

## Why is discipleship important?

“What you have heard from me, through many witnesses, entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.”

—2 Timothy 2:2

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

“Every church should be able to answer two important questions:

1. What is our plan for making disciples?
2. Does our plan work?”

—Dallas Willard

“The Missional Discipleship Initiative has helped me to focus on my purpose and mission as a Christian instead of being busy and not accomplishing the ultimate goal ... I realized that many people have a lot of questions and barely anyone is available to listen or share [with them].



“What I appreciate about the Initiative is the challenge to be a better disciple, to engage with others ... and to live a practical life influencing others.”

—Daniel Guillet,  
*Missional Discipleship Initiative 2013–2014*

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## Missional Discipleship and Leadership Mentoring

*Returning to the relational roots of the Great Commission*



**Sponsored by**  
Mennonite Mission Network  
and Mennonite Hispanic Initiative







"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." —Matthew 28:19

### Why now?

There's no better time to start making disciples than now! Whatever the age, whatever the history, everyone has God-given gifts to share. Share yourself with others and, as you go, grow together as disciples of Christ.

Effective disciple-making takes place through close relationships. **The Missional Discipleship Initiative strengthens congregations and their ministries through intentional, authentic, and relational disciple-making.**

Relational disciple-making isn't for the impatient. Although the discipleship training lasts eight months, the work of disciple-making takes years.

### History

In an effort to grow and train church leaders through relational discipling, Racial/Ethnic congregations expressed their need for tools to do this effectively. In response, this model of disciple-making was developed by Mennonite Mission Network personnel, Marvin Lorenzana and Del Hershberger.

## Stage 1

### Recruitment

A cohort of three to five interested congregations, which are in the same geographical area, will participate in the initiative together.

### Training

A weekend workshop will train key leaders of participating congregations in the following topics:

- What it means to be "missional" and why it's essential.
- Making disciples by making friends.
- How to grow leaders within the congregation.

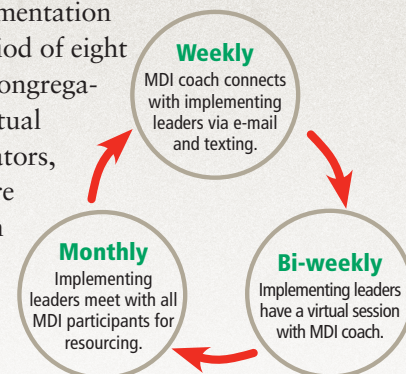
### Launching

The participating leaders will meet for a weekend launch event with the Missional Discipleship Initiative coach.

## Stage 2

### Implementation

The discipleship implementation will happen over a period of eight months. Within each congregation, a number of spiritual mentors, called Facilitators, will recruit two or more people to participate in their group. During this time, pastors of participating congregations will meet every two weeks for online coaching, resourcing, progress assessment, and encouragement from the Missional Discipleship Initiative coach.



## Stage 3

### Reflection weekend

At the end of the eight-month process, key leaders and participants will gather to share transformational stories and challenges from the implementation phase.