



100 Days of Discernment Using Dialogue and Prayer Triplets An Overview for Congregations

Purpose: The purpose of the 100 Days of Discernment using Dialogue and Prayer Triplets [100 Days] is to initiate the transition of a congregation from where it currently finds itself, to where God is leading it to be, by creating a new depth of relationships and new atmosphere of prayer within the congregation. Before specific long-term strategic initiatives can be launched in congregations it is necessary to establish a relational and spiritual foundation that begins the process of discerning God's leadership.

Readiness: Before engaging in the 100 Days it is necessary for congregations to determine their readiness for the process. Readiness is present when there is a strong desire in a congregation to be captivated by God's vision for the next stage of their spiritual strategic journey. Further, readiness is present when there is a willingness to lay aside some of the programmatic priorities of the congregation to allow time and space for the dialogue and prayer process to take place, rather than layering this process on top of everything else the congregation is doing.

Process: The 100 Days has three phases.

- *Phase One* is the preparation phase where these things occur: [1] Planning for the focus of the 100 Days. [2] Customization of the guide/manual to fit the focus determined. [3] Recruitment and orientation of the people to be involved in the 100 Days.
- *Phase Two* is the implementation phase where these things occur: [1] Triplets engage in the 100 Days meeting 10 times for up to 100 minutes during the 14 weeks. [2] A Mid-Discernment Gathering is held about 50 days into the process for large and small group dialogue and prayer, and encouraging Triplets along their journey. [3] A Discernment Celebration Gathering is held at the end of the 100 Days to celebrate answered prayer and dialogue around the insights gained.
- *Phase Three* is the follow-up phase where these things occur: [1] Plans are made to address the new insights from the 100 Days. [2] From the base of the new insights incremental, innovative actions are taken to place these new insights into action. [3] [Optional] Many congregations now move into a strategic planning process.

Outcomes: The outcomes of the 100 Days often include new insights concerning God's leadership for the congregation, a new depth of relationships and atmosphere of prayer within the congregation, and increased spiritual depth and an ongoing practice of prayer in the lives of many participants.

Impacts: The impacts of the 100 Days often include a readiness to make necessary changes to increase the vitality and vibrancy of the congregation, new spiritual and strategic energy to move forward under God's leadership, and a willingness to empower changes to improve the quality and effectiveness of ministry of the congregation.

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