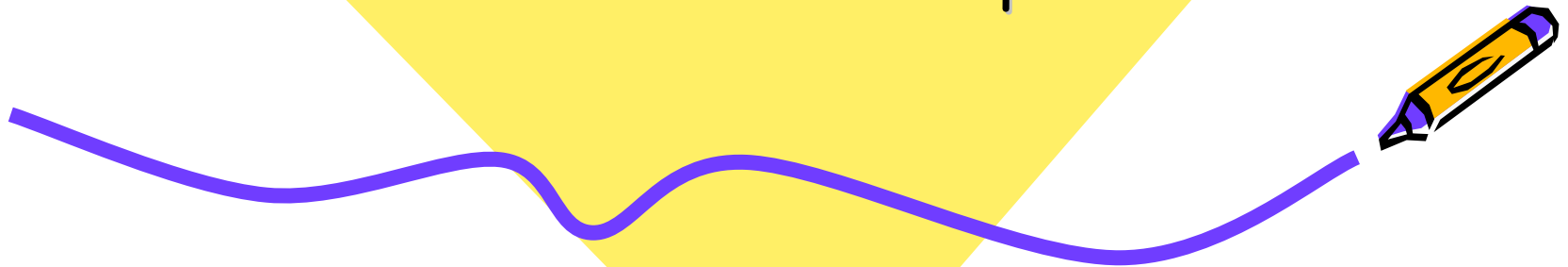




"Connecting With
Congregations ...Equipping
Leaders for Mission"

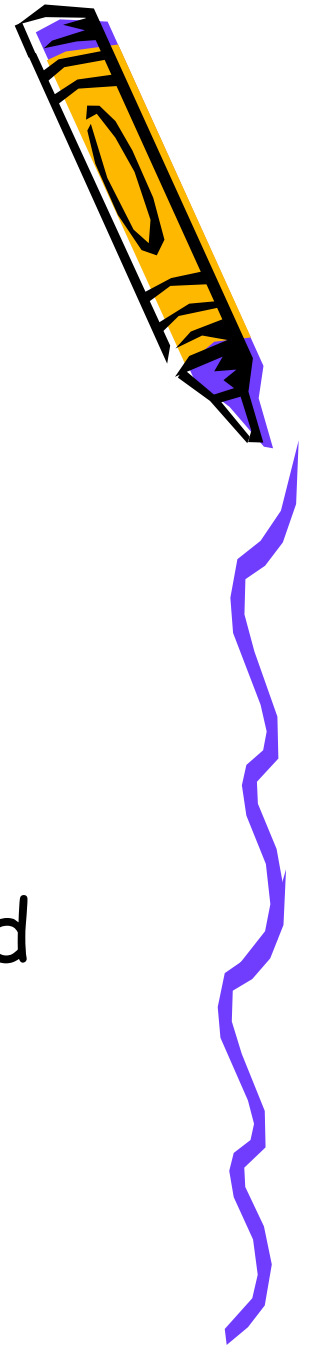
Christian Education Update



Lutheran Schools - LCMS

- Early Childhood Centers 1368
- Elementary Schools 1018
- High Schools 102

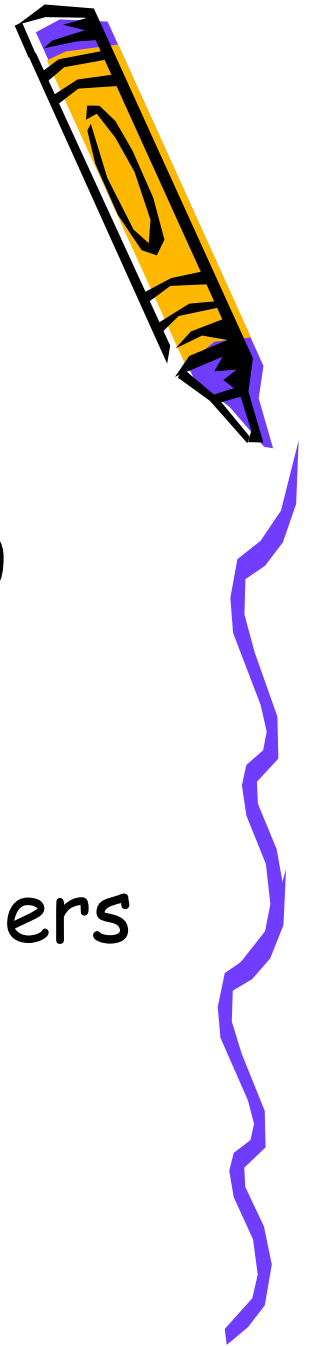
- More growth in early childhood and high schools than elementary



Minnesota South District

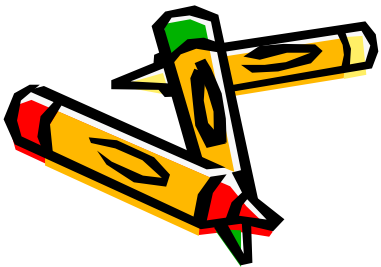
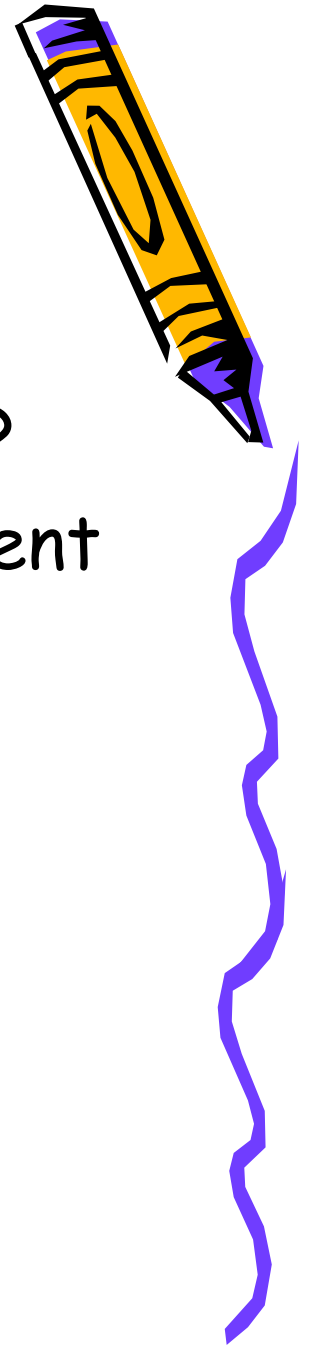
- Early Childhood Centers 51
- Elementary Schools 50
- High Schools 7

- Small schools are closing - 2 teachers
- Tuition driven



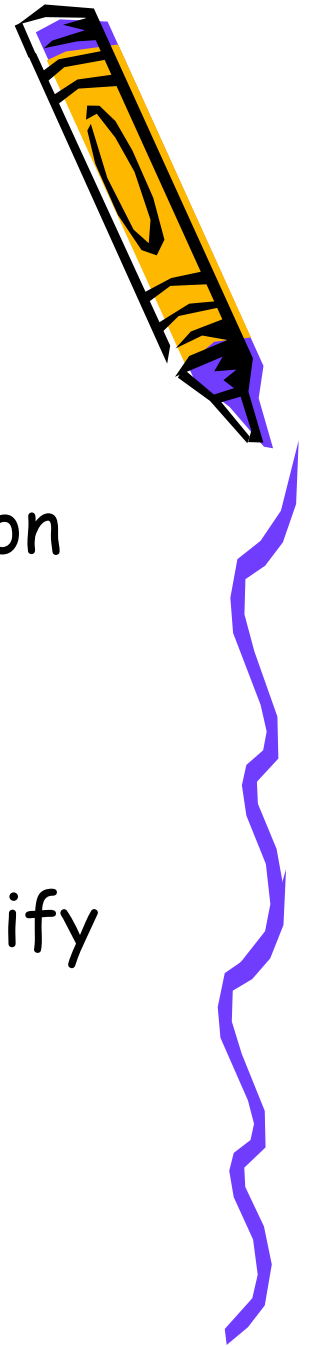
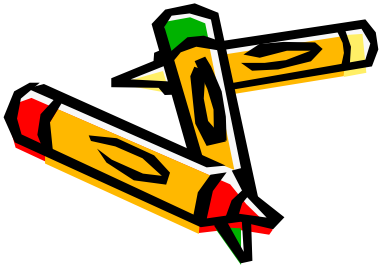
Future of Lutheran Schools

- Are students being reached for Christ?
- What is the value of spiritual nourishment in the congregation?
- For many communities the school is the connection to the community.
- Large schools are getting larger and smaller schools smaller.



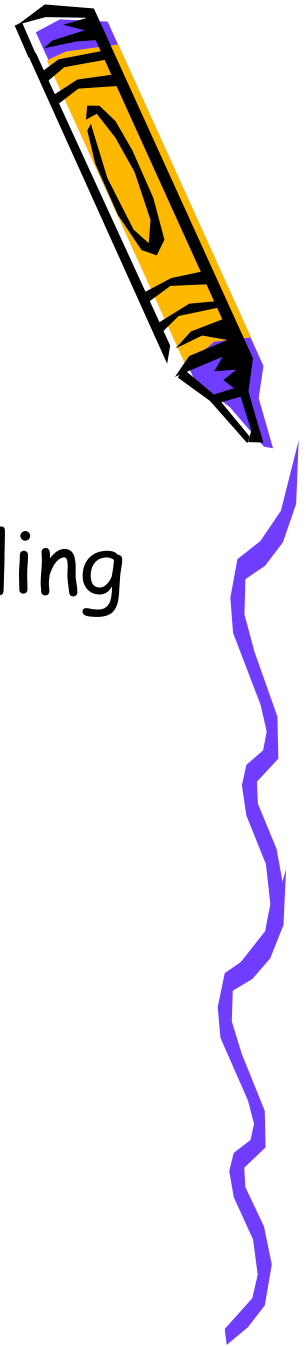
Challenges

- Enrollment base - less baptized
- Financial - less dollars from congregation
- Cost of a Christian education
- Parents want the best
- Competition
- As LCMS membership shrinks our identify as Lutheran schools will have less significance.



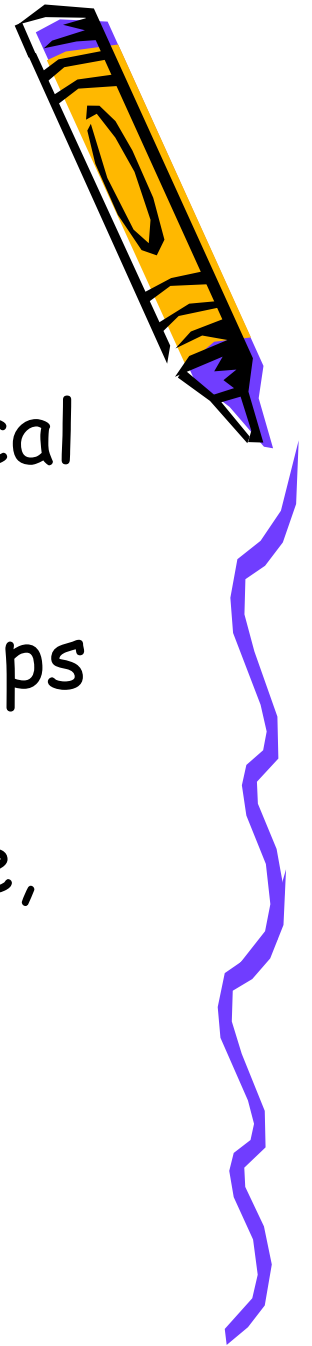
Change Process

- See the need for change
- Mark twice - cut once (my remodeling experience)
- Implement - evaluate, course correction



Some Gleanings

- Passionate faculty/staff are critical
- A unity of purpose is critical
- Christ motivated loving relationships are critical
- Sharing a unity of purpose, culture, and climate leads to amazing God viewed success.



Sunday School - What Has Changed?

- Ecclesiastes 1:9 - There is nothing new under the sun.
- It has run its course.
- It's no longer effective in today's world.
- It's not a priority for parents today.
- It's out of touch with today's educational practices..



Technology

- Now it is hard to find a child who is not familiar with computers, the Internet, e-mail, instant messaging, cell phones, etc.
- Children may expect technology in the Sunday school.
- DVD and CD players in your classroom



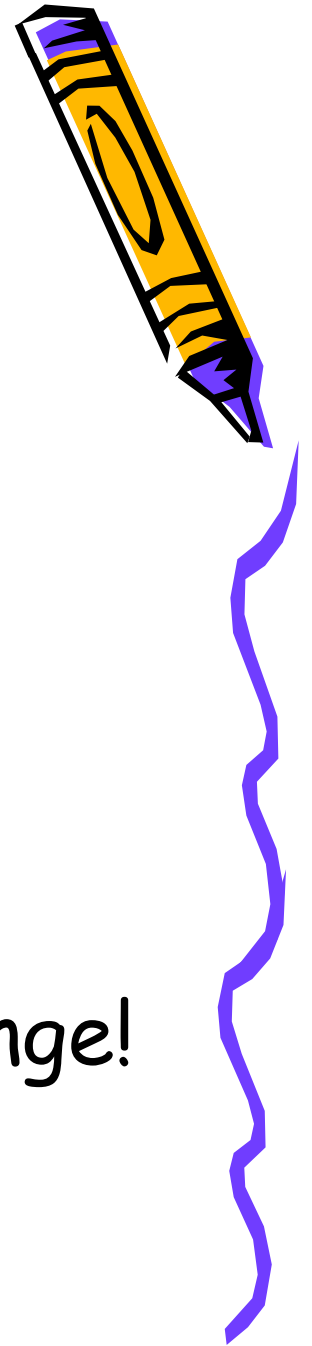
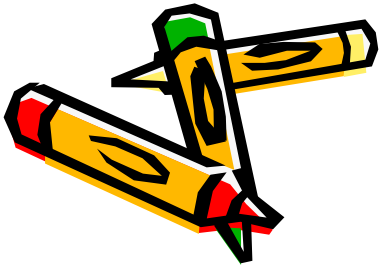
Volunteers Are Scarce

- Smaller and older populations impact the volunteer pool.
- Volunteers tire quickly if overworked or don't get a break
- Volunteers have more choices for involvement in society.



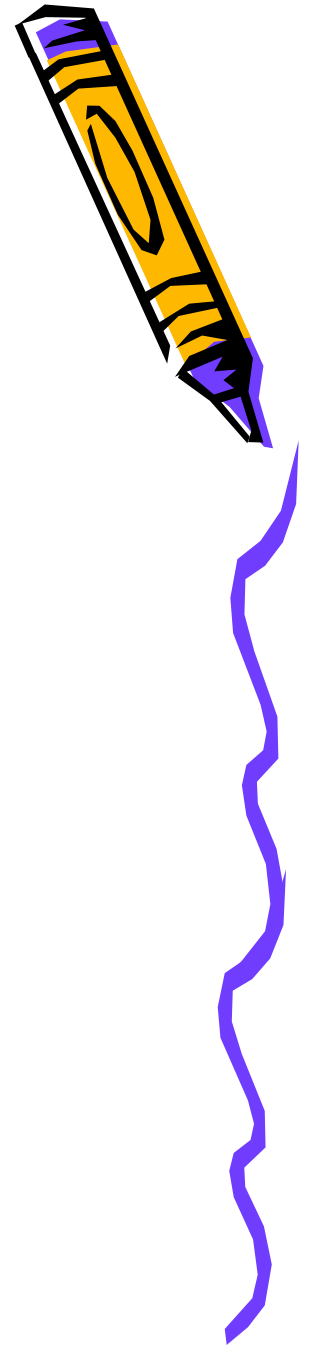
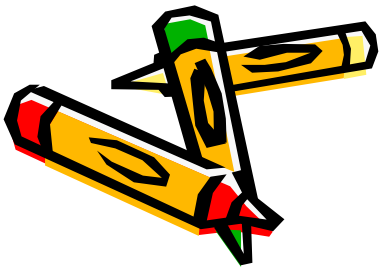
The Changing Face of the Sunday School

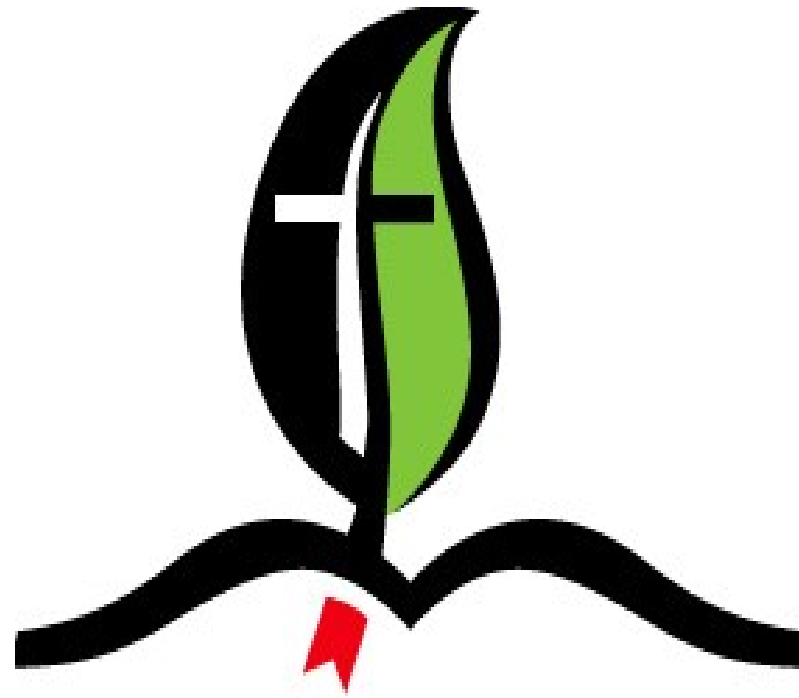
- Phonograph records popular in the 60's
- Filmstrips popular in the 70's
- Cassette tapes popular in the 80's
- Videotape popular in the 90's
- But our best resource doesn't change!



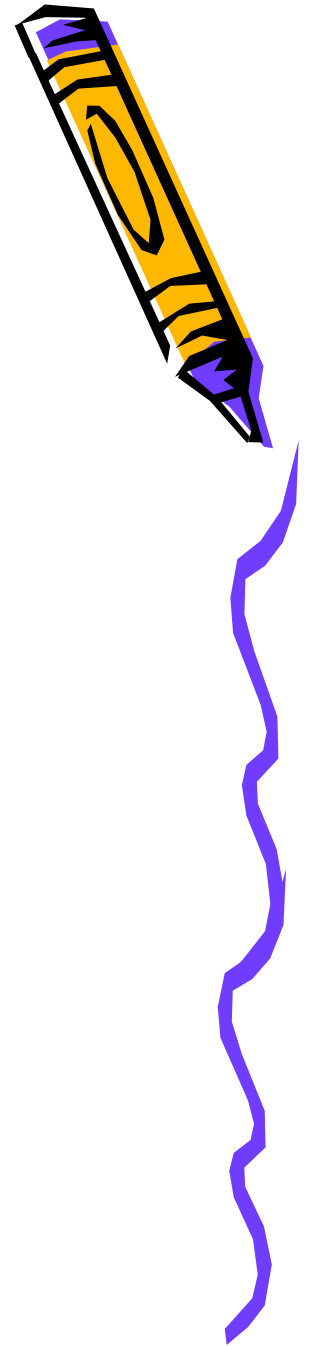
Do You Remember?

- 60's - Resource Packet for the Teacher
- 1971—Mission:Life
- 1977 -New Life in Christ
- 1985—Our Life in Christ
- 2006—Growing in Christ



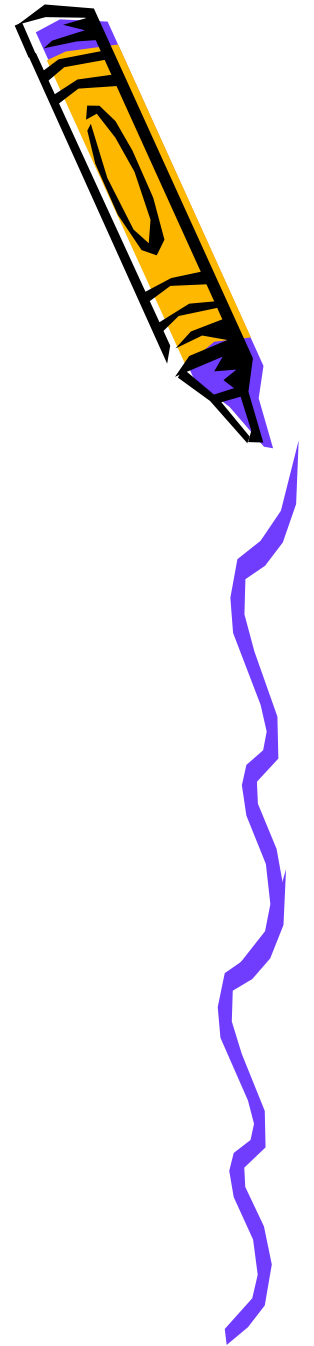


Growing
in **CHRIST**



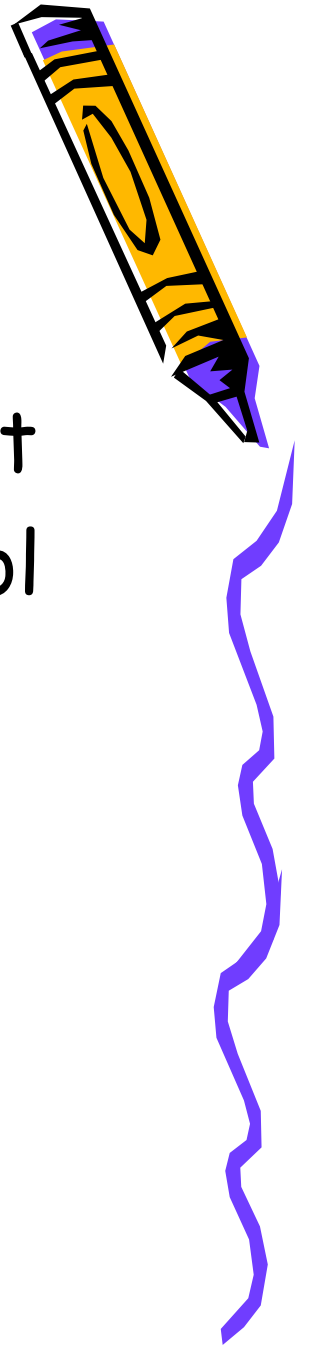
Growing in Christ

- DVD - look at end of sectional
- Curriculum Overview
- Commercials
- Biblical, Lutheran, Hands-on,
- Easy to teach, Fresh and New



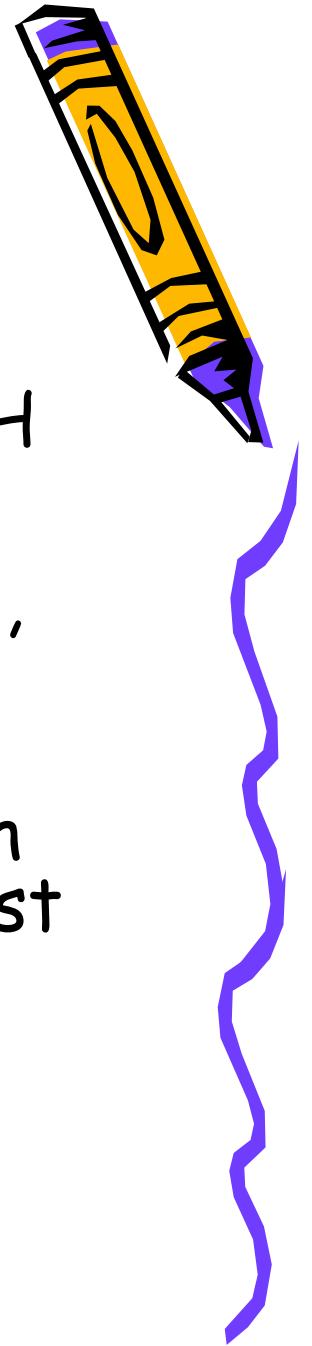
Resources

- Sunday School Analysis Instrument
- 30 Ways to Enhance Sunday School Visibility
- New Approaches to Sunday School
- Sunday School Basics



One More Resource

- Sunday School Training Workshop - CPH
- Sunday School Basics
- Learn How To: motivate staff members, teach more effectively, generate more enthusiasm for the Sunday School
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Mankato, June 2 (Sat.) 9:00 - Noon, Cost is \$20
(www.sundayschool.cph.org/workshops/)



Why is the Sunday School So Vital?

- Because it carries out the Great Commission
- Because it teaches God's Word
- For growth toward maturity
- To pass on to future generations understanding in Christian living as part of the overall discipleship process.

