Called to Lead

1) The **mission** of Ankeny First United Methodist Church is to be an _____ and _____ _____ ____ _____ _____ _____ God grows _____ _____ _____.
    a. How are we doing?
2) The **vision** of Ankeny First United Methodist Church is to _____ _____the Love of Christ / _____ _____ the Love of Christ / _____ _____ the Love of Christ
    a. How are we doing?

3) Shifts:
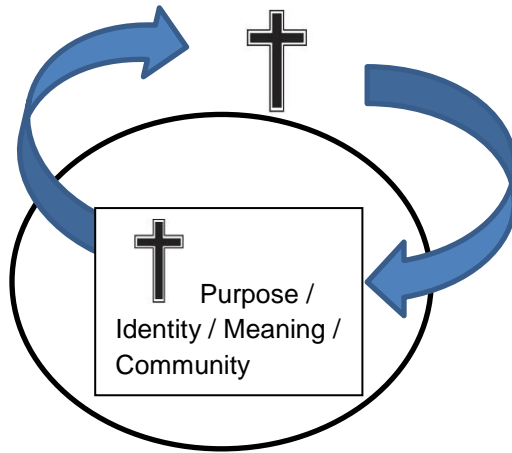
33-@317 A.D. – **Early Church**
   Church on the Edges
    +Church in Tension—personal
      vs. public
317-@1850: **Christendom**
    The Church at the Center
    +Faith is personal and public
@1850-1968 – **Modern**
    Church in Tension with forces
    of Modernism: Science, Nation
    States, Capitalism
@1968-Present: **Post-Modern**
   The Church on the edges:
    +Faith is personal and private

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY @FIRST:

1) **OUR PURPOSE -- Mission Statement:**
    ➤ United Methodist:
        Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
    ➤ Ankeny First UMC:
        To be an open and inviting community of faith through which God grows deeply commited Christians.

2) **What is a disciple?**
    ➤ *Follow me (being part of the body of Christ)*
    ➤ *I will make you (becoming more like Jesus)*
    ➤ *Fishers of all people (joining Jesus in ministry)*
                            (Matthew 4:19 RSV)
                            (*Shift*, Phil Maynard, p. 74)

3) **Core practices** of OUR discipleship making lived out in and through Ankeny First:

{applying the five markers of church membership within the United Methodist Church of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness}

➢ **Worship**
➢ **Small groups**
➢ **Mission and Service**

4) "Branding" "first" -- The Heart of Ankeny First United Methodist Church

First (furst) adj.:
Preceding all others in a series, before any others; happening or acting before all others

Our Vision—Foundational Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

Encounter.
"which (of the 613 commandments) is first of all"

Make it simple = Understanding
"The first is…"…"The second is …"

First Love
"love God…love your neighbor…(love) yourself" = "An open and inviting community of faith…"

Fruit
"You are not far from the kingdom of God." = Kingdom making is about growing deeply committed Christians. (*) Our Mission Statement)

Practical Vision:
What does that look like/how do you envision-picture this within/lived out through Ankeny First:
➢ In our life with <u>God</u> (such as our devotional life, worship, giving, serving, …)?
➢ In our life with other <u>people</u>, both within the church and beyond (such in our care for one another and our outreach and welcome of others)?
➢ In our lives as individual <u>selves</u> (such as how we care for ourselves)?

"GPS": Discerning our direction (individually and as a community of faith)

| |
|---|
| **UP** – to **G**od
 OUT – to other **P**eople
 IN – to our **S**elves |

Guiding Questions:
➢ Is what we believe/think/do done in, through, and with the love of Christ? Does it embody the love of Christ? If it doesn't, then we need to change?
As a church, what do we value?
➢ "One church, three sites"
o What is our experience as **family**? (Three cars, one family)

- o How does family live and give sacrificially, together? (**Generosity**)
- ➢ What are the best practices that result in this?
  - o **Excellence** (our best), not perfection
    - ▪ What do we do/can we do well?
- ➢ Feels like home
  - o That's **guest-driven**
  - o That excels in **people care**
- ➢ The **Next Person**
  - o **We love Jesus**…and we will **do anything and everything possible to reach the next person**, and the next person, and the next person **for Jesus.**

Enter	Explore	Encounter	Engage	Embody	Express
REACH		GROW		SERVE	
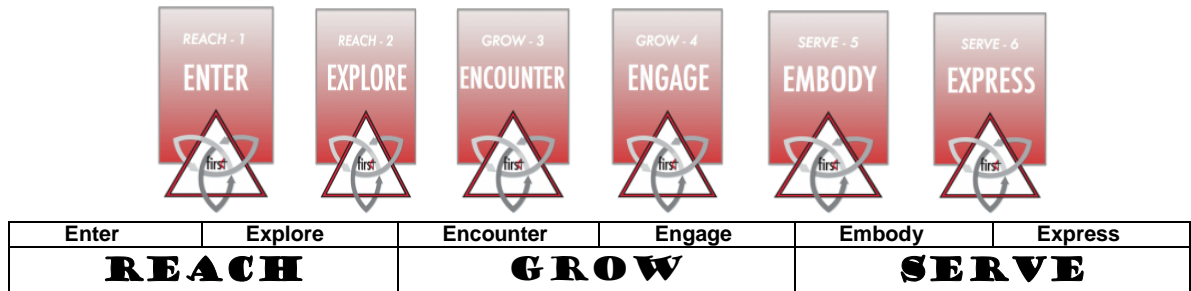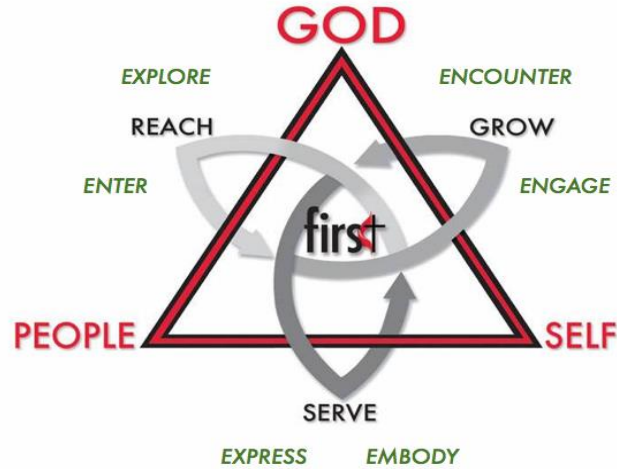
Key Question: How is this lived out within each small group (cluster, ministry team, committee, study and service group) within the church?

Answer: Through "Fractals"

Fractals: A fractal is a naturally occurring phenomenon or mathematical set that exhibits a repeating pattern that displays at every scale.
In our Discipleship Pathway fractals include:
1) Task
2) Fellowship/Care
3) Mission and Service
4) Worship (devotional life of prayer, scripture, worship)

(Fractals represent the "core practices" of our Discipleship Pathway, plus "Task")

Core Question:

How does your small group live out this fractal?

Your Notes: