

**Episcopal Culture:
Living into the vision of
making, equipping and
sending disciples**

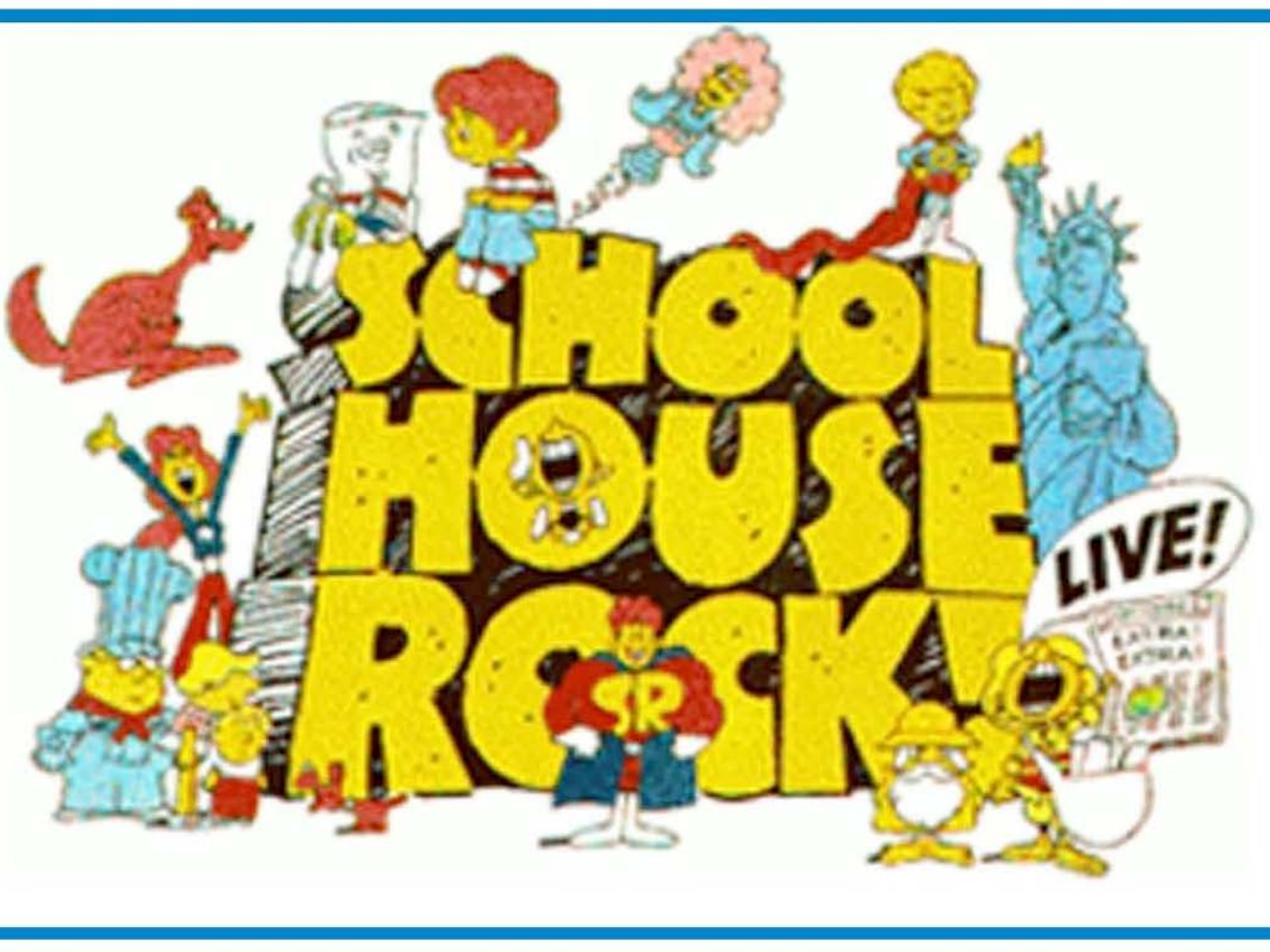
Session One: Go therefore and make disciples

A theological framework
which explores why
discipleship matters.

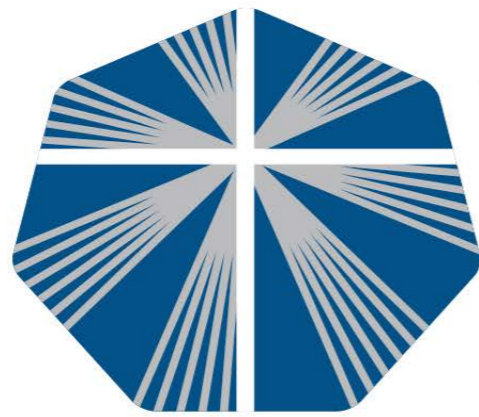
- How do we make disciples?
- How do we equip them?
- How do we send them?
- What's the theological framework for doing so?

A theological
framework:
Our ministry is
relational,
transformational,
missional.

Introduction



RenewalWorks™



Forward
Movement

inspire disciples. empower evangelists.

Questions that
prompted
RenewalWorks

The life-and-death question for each of our churches and denominations may boil down to this: Are we a club for the elite who pretend to have arrived or a school for disciples who are still on the way?

Brian McLaren, *Finding Our Way*

There is no such thing as a stationary Christian. A stationary Christian is sick in his (or her) identity. A Christian is meant to walk. To move.

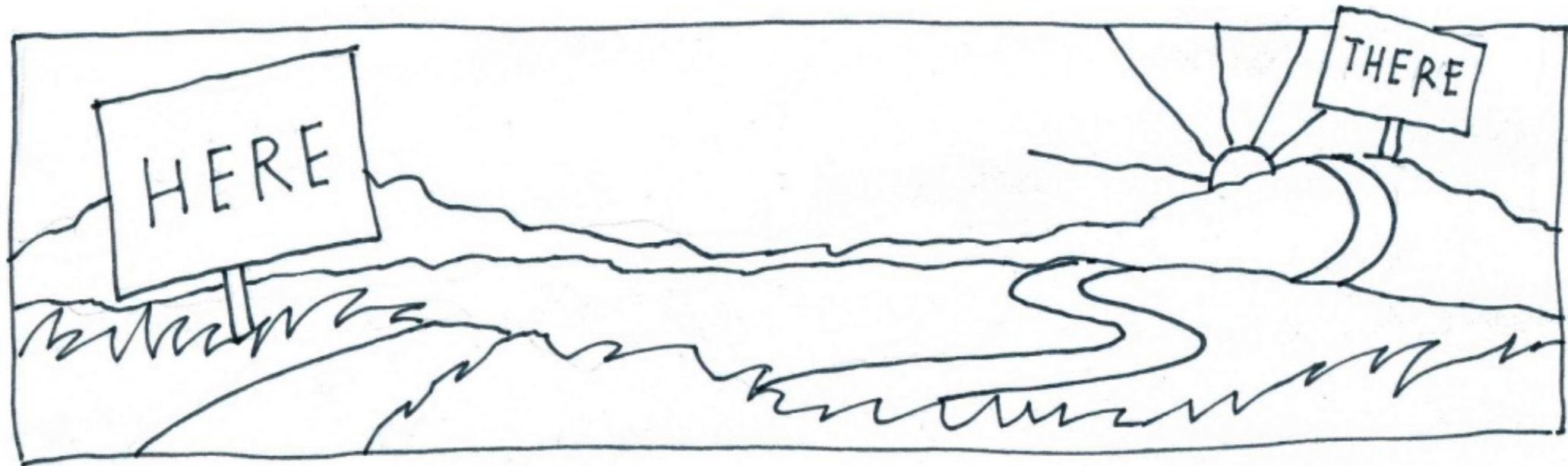
-Pope Francis

What does it mean to be a disciple in today's world? What does it mean to be a church member?

Are they the same thing?

How does the shape of life in the Episcopal Church foster depth and commitment to the way of Christ and how does it undermine it?

From People of the Way by Dwight Zscheile



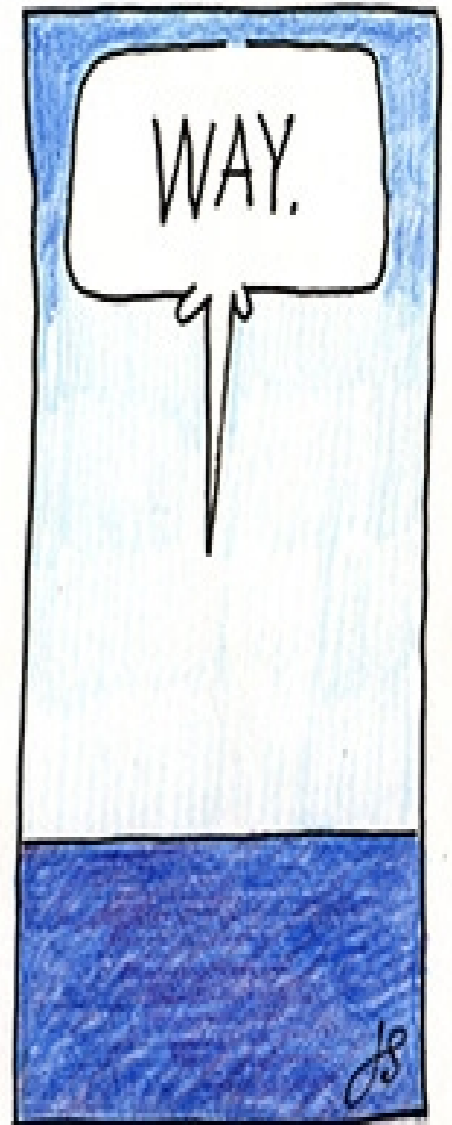
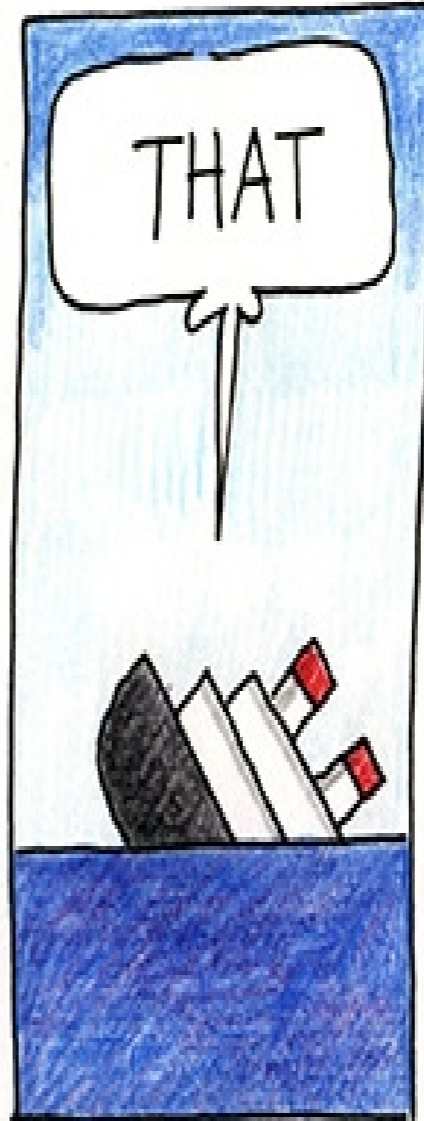
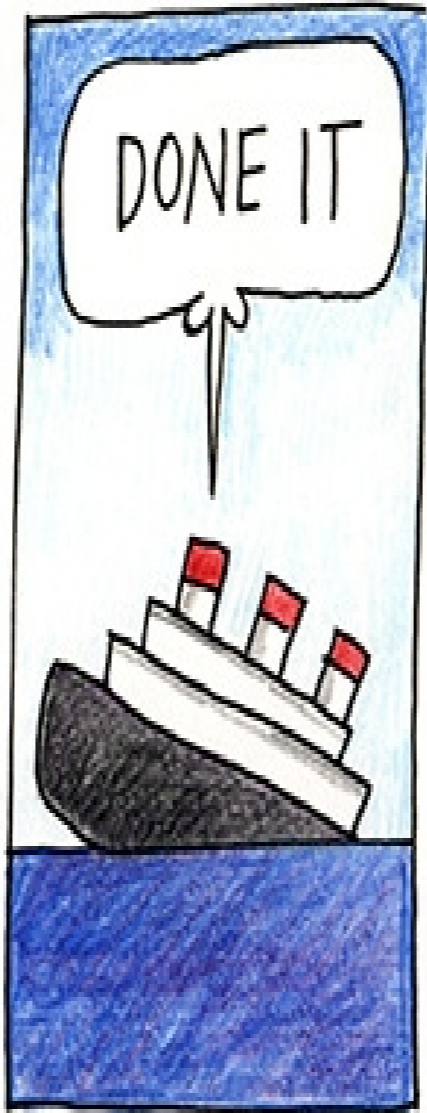
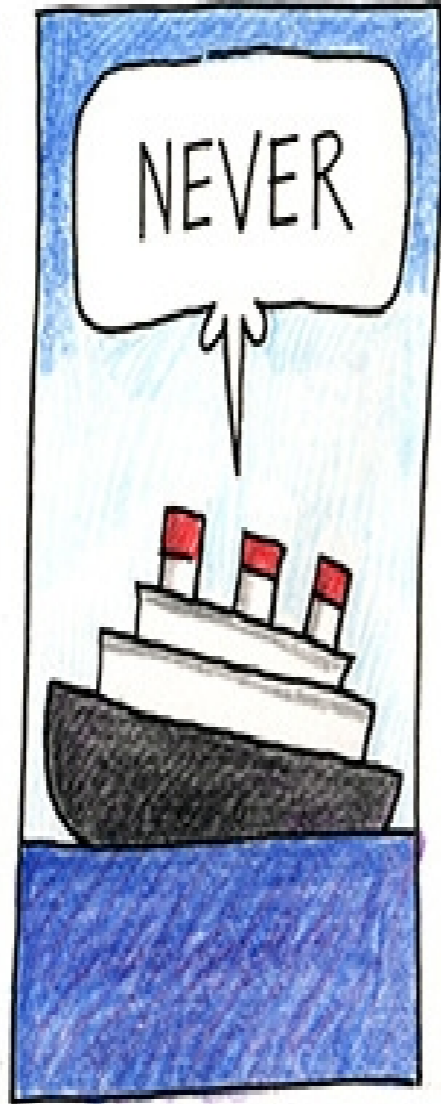
A vision for RenewalWorks:

To make spiritual growth a priority

**To build cultures of discipleship in our
congregations**

AKA

The Great
Conversation



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Background on RenewalWorks:

“Willow Creek CC suffered membership stagnation and a lack of enthusiasm among the faithful...A quarter of core members described themselves as spiritually stalled or dissatisfied with the role of the church in their spiritual growth. Church leaders found that 25% of the stalled segment and 63% of the churches dissatisfied segment contemplated leaving the church. **A good business model brought thousands to Willow Creek. But did it work as a community of deepening connection to God and others? Maybe not.**”

-Diana Butler Bass, Christianity After Religion

More than a decade of research



- Over 450,000 congregants
- Over 1,700 churches, 15 countries. More than 200 Episcopal congregations
- Census profile: geography, type & church size
 - Denominations represent 68%

Strategic questions

**What drives
spiritual growth in
an individual?**

**What are
characteristics of
growing churches?**

**Through the Eyes of
Parishioners**

What didn't seem to
matter.

What does seem to
matter?

Relationship with God
and neighbor.

It is relational.

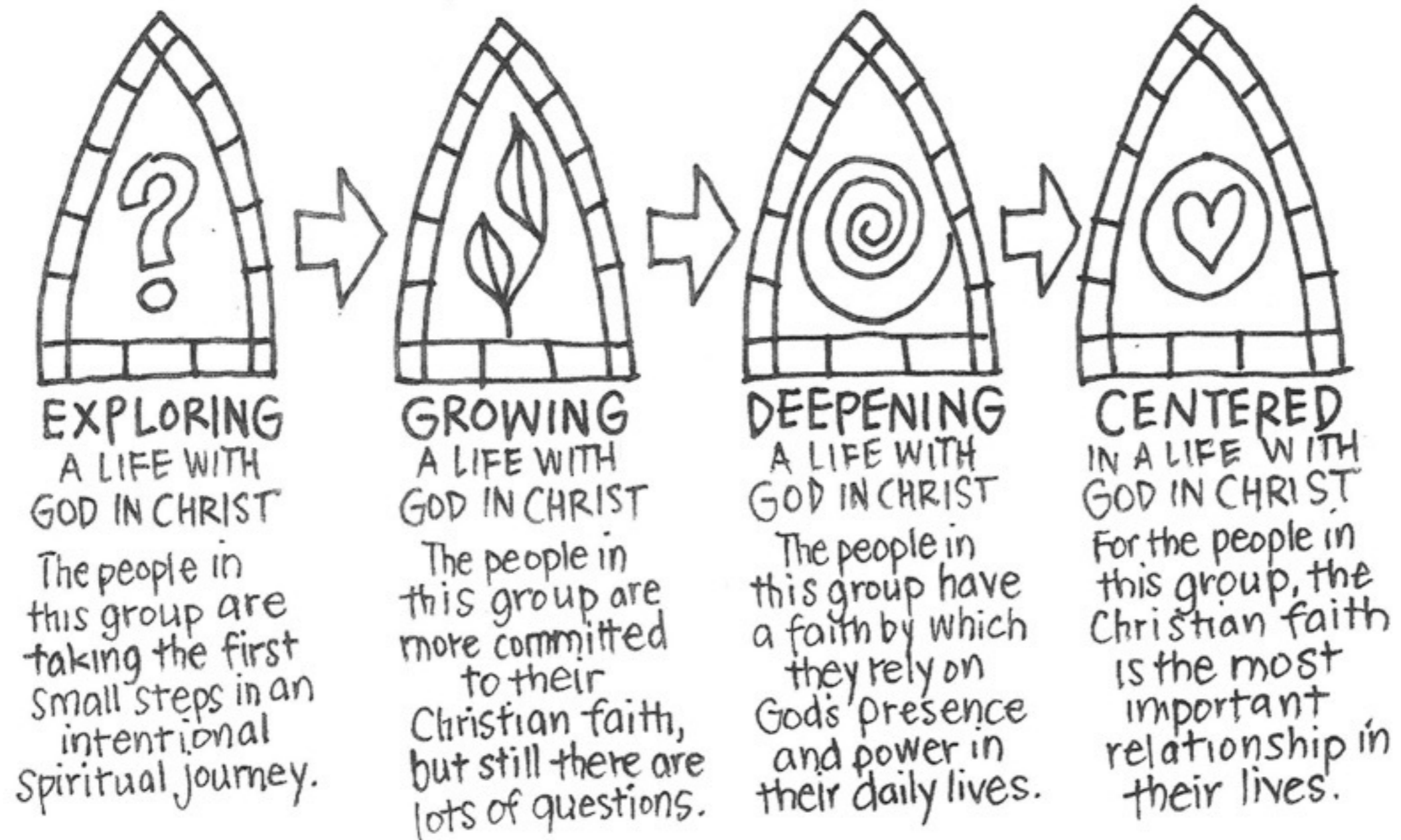
The relational dimension of spiritual growth

Jesus said: The first commandment is this: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other greater commandment than these.

Mark 12:29-31

It is transformational.

Spiritual Growth Continuum



It is missional.

Scripture reflection

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The heart of the
leader: We can't give
what we don't have.
Can't share what we
don't know.

Spiritual growth

When have you experienced spiritual growth?

When have you experienced inertia or been stalled spiritually?

What was the church's role?

You can't do
evangelism without
discipleship.

Spiritual growth

When has your congregation experienced spiritual growth?

When has it experienced inertia or been stalled spiritually?

A theological
framework:
Our ministry is
relational,
transformational,
missional.

Concluding
questions,
comments, thoughts.