intelligence, success, or morality. Matt. 5:44</p>
<p>8 God, empower our churches to encourage diversity, racial unity, and reconciliation. Ps. 133:1</p>	<p>9 God, we pray that our churches emphasize to laity that all are called to ministry through baptism. Luke 3:3</p>	<p>10 God, grant our leadership a plan for growth and development. Jer. 29:11</p>	<p>11 God, give us an outward focus that exists to equip, train, and support people to be the church in the world. Eph. 4:12</p>	<p>12 God, enable our churches to help people discover and use their spiritual gifts in ministry. Rom. 12:6-8</p>	<p>13 God, raise up laity who will visit members who are sick, hospitalized, or in nursing homes. Matt. 25:36</p>	<p>14 God, help our members see that their primary place of ministry is beyond the church walls. Matt. 10:8</p>
<p>15 God, equip our churches to engage its members in local and global mission outreach. Acts 1:8</p>	<p>16 God, give our congregations a passion and a burden for unreached people. Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1</p>	<p>17 God, equip our laity through vital worship, active small groups, and challenging outreach opportunities. Isa. 62:10</p>	<p>18 God, may our members care and respect one another without regard to outward signs of power or position. Luke 10:34</p>	<p>19 God, provide opportunities for personal growth and spiritual formation that strengthen our members in their Christian walk. 1 Thess. 3:13</p>	<p>20 God, grant our congregations the ability to help members develop language for talking about God in their lives. Rom. 1:16</p>	<p>21 God, empower our churches to help people study the Bible and apply its truths to their daily lives. Jos. 1:8</p>
<p>22 God, may our congregations teach people how to pray, corporately and privately, and offer continued encouragement. 1 Thess. 5:17</p>	<p>23 God, may our churches guide new converts into a personal relationship with God that creates holy, righteous living. Ps. 48:14</p>	<p>24 God, help our members understand the importance of developing and practicing sound stewardship practices. Num. 18:25-32</p>	<p>25 God, help our congregations attend to justice and advocacy issues, as well as mercy and compassion. Lev. 19:15</p>	<p>26 God, equip our churches with the ability to preach, follow and introduce Christ to others in a life-changing way. Isa. 61:1</p>	<p>27 God, bless our churches with the fruits of the spirit and the ability to practice faithful disciplines. Gal. 5:22-23</p>	<p>28 God, we pray our churches offer appropriate and effective age-level Christian education and spiritual formation. 1 Cor. 2:13</p>
<p>29 God, teach us to engage children, youth, and adults in conversations about faith, theology, ethics, and moral behavior. Prov. 22:6</p>	<p>30 God, raise up small groups that provide mutual accountability and support for growing in the love of God. 1 Pet. 5:10</p>	<p>31 God, grant our leadership the ability to measure the impact of what they do in faith formation. Heb. 13:7</p>				 <p>www.ngumc.org</p>