

Becoming a Flourishing Church Process

Q & A as you begin



Who should be involved the Flourishing Church process?

The material is designed for current elders on session. However, other groups within the church such as deacons, staff, or ministry teams could benefit greatly from engaging in the process.

What is contained in the six sessions?

The first session introduces the process and begins to get leaders thinking about what it means to be a flourishing church. The second and third sessions help leaders discover their own health as disciples of Jesus, and develop an individual plan for continued growth. These sessions also help normalize conversations in meetings about the vitality of our personal discipleship. The fourth session looks at the five-fold gifting in Ephesians 4. This scripture passage gives leaders a better understanding of the role that God has called each person to play in the church. The fifth and sixth sessions look at the vitality of the congregation in six areas. These sessions help churches to discern where to focus energy for growth in the coming year.

How long will the process take?

It is assumed that your session or leadership group will meet monthly and therefore the process would take six months to complete. Some groups might meet two times a month and thus the material would take three months. It is recommended however, that you do not go any faster than twice a month, as there is homework and reflection that needs to be completed in between sessions. Each session takes approximately one hour to complete. Schedule timeframes are given for each agenda item. Before you begin, please appoint a group facilitator to help plan and prepare each meeting. A note to Flourishing Church facilitators can be found on pages 5 & 6.

How do we schedule time for "Becoming a Flourishing Church?"

Our experience is that in order to have personal and communal transformation as a group, you need to be prepared to devote an hour to this material each time you meet. We would not recommend adding an additional hour to an already long Session meeting. Rather, devote an hour to this material and you will find that the rest of your business will get done quicker and with a better spirit of cooperation.

What is the structure of each session?

Each session has six components. First is to prepare our hearts and minds to focus on what God wants to do in our lives and leadership. Second is to listen to the material on the video. Third is to individually reflect on what we have just heard. Fourth is to share with one another what we have heard using some targeted questions. Fifth is to decide what we will do individually or as a group in response to what we have heard. Sixth is to pray and commit ourselves and our actions to the Lord.

How do we decide what to do after the six-session process?

At the end of the process, your leadership will talk about the strengths and weakness of the church. This discussion will lead to developing an action plan for how your church will want to grow in the next year. Each church that is participating in the process will be assigned an ECO liaison. This liaison is very familiar with the available resources and how to coach your leaders in developing an action plan.

How do we register as a church?

In order to assign you a liaison, as well as to seek your feedback, we ask that all participating churches register. Each church should choose a person who will facilitate the process and keep it moving forward. Usually this facilitator would be the pastor, however it could be someone else. We ask that only the facilitator register his or her church to avoid duplicates and confusion. There are several ways to register:

1. There is a form that was in the packet that was mailed to your church that can be filled out and sent back.
2. There is a copy of the form included in the online version. See below for more information about the online content.
3. You can e-mail Kim Davis at kim@eco-pres.org with the following information:
 - Church Name • Address
 - Facilitator Name • Facilitator E-mail • Facilitator Preferred Phone Number

What materials do we need?

A paper copy of the Guidebook and a DVD will be sent to your church after the National Gathering. The church can then make copies as needed for all who are participating. All materials are also available online. To obtain online access, go to www.flourishmovement.org and register for a complimentary account. Then sign up to take the “Becoming a Flourishing Church” class, which is also complimentary.

The online format will have an electronic copy of the Guidebook, which each participant needs. All of the videos associated with each session are also available, as well as any supplemental or additional material that may be needed. For example, in Session 4 there is an additional video of Alan Hirsch explaining APEST at our National Gathering in Dallas for those that want a deeper explanation than is provided in the session.

Another valuable resource is the ECO liaison who will be assigned to your church and is available for questions. Your liaison will be particularly beneficial in the last two sessions to help your church leadership determine a path forward.

What if I want to go through the material but my church is not ready?

Obviously, the best way forward is for a whole church session or wider leadership to engage the process. However, sometimes the church is not ready or is involved with something else. If that is the case, an individual can always obtain a free account at www.flourishmovement.org and sign up for the free class “Becoming a Flourishing Church”. Taking the class will give one access to all the video and material and people will likely find some benefit by engaging in the material individually.

What if I have other questions?

You may post your questions at www.flourishmovement.org on the e-course under “Forums” and allow others to converse with you. Your ECO liaison, will contact you shortly after you register and can answer your questions. If you have questions prior to registering or receiving your liaison, please contact Lisa Johnson at lisa@eco-pres.org.