



# The Church Renewal Lab

## *Change the Atmosphere...Journey to Mission*

The Church Renewal Lab is a two-year renewal journey for the purpose of developing intentional missional congregations that make more and better disciples who transform lives and communities for Christ

### The Renewal Lab Objective

The Renewal Lab has been designed to come along side any congregation seeking to revitalize ministry by regaining a focus on their missional calling.

Congregations participating in the Renewal Lab will begin a journey toward:

- ✓ Identifying a unique mission and vision
- ✓ Developing tools for making more and better disciples
- ✓ Becoming Gospel-centered in everything they do
- ✓ Changing the atmosphere through congregational health
- ✓ Implementing the priorities of the Acts 2:42-47 N.T. church

### The Renewal Lab Process

The Renewal Lab is a two-year journey toward establishing vibrant missional faith communities by providing:

- ✓ Cohorts of 5-10 churches journeying together
- ✓ Quarterly renewal training (*The Learning Labs*)
- ✓ A three-step process: Listen. Imagine. Do.
- ✓ Peer Learning Environments
- ✓ Team formation to help guide the renewal process
- ✓ Congregational Involvement
- ✓ Multiple coaches for various aspects of ministry
- ✓ Unpacking the essentials and tools of renewal

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:42

## The Essence of the Renewal Journey

Every congregation's journey through the Renewal Lab process is unique to that congregation. The renewal process is grounded in Several Key Activities, sustained by Four Essentials, and devoted to One Goal.



### One Goal

The One Goal is to be MISSIONAL:

Missional means joining God on His mission of redeeming everyone He calls and restoring everything He creates.

*We desire to be communities of grace focused on the Gospel and communities of blessing focused on justice and mercy.*



### Four Essentials

The Essentials on which the Renewal Lab focuses include: ABIDING, VISION, LEADERSHIP, and HEALTH

### Several Key Activities

Three key activities direct the Lab—LISTEN, IMAGINE, and DO

#### Step 1: LISTEN

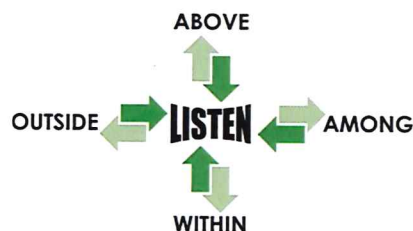
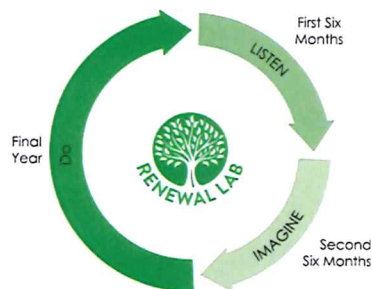
The first 9 months are devoted to four-directional listening.

LISTEN *from ABOVE* to determine what God is saying in His Word about his will and his way.

LISTEN *from AMONG* to determine what the congregation is saying about their gifts and passions.

LISTEN *from OUTSIDE* to determine what the community and culture are saying about their needs and opportunities.

LISTEN *from WITHIN* to determine what the Holy Spirit is calling us uniquely to do.



#### Step 2: IMAGINE

The next 3 months of the renewal process focuses on imagining a God preferred future.

#### Step 3: DO

The final year focuses on implementing the initiatives that will change the atmosphere and assist congregations in their journey to mission.



### The Renewal Toolbox

Throughout the renewal journey five revitalization tools are utilized: a visioning tool, a Gospel-telling tool, a disciple-making tool, a church vitality tool and an implementation tool.



## Congregational Teams



Every congregation forms a renewal team. Smaller congregations (25-125 in morning attendance) select 3-5 individuals who have renewal passions and leadership gifts. Larger congregations (125 or more in attendance) form teams of departmental leaders representing the following areas of ministry: Pastor and/or a Team Leader, Elder, Deacon, Prayer, Worship, Discipleship, Outreach, Youth, Children, and Assimilation/Hospitality.

Renewal Lab teams gather monthly in their local congregations. The Congregational team members support each other as they advance towards a more mission-focused congregational vision. The Renewal Lab Team helps articulate a congregational vision by naming:

- 1) God's mission in the world
- 2) God's vision for our church
- 3) Values that support the vision
- 4) Objectives that flow from the vision

## The Learning Labs

Learning labs are the heart of the Renewal Lab experience. Each summer new cohorts of Renewal Lab congregations begin their two-year journey of revitalization with the first of eight quarterly learning labs. Each lab has a particular renewal focus (see below).

At each learning lab pastors (and/or a key congregational leader) gather for a Thursday and Friday training event focused on practical aspects of implementing the renewal process. Their congregational Renewal Lab teams join them on Saturday for a retreat which includes worship, training, departmental coaching and team visioning.

### Learning Lab Schedule

(Year 1...Visioning)

\*Learning Lab 1: LISTEN – Sept. 21-23, 2023

\*Learning Lab 2: TELL— Jan. 18-20, 2024

*Pastor's Conference Feb. 24-Feb. 29, 2024*

\*Learning Lab 3: FORM – April 25-27, 2024

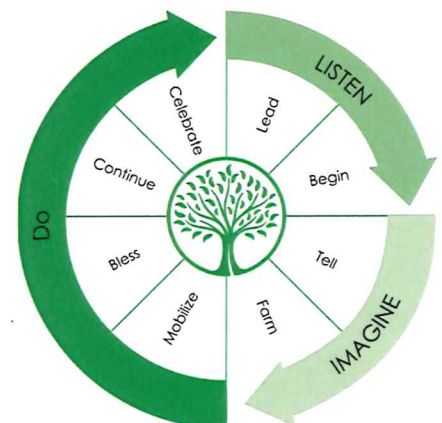
(Year 2..Implementing)

\*Learning Lab 4: BLESS— Sept. 12-14, 2024

\*Learning Lab 5: MOBILIZE — Jan. 16-18, 2025

\*Learning Lab 6: CONTINUE — April 24-26, 2025

\*Gatherings are virtual



## Registration for the Renewal Lab

Each two-year Renewal Lab cohort is composed of 5-10 regionally connected congregations. Qualifications for registration include:

- ✓ A desire to be more mission-focused in the totality of ministry
- ✓ A willingness to invest energy and prayer in visioning and planning for the future
- ✓ A leadership team willing to take the risks that change
- ✓ A committed core of individuals willing to serve on a renewal team
- ✓ A belief that Christ can use your congregation to make a redemptive difference in your community and beyond

## Renewal Lab's Directors, Faculty and Coaches

Four individuals provide primary direction for the Church Renewal Lab. They are joined by multiple faculty and coaches who have particular skills, unique passions and significant life stories. Together they provide renewal content for the six Learning Labs. The directors are:

Rev. Kris Vos

Serving as a turn-around pastor and as the Executive Director of the Center for Church Renewal

Rev. Larry Doornbos

Launched and directed Vibrant Congregations and works as a church renewal consultant

Rev. Keith Doornbos

Originated the Church Renewal Lab concept and continues to serve as coach and consultant

Rev. Scott Vander Ploeg

Lead pastor of the vibrant Gospel-telling and Disciple-making Sunlight Community Church

### Testimonies:

"God used the Renewal Lab as the single most influential planning process in our church's history."

Rev. Bob Huisman (Immanuel CRC, Hudsonville, MI)

"Change is hard but I now have resources, and help, and hope. The Renewal Lab's people and ideas have changed the way I approach ministry."

Chris Rea (Church of the Savior, South Bend, IN)

### Interested in more information? Please contact...

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