

# **FORWARD** IN FAITH: REACHING FOR THE MASSES

THINKING FORWARD | SEEING FORWARD | MOVING FORWARD

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***THINKING FORWARD...***

INNOVATING AND INTEGRATING  
FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



# THINKING FORWARD

## SESSION DESCRIPTION | THINK IT OUT

This first session in the series of three to be presented will serve as a re-introduction to “progressive thinking”! We’ll begin with simple brain exercises (using the Bible as our foundation) to begin the day’s journey in the direction of FORWARD! We’ll endeavor to collectively embrace “the mind of Christ” by considering his “forward-thinking” examples relative to His culture and context! Finally, we’ll begin the process of thinking through the challenges the church faces as we contend for the faith and “serve the present age”!

# THE 3 HUGE OBJECTIVES

If we don't accomplish ANYTHING ELSE...

## OBJECTIVE #1

- Know Your **TITLE** vs
- Know Your **ROLE**

## OBJECTIVE #2

What does **GOD** expect  
& **require** of YOU?

## OBJECTIVE #3

How are YOU doing? ::  
Be **HONEST** with  
**YOURSELF!!**



# OBJECTIVE #1

Know Your **TITLE** vs Know Your **ROLE**

## **TITLE**

- The designation (appointed or elected) identifying the function & responsibility in an organization

## **ROLE**

- How your granted position adds to the maturity and effectiveness of an organization

*Your **TITLE** will identify who they've asked you to be while your **ROLE** will probably challenge you to do what God's called you to do!*

LET'S BEGIN WITH

# ***2 PROVOKING QUESTIONS!***

## ***QUESTION #1***

How does “Christian Education” contribute to church growth?

## ***QUESTION #2***

What is the role of a “Christian Educator” as it regards to church growth?



# THE BIG 3 QUESTIONS

Here are the questions most commonly asked by generations:

- **Elders:** How do I maintain my value and legacy if I pass the baton?
- **Generation X:** How do we correct the problems we've always seen while proving that we can handle the responsibilities passed to us (Elders) and maintaining our relevance? (Youth)
- **Millennials:** Is there any room for me? (Next Gen/Unchurched)

# OBJECTIVE #2

What does **GOD** expect & require of you?

## #1 THE GREAT COMMISSION

- Matthew 28:16-20

## #2 THE TWO COMMANDMENTS

- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Matthew 22:37-40
- Luke 10:27
- Mark 12:30

### **Public Service Announcement:**

*This is NOT just a part of  
Methodist liturgy!*

*If you're not doing these  
three...you ain't doing  
**NOTHING!!!***



# "HOW TO REACH THE MASSES"

*Let's take a look at a  
familiar hymn to  
discover answers for  
2023's problems!*

- **Stanza 1:**
- How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry birth
- For an answer Jesus gave the key
- "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
Will draw all men unto Me."

# "HOW TO REACH THE MASSES"

*Let's take a look at a  
familiar hymn to  
discover answers for  
2023's problems!*

- **Stanza 2:**
- Oh the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
- Lift the Savior up for them to see;
- Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said
- "I'll draw all men unto Me."



# "HOW TO REACH THE MASSES"

*Let's take a look at a  
familiar hymn to  
discover answers for  
2023's problems!*

- **Stanza 3:**
- Don't exalt the preacher
- Don't exalt the pew
- Preach the Gospel simple, full and free
- Prove Him and you will find that  
promise is true
- "I'll draw all men unto Me."

# "HOW TO REACH THE MASSES"

*Let's take a look at a  
familiar hymn to  
discover answers for  
2023's problems!*

- **Stanza 4:**
- Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought
- Let the world in you the Savior see;
- Then men will gladly follow Him who one taught,
- "I'll draw all men unto Me."



# "HOW TO REACH THE MASSES"

*Let's take a look at a  
familiar hymn to  
discover answers for  
2023's problems!*

- **Refrain:**
- Lift Him Up (Lift the precious Savior up)
- Still He speaks from eternity:
- "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
Will draw all men unto Me."

# OBJECTIVE #3

How are YOU doing?

**HOW EFFECTIVE ARE YOU IN THE  
MINISTRY OF "CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION"**

- What Metrics of Success have you developed and established to ensure that you are effective in your **ROLE?**

**Be HONEST with  
YOURSELF!!!**



***SEEING FORWARD...***

VISION CASTING  
& COMMUNICATION

# SEEING FORWARD

## SESSION DESCRIPTION | TALK IT OUT

Now that we've activated our "Forward Thinking Caps", let's learn how to use our creative forces (eyes, ears, voice, nose) to imagine the possibilities that are ahead of us! This second session will cause participants to move their thoughts and ideas into an inclusive vision! We'll consider how an amazing, God-given vision is crafted, communicated, and executed...but often killed!



# **VISION CASTING**

*Consider the critical questions asked immediately after VISIONS are communicated:*

1. Do You See What I See?
2. Did You Hear What I Just Said?
3. What Did You Just Say?
4. Did You See Anything About Me?

***THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY  
TO DEVELOP VISION IS:  
WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED***



***PRACTICAL ACTIVITY:***

***CLOSE YOUR EYES***

***WHAT DID YOU SEE?***



**WHAT HAS GOD  
REQUIRED OF YOU?**

**HOW CAN WE MAKE  
THAT HAPPEN?**



# ***MOVING FORWARD...***

STRATEGIC PLANNING  
EXECUTION  
& EVALUATION

# ***MOVING FORWARD...***

STRATEGIC PLANNING  
EXECUTION  
& EVALUATION

WHAT WILL WE DO?  
HOW WILL WE DO IT?  
WHAT/HOW DID WE  
DO?



# STRATEGIC PLANNING 101

- January | New Year's/Emancipation Day
- February | ?
- March/April | Easter
- May | Memorial Day/Graduation
- June | Summer / Juneteenth
- July | Independence Day
- August | Back to School
- September | Labor Day
- October | Halloween Alternative
- November | Thanksgiving
- December | Advent & Christmas

# **STRATEGIC PLANNING 101**

**• GOALS**

**• OBJECTIVES**

**DID YOU FULFILL THE MISSION?**



# EXECUTION 101

**THE QUESTION IS:**

- How do you  
EXECUTE  
EFFECTIVELY  
without getting  
EXECUTED?

**WHAT ARE YOUR**

**METRICS OF**

**SUCCESS?**



**EVALUATION 101**

**HOW DID WE DO?**

**HONESTLY?**