**Why Practice Discipleship? Video – Discussion Guide**

*The video can be viewed or downloaded from* [*https://vimeo.com/84421807*](https://vimeo.com/84421807)

After viewing the video, consider these questions:

One speaker says that in the new millennium, the church is trying to re-orient itself. Others say we have problems connecting with young adults (and even younger persons) and that some people have “deflector shields” up against the church’s message. How have you observed this happening in your community?

Participants identified several strategies for reaching beyond the walls of the church in this missional age:

* Taking the message to people where they are, in language they understand
* Showing God’s love to the community
* Moving from hearing people who are different, to understanding them, to accepting them
* Moving from “doing church” – gathering for worship and typical activities – to “being the church” and living out the Gospel for others

How is your congregation living into these strategies? What ideas do you have for enhancing your efforts?

One speaker notes that the new/old dichotomy is not helpful. Instead we need to communicate as we have and have additional, new ways to share the Gospel with people outside the church. What kind of new, additional ways of being church might work in your context?

The speakers agreed that there is inspiration, affirmation and collegiality when congregations come together to address these issues, as they do in Practice Discipleship. What opportunities might you have to collaborate with other congregations to better connect with your community?

*Video and study guide by Bob Fisher, assistant to the bishop for mission interpretation, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA*