

Vision ONE Pastors' Institute – Testimonials

“Probably the most important and fundamental dynamic of the Vision ONE Pastoral Development seminars to me was, and is, VNE's desire and ability to bring together pastors and church leaders from many different denominations and church culture backgrounds. This heart of unity, in my opinion, is a major component to VI, simply because I believe God commands blessing from the place of unity (Ps. 133).

Secondly, the stats presented were eye openers and challenged me to think (and rethink) the future as well as the present (ie: are the things we are doing really making a long-term difference).

Third, was the fresh infusion of why we do what we do (it's about souls) and how each one of us as pastors need to modeling the lifestyle before our people. I also can't seem to escape the "irreducible core" of loving God, loving others, and making disciples. From a church body perspective, we are poised to see this lived out in a greater way, and I'm excited to engage the process more fully.”

Pastor in New Hampshire

“The V1 seminars were extremely thought-provoking and challenging. What I learned there is shaping how I think about my role as a pastor and how I lead the church into God's Kingdom mission. I am restructuring my priorities and my weekly schedule in order to spend more time with key leaders and future leaders in the church. I am placing greater emphasis on discipling and mentoring these people. And although we are just at the beginning of the V1 process, there is already a growing awareness of the need for us all to be more intentional in outreach and evangelism.

Just this week I challenged our deacon board to begin thinking about ways that they can lead our congregation to bless our town and meet needs in the name of Jesus. They were very responsive to this call, and this if from a board that historically has been very inward focused, thinking only of budgets and buildings, not about the community. I'm excited about what God is going to do in me and in our church in the coming months through V1.”

Pastor in Vermont

“I thank God for the VNE seminars for they truly transformed my understanding. Through the seminars I was given a new pair of glasses through which I could see a different way of reaching out and living the Christian life in a community. In some ways, nothing was new because we were looking at the texts that I have so often worked through before. This time, however, God used the seminars as well as the one-on-one conversations to speak to me in new ways. Not only did I understand the shift in thinking but I could see how I needed to approach my work week, who I needed to meet with, and where my time needed to be invested. I find myself talking more with the congregation about building relationships and more importantly I find myself building those relationships myself. I feel like I woke up in a new world where I am now sitting with Jesus looking out with Him on the harvest. I see His heart and I want it.”

Pastor in Massachusetts

“VNE has shown us a whole new paradigm for doing church—firmly grounded in scripture but just what we need for doing evangelism and building strong Christians in the 21st century! I now view ministry differently, I mentor my ministry leaders differently, and I know my colleagues in ministry here feel the same way. VNE has demonstrated that evangelism and discipleship are two sides of the same coin. You can't have one without the other. Like an acorn sprouting in the ground, transformative change has started at our church. The ultimate result will be astounding!”

Pastor in Connecticut

“The sessions challenged my understanding of evangelism/discipleship. I have tended to view evangelism and discipleship as separate spiritual disciplines. I came away with a new appreciation of the important relationship between the two and for the process of intentional evangelism and discipleship. Far too often, I have been willing to skip over the phases (processes) that God wants us to experience in order to rush to the goal, only to be frustrated by the results(because, as we learned, the goal is realized through the relational journey with Christ and one another).

Our church is very enthusiastic about our partnership with VNE and about all that the Lord will do as we commit (recommit) our ways to Him. The statistics that were shared concerning the plight of NE churches fits us perfectly and by God's grace, we will begin to see that change for the glory of God and His Kingdom. Though we are only beginning, our church family has already been greatly encouraged.”

Senior Pastor in Massachusetts

“I have really enjoyed the Pastor’s Seminars. I have long believed Evangelism to be process rather than event(s). What is most exciting -- “Follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men” now has a New England model thanks to Vision One. Vision One training has given me a backup I have been waiting for since coming back to serve in New England...”

Pastor, Vermont