

I have to apologize first off because this Newsletter is very long and contains a lot of information, but this is the session where we finished up on CGI (Critical Gospel Impact) and where we identified common themes and developed a Ministry Action Plan for one of our common themes.

This session was difficult to explain because we tried to bring all the prior elements into the process of developing a specific ministry action plan (MAP). As we go through this process, we are getting a better understanding of what characteristics Pastor Next should have.

I will do my best to try to summarize this session.

1. BIBLICAL ANCHOR: Trina shared about new wine and new wineskins.  
***LUKE 5:33-39: They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast." He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"***

New wine, old wine skins...sometimes in the church we have new wine that needs new wine skins. Sometimes the changes that come with new wine skins are difficult for us to accept and embrace. We all prefer not to experience changes. It is far too comfortable to hold on to the old familiar things. There is no doubt that change can be difficult. This question was asked of the PEAK Team members, "Where in my life (where in our church) do I (we) need to be more flexible and more adaptable? We spent time being still and quiet and allowed the Holy Spirit to speak to us. These are some of the promptings we experienced pertaining to the above passage:

- We acknowledge that there is difficulty in the process of change.
- As we become more engaged and interactive with our community it can get uncomfortable. Having new wineskins can be uncomfortable.

- God is bringing new people to Canby Alliance Church with bigger dreams and passions. Perhaps this is part of the new wineskins?
- We have a tendency to refer to periods of church life in reference to being after something. For example, post COVID church, after Pastor Tim church, etc. We should instead look at it not so much as “after something” but some new thing that God wants to do.
- Sometimes our arms are full of “old things.” These “old things” may be good things but then God brings us a “new thing” that is even better than anything we’ve had in the past. Unfortunately, sometimes our arms are too full of the “old things” so that we cannot grab ahold of this “new thing” God is bringing us.
- Historically, we have often depended upon our own abilities, intellect, talents, gifts in our planning for church ministries but perhaps God is calling us to depend upon our faith and not our intellectual abilities. Maybe this is the new wineskin for our church.

2. **ECCLESIASTES 7:10: Don't always be asking, "Where are the good old days?" Wise folks don't ask questions like that.**

Most people are not against new wine for new wine skins but when new wine comes to us, we reject it.

3. **THREE GUIDING PILLARS AS WE DO MINISTRY ACTION PLANS:**

**LIST OF NON-NEGOTIABLES**

**METHODOLOGIES**

**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

- a. **LIST OF NON-NEGOTIABLES:** Be clear about what are the non-negotiables. This includes things like sound doctrine: inerrancy of scripture, deity of Christ, etc.
- b. **LIST OF DESIRED OUTCOMES:** Be clear about what outcome we want. For example, we want lost people who find Jesus, we want more discipleship, we want more biblical literacy.
- c. **METHODOLOGY:** This is where people argue or get upset or get their feathers ruffled. Methodology varies and this is where “new wineskins” come into play. We need to learn to be pliable and flexible when it comes to methodology.

**Suggestions:**

- Ask questions.
- Be open.
- Don't get defensive.
- At the heart of most criticism is something good.
- Remember we are part of the same family!

4. **PEAK THEMES:** Looking back at our PEAK meetings, we identified some PEAK themes that came up again and again.

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**Intentional discipleship process:**

- Empower leaders
- Evangelism training

**Loving community:**

- Welcome for non-believers

**Gospel demonstration and proclamation:**

- Demonstration of the gospel in word and deed
- Local neighborhood

5. MINISTRY ACTION PLAN (MAP): As we develop ministry action plans, we want to look at several questions and answer these questions:

**What are we going to do?**

**How are we going to do it?**

**When are we going to do it?**

**How do we know when to celebrate successes?**

As we answer these questions and develop a MAP, we want to go back to our Compass definitions for leadership, discipleship and mission. We want to refer back to our Critical Gospel Statements. Lastly, we want to look at the 3 R's (repeat, redeem, restore). We do this to be sure we are linking the MAP to what we have identified as important at CAC.

I am going to put this all together here:

**Compass definitions (leadership, mission, discipleship):**

**LEADERSHIP:** Leadership: Committed Godly servants who help and inspire others to pursue our mission.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** Discipleship is an authentic intentional connection for the purpose of passing on a growing relationship with Jesus.

**MISSION:** Mission is to advance God's kingdom in Canby by welcoming, connecting, loving and serving our neighbors in a relevant way to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

**CGI statement(s):**

- a. The Critical Gospel Impact of CAC is...**our unique building facility...for youth and community opportunities...to share the love of Christ.**
- b. The Critical Gospel Impact of CAC is,..**equipping our youth outreach for improving mental health to see lives transformed by Jesus.**
- c. The Critical Gospel Impact of CAC is...**our facility,..for the continued work of the great commission, reaching youths and the community and to provide a place for other ministries and groups as are allowed.**

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### **3 R's (repeat, redeem, restore):**

1. REPEAT:
    - a. Generational Continuity: Family members of multiple generations have made CAC their home church.
    - b. Youth and Children: There is something about youth and children that CAC has an apparent legacy of success.
    - c. Generosity: CAC is known for not just financial generosity, but attendees seem to be generous with their time.
  2. REDEEM:
    - a. Leadership Transitions: There have been leadership transitions that have been done but there have been a number that have not been done well.
    - b. Handling Conflicts: Conflicts are inevitable, and they are not necessarily unhealthy. How we deal with conflicts in a healthy manner is important to allow conflicts to cause personal and spiritual growth.
  3. RESTORE:
    - a. There may be a pattern that we need to break. The spiritual realm does not follow the same rules as the natural world so we may need to address this on a spiritual level.
6. **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:** Our homework assignment is to develop Ministry Action Plans for the common PEAK themes we have identified.

### **Here is an example of a MAP for LOVING COMMUNITY:**

**WHAT:** Build deeper relationships by inviting people into our homes (especially newcomers to CAC). Studies have shown that one of the most impactful things we can do in the church involves inviting people into our homes and eating together.

#### **HOW:**

- Prayer coverage for this.
- Meals together in each other's homes.
- Leaders lead by example.
- Identify a champion for the planning and implementation of this.
- Teach and multiply: allow people to tell stories about how this impacted them, both as a host and as a recipient of the invitation.

#### **WHEN:**

- Next 6 weeks, by 3/19/2024.
- Identify a champion by 5/1/2024.
- Go public 6/1/2024.
- Tell Stories by 8/1/2024.

#### **CELEBRATE:**

- Celebrate at our next PEAK Team meeting, 3/19/2024.
- Celebrate finding a champion and "commission" that person, 5/1/2024.
- Go public, 6/2024.
- Celebrate this movement, 8/2024.

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Well, there you have it! Sorry to unload so much on you at one time. **Church family, we have some homework for you:** In thinking about Pastor Next, we would like you to either talk to one of the PEAK Team Members (listed below) or email one of the elders with what you think are the top 3 characteristics of Pastor Next.

Here are the remaining sessions:

*March 19 – MAP II Session–this is where the PEAK Team will present their MAP for a number of the other common themes.*

*TBD–Remember Session–what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?*

*This is also the session where we will talk about the Pastor Next profile.*

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley, Adam Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase.

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