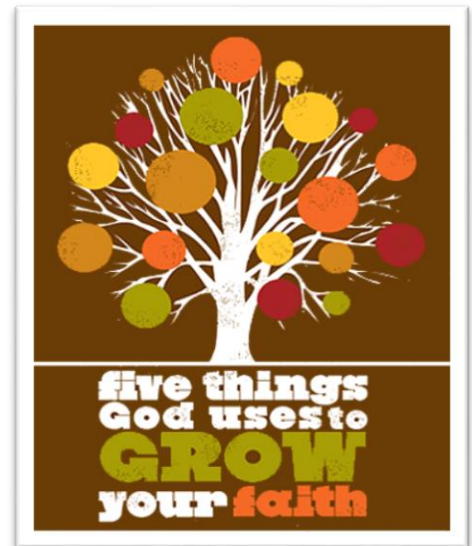


Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

March 15, 2016

One of the frequent topics around CBF is our commitment to the practice of "The Five Things." The most frequent way we describe these "things" is as "WORSHIP, CONNECT, GROW, SERVE, and GO." Readers of this column are surely familiar with these, but here they are once more:

1. **WORSHIP:** We participate in corporate worship somewhere at least once a week, every week of our lives, on vacation, work trips, or whatever.
2. **CONNECT:** We participate in a small face-to-face accountability, prayer, and study group each and every week. This can be a Sunday School class, but it can also be another small group at another time during the week.
3. **GROW:** We participate in the regular, daily practice of disciplines that support spiritual growth, notably prayer, Bible reading, and stewardship.
4. **SERVE:** We use our gifts and abilities to do something to build up the local Body of Christ in some way every week. This could be the same thing, such as singing in the choir or teaching Sunday School, but it could also be something different every week.
5. **GO:** We pay attention every day to possibilities for witness and encouragement that God brings our way, speaking humbly and gently in the power of the Holy Spirit.



We practice these disciplines in our daily lives, not because we have to, but *because these disciplines are essential nutrients for spiritual growth*. What may not be quite so clear is that **all of our church organization is structured to support, enhance, and encourage our personal practice of "The Five Things."**



Even if you're familiar with this general idea, it's useful to be reminded of how the pieces fit together, so here's another go at that. It's important that each of us has a basic understanding of what follows

WORSHIP TEAM: CBF By-Law 3.5.1 -
"The WORSHIP Team's function is to plan, coordinate and evaluate the various worship gatherings of the congregation."

1. Works with pastoral staff in planning and evaluating all worship activities of the church;
2. Evaluates the need for changes in current worship services, including the need for new services;
3. Provides for services such as audio-visual support and decorations for special events;
4. Works with the DISCIPLESHIP Team to plan annual churchwide spiritual enrichment events;
5. Works with the pastoral staff and the MISSION Team to schedule missionary speakers.





FELLOWSHIP TEAM: CBF By-Law 3.6.1 -
“The functions of the FELLOWSHIP Team are to facilitate the **identification** of persons who might benefit from association with our congregation, facilitate making **first contacts** with those persons, facilitate **welcoming** those persons when they visit, facilitate the **inclusion** of those persons in the relationship networks

of the church, and encourage appropriate **commitments** as God leads.”

1. Plans and coordinates our efforts to publicize our ministries in the community, including website, brochures, postcards, flyers, etc.;
2. Plans and coordinates our efforts to discover unchurched persons such as new residents;
3. Plans and coordinates our outreach activities;
4. Works with the WORSHIP Team to coordinate our various welcoming efforts for guests;
5. Plans and coordinates follow-up with guests who visit us;
6. Plans and coordinates prospective member and new member classes, such as **CLASS 101**.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM: CBF By-Law 3.7.1 -
“The DISCIPLESHIP Team’s function is to organize, coordinate, staff, and evaluate the teaching ministries of the church.”

1. Plans and coordinates all small-group ministries, including, but not limited to, Sunday morning Bible study, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, weekday, and home studies;
2. Develops and administers programs and classes to help seekers become mature & reproducing Disciples, including **CLASS 201**;
3. Develops and administers a discipleship curriculum with various levels of achievement that equips believers in all areas of Christian life;
4. Develops and administers effective and age-appropriate teaching strategies to accomplish these purposes across the life-cycle from birth to old age;
5. Recruits, trains, and supports leadership for small-group discipleship ministries;
6. Works with the WORSHIP Team to plan annual churchwide spiritual enrichment events.



MINISTRY TEAM: CBF By-Law 3.8.1 - “The primary function of the MINISTRY Team is to facilitate congregants’ discovery of their own spiritual gifts and abilities and then to assist them in finding ways to deploy those abilities in the life of the church. An expression of this is the development of the leadership slate.”

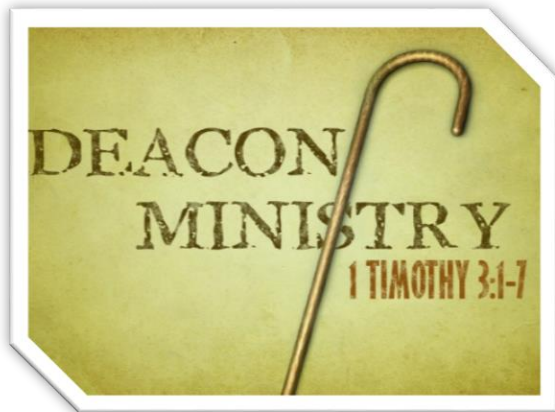
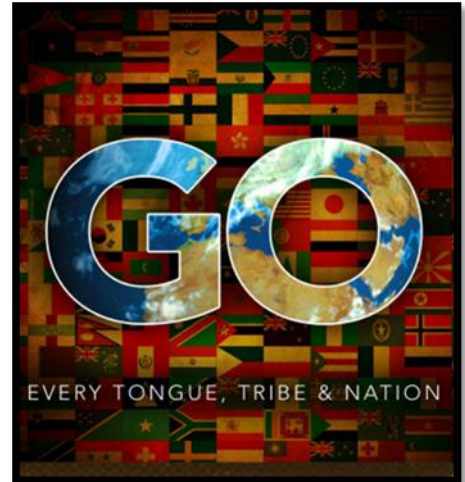


1. Develops and administers programs to help members discover their spiritual gifts;
2. Develops and administers programs to turn members into servant ministers by helping every member of the church find a meaningful place of service that best expresses her or his gifts and abilities, including **CLASS 301**;

3. Develops and administers programs to maintain current spiritual gift and interest information for all members;
4. Recruits, trains, and supports leadership for ongoing ministries;
5. Maintains and publishes information about current ministry needs and opportunities for short-term assignments;
6. Produces periodic church directories.

MISSION TEAM: CBF By-Law 3.9.1 - *“The function of the MISSION Team is to organize, coordinate, and evaluate the missional education and missional activities of the church beyond our own congregation.”*

1. Coordinates mission education for all age groups, including evangelism training, including **CLASS 401**;
2. Promotes missional praying, giving, and going throughout the congregation;
3. Works with the pastor, other staff, and the WORSHIP Team to schedule missionary speakers throughout the year;
4. Coordinates all missional activity, including local benevolent activities.



DEACONS: CBF By-Law 3.3.4 - *“In keeping with the New Testament description of the role for Deacons, the CBF Deacons are set apart to minister to the spiritual and human needs of the congregation. Such ministry may include such things as visitation of the sick, helping members at a time of personal crisis, and seeking congregational involvement to assist members in times of emergency or hardship.*

“The Deacons shall prepare the ingredients for and assist the Ministerial Staff in serving Communion to the congregation.

“The Deacons will assist the Ministerial Staff and candidates for baptism as requested.

“Should an occasion arise when the fellowship of the church is threatened, the Deacon Ministry shall work with the Ministerial Staff, the affected individuals, and other church organizations, as appropriate, to assist in resolving the conflict.”

- Develop and coordinate a robust program of Congregational Care, Family Ministry, and Support Groups

ADMIN TEAM: CBF By-Law 4.1.1 - *“The ADMINISTRATION Team is responsible for most aspects of the financial and legal management of Columbia Baptist Fellowship.”*

1. Develops procedures for the administration of church business, including preparation and maintenance of a Personnel Policy Handbook;
2. Ensures that CBF is in compliance with all current tax and legal requirements;
3. Ensures that the congregation has adequate policies of insurance;



4. Ensures that office equipment is up-to-date and functioning properly;
5. Provides oversight of the maintenance and operation of church vehicles;
6. Proposes an Annual Proposal for Ministry Support (budget);
7. Provides oversight of the handling of all church funds;
8. Ensures the conduct of an annual audit.

CHURCH COUNCIL: CBF By-Law 3.4.3 - *“The congregation, through the Church Council, shall be responsible for developing, coordinating, and calendaring the ministries and events that are in keeping with the Mission Statement of the Columbia Baptist Fellowship.”*

1. Facilitates the discernment of God’s Vision for the next decade at CBF;
2. Develops a Strategic Plan for the implementation of that Vision;
3. Coordinates the calendaring and achievement of each Team’s assigned goals;
4. Monitors the progress of each group and makes periodic reports to the congregation.

This whole plan is really quite elegant, *but it doesn’t work unless every one of us is doing our part*, using our gifts, sharing the vision, and helping to see that everything necessary gets done.

Is your link connected and up to speed?

Meaningful participation is the Way to **Joy** ☺!

Dave

