

## **“Movement and Institution” (Presidential Report at Convention)**

### ***Ice-Breaker***

Go around the circle and share thoughts to these questions:

- *What are some institutions in our world (these can be local, regional, or global)? What makes them institutions?*
- *Name at least one event/action/group that you consider to be a movement. What makes it a movement?*

### **Watch VIDEO #2: MOVEMENT and INSTITUTION**

### **Digging In**

1. *According to President Linnemann, what are some of the differences between “institution” and “movement?”*
  
2. *“Most of us grew up ... during a time in history when the church was an integral part of the community.” What memories do I have of times when the church was an*



integral part of the community? What did that look like for me, either positively or negatively?

3. *“The movement of the Gospel needs to take its place as a priority for us as leaders in the church, and the institution needs to be in more of a support role to the primary task of the movement.”*
  - a. What might “institution in support” look like?
  - b. What gifts have I been given? Take a moment and write down as many as you can think of.
  - c. Then discuss: What would it would look like to use those gifts for the movement, and what it would look like to use them for the institution?
  
4. President Linnemann talks about the importance of investing in people, and how that is connected to being a movement.
  - a. Name some tangible ways our congregation has invested or is investing in people.
  - b. How has this investment influenced those people?
  - c. How has this investment influenced *me*?
  
5. The movement of the Gospel is meant to be outward (not kept to ourselves). We struggle with this from time to time, seeking a blessing rather than seeking to *be* a blessing. Last month, we closed our time discussing one new way our congregation could realistically be a blessing in our community. How did that go?

### **Getting Traction in Scripture**

Read Acts 1: 1-8. Acts 1:8 says, “... You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” These words set the church “in motion.” The Church was built on the foundation of Christ, and sharing the good news of God’s love and His forgiveness with those they meet.

- Think about the act of witnessing something happen. What makes being a witness so important?
- What is scary about being a witness?
- What is rewarding about being a witness?
- What about this passage connects with the idea of being a movement?
- What does this passage tell us about Who God is?



### **Last Month's Action Step**

We have already shared how things went with the one action step to be a blessing in our community from last month. What is the *next step* we need to take to get even more traction with this goal?

### **Monthly Action Step**

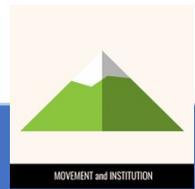
Think about institution and movement one last time. As you do, remember that the movement has an outward focus, and the institution has an inward focus. Take a moment on your own and think about/write down your thoughts to the following questions. Then come together as a group and go around the circle and share your thoughts:

- What is one tangible action we could take to make the the movement a bigger priority this month?
- How could we use the institution to support this outward movement action?
- What is one thing I will do personally to make the movement more of a priority in my own life?

### **Closing Action and Prayer**

Lord God, We pray for Your blessing upon us as we seek to catch Your vision for Your church. Give us the mind of Christ that we might recognize Your deep desire that people would know You and put their trust in You. Help us to see the ways in which You are calling us to action in the place where You've put us. Remove the barriers that would keep us from following You into that blessed future. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.





## **SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT** **Leadership Team Guide**

### **“Movement and Institution”**

*This additional study accompanies the small group discussion guide. It is designed for leadership teams as a process to discuss a strategic ministry plan connected to their mission and local community. The Leadership Team Guide is a focused group process that leads to specific action steps with progress checks at future meetings.*

#### **DISCUSS / EVALUATE**

- 1. Take time to freely discuss this question – Consider it more brainstorming than “locking down” a plan: *How can this study on movement and institution be useful in leading our congregation?***
- 2. Part of last month’s action step was to come up with a new way to begin helping a group of people that you don’t typically reach out to. Refer back to what we wrote down, and our action plan. What have we done so far?**
- 3. What worked? What needs to be done differently?**
- 4. Note for if you are experiencing challenges with launching your action plan: One of the challenges in starting anything new is trying to get everything “just right” before launching. This may cause “launch freeze.” Instead of having everything perfect, most new things come into being through incremental field testing or launching in stages. If you haven’t thought about it in this way, consider “piloting” or “field-testing” this action in a way that is doable and with a clear end in sight. *If you need to do this – take some time as a group and have an open conversation on what would it look like to “take a bite out of this elephant, instead of eating the whole thing!”***



## PLAN

5. How does what we learned in the video and discussed so far influence our plan to be a blessing in a new way to our community? (List below any “tweaks” this new perspective has offered.)

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## IMPLEMENT

6. What are the next action steps? (Write down at least two)

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- Who will make this happen?
- When will we meet to take the next steps?

## EVALUATE

7. When your leadership team gathers again, be prepared to use the next discussion guide together. It will include a “check-in” on how you did implementing your plan.

