

MAKE DISCIPLES - DO JUSTICE - FOSTER UNITY - SHARE JESUS

2021 - 2022

VISION NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL REPORT



ACCELERATING EVANGELISM

BUILDING, SUPPORTING, AND EQUIPPING
NETWORKS AND MINISTRIES

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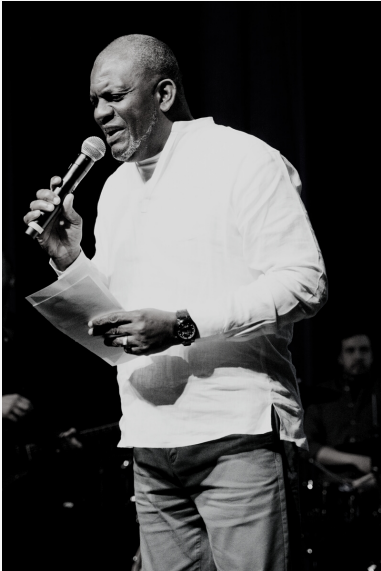
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WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACCOMPLISHED . . .



Hosted *80+ events* engaging *330+ leaders*.



Grew our Church in Action podcast to an *audience of 150k* by expanding to seven Life Changing Radio stations across New England.



Provided resources and digital content . . . more than *100k downloads and interactions*.



Partnered to host THRIVE Cape Cod with *400+ believers* engaging to do justice in their communities.



Grew Board *diversity to 75%* to ensure the “whole Church” informs our work . . . age, ethnic, race, and sex.



Completed “*Post-Pandemic Church*” research to identify what God exposed in the Church over the last two years, and what must change going forward.



GROUPS WE SERVED

The following are groups we serve through “micro-events,” which enable attendees to build relationships while sharing, learning, and collaborating to more effectively accomplish their missions.

Cape Cod Pastors

Denomination Leaders

Discipleship Pastors

Early Career Leaders

Executive Pastors

Large Church Pastors

Latino Pastors

Mid-Size Church Pastors

Missions Pastors

Multi-Site Leaders

New England Leaders

Urban Ministry Leaders

Women in Christian Leadership

Worship Leaders

COVID RELIEF INITIATIVES

The BMA Tenpoint (BMAT, formerly the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston) and Vision New England partnered to fund Covid clinics that vaccinated more than 1,000 people, provided groceries and other essentials, enhanced technology to minister online, and hosted programs to help children dealing with Covid related trauma.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reaching the Post-Pandemic World



God is calling for the renewal of His people in New England!

Ok, let me back-up a little and tell you why we believe that. We brought more than 100 diverse leaders from across New England together in focus groups to discuss what they believe God exposed in the last two years of pandemic, partisanship, killings, riots, violence, vaccines, etc., to identify what we think God wants to change in His Church. We heard some amazing

things God did but we also heard material gaps in some of the most basics of our mission as God's people. When the gaps are about the fundamentals, it sounds like God calling for the renewal of His Church, much like when the prophets called God's people to renewal in the Old Testament, as in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Based on our research, we believe God is calling for renewal in making disciples, doing justice, and fostering unity, to share Jesus. We'll unpack each in the following pages and what Vision New England will do to play our part in moving towards being a renewed Church in a post-pandemic world.

Anticipating what God will do, if we're faithful,

CHARLES

ABOUT VISION NEW ENGLAND



Vision New England is a network of more than 1,000 ministries who want to see New England transformed with the love of Jesus, which drives our mission to build, support, and equip networks that make disciples, do justice, and foster unity to share Jesus. Our key priorities are:

- Drive the message that God uses the spiritual disciplines to mold our hearts and train our bodies ... and provide methods and resources for spiritual formation and disciple making.
- Build, support, and equip networks that develop leaders and grow unity, especially across divides of race, ethnicity, sex, class, age, and politics.
- Expand THRIVE to more communities to highlight needs and opportunities to do justice, e.g. addiction, disability, mental health, racial healing, and making disciples.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Not Consumers and Partisans



Jesus' final command to his followers is to "make disciples" (Matt. 28:19), believers who know and live Jesus' teachings, evidencing the fruits of the Spirit, and disadvantaging themselves to serve others as Christ did. Our research found that while we make disciples, our methodologies are missing something. We have too many believers who are consumers, partisans, biblically illiterate, don't evidence the fruits of the Spirit, or aren't being transformed to be more like Jesus. Additionally, most lay people don't consider disciple-making "their job," aren't engaged in the spiritual practices God uses to mold us, and they aren't equipped with intentional and effective methods to make disciples. This isn't about creating another class or program. It's about changing our Church culture so disciple making is intentional, relational, accountable, and universal.

VISION NEW ENGLAND'S FOCUS



- *Support networks and ministries with training, resources, and methods to effectively make disciples.*
- *Drive message spiritual disciplines God uses to mold us ... and provide methods and resources for our spiritual formation and to make disciples*
- *Incorporate disciple making equipping into events like THRIVE and Church in Action episodes.*
- *Update our web and social media presence to share practical resources to make disciples.*
- *Refresh all our communications to ensure we're consistently communicating our call to make disciples.*



DOING JUSTICE

More Than Integrity and Transcending Politics

The Bible's command to do justice is clear. The concept of "justice," however, is not explicitly defined, leaving many of us to adopt limiting or political definitions. However, we don't need to generate our own definitions. As God does with many things it is modeled throughout Scripture, and came to life in Jesus. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, stood for truth, and challenged people and structures that oppressed others. In other words, He treated people with the love and respect due them as beings made in the image of God, addressing whatever kept them from the fullness of life that God intends for us in every sphere (shalom). Every believer needs this biblical definition of justice, and must answer God's command and call to "do justice." When we do this, when we disadvantage ourselves to love and serve others by doing justice, people want to know our Jesus and praise our God (Matt. 5:16).

VISION NEW ENGLAND'S FOCUS



- *Support networks engaged in doing biblical justice and cross pollinate resources and learnings.*
- *Expand THRIVE to increase engagement in doing justice in our communities ... especially addiction, disability, mental health, racial healing and making disciples.*
- *Spotlight needs to raise awareness and share best practices to convict and equip.*
- *Prioritize the biggest issues where collaboration is most needed, like addiction, disability, mental health, and racial reconciliation.*
- *Consistently communicate a biblical definition of justice and opportunities to engage.*



FOSTERING UNITY

Evangelistic in Witness and in Power

Jesus prayed that His followers would be one, like the Father and He are one (John 17) describing deep, intimate friendship, or theologically, unity. In that prayer He is clear that manifesting that unity will cause people to recognize Jesus as God's Son. Unity is evangelistic in witness to a divided world and in power, since we see God using it to do more than anyone had ever considered.

While there are wonderful examples of that unity in the Church today, most of us operate in networks that tend to align to race, ethnicity, class, sex, age, and politics. Sometimes this is the byproduct of something ugly, and sometimes it's for practical reasons. But in either case, it's not what Jesus prayed for and is not different than society. To have the unity for which Christ prayed, we must disadvantage ourselves to build bridges across divides that have no place in the Church.

VISION NEW ENGLAND'S FOCUS



- *Partner with and support networks to bridge divides in the Church.*
- *Host “Bridge Builder” events to accelerate leader friendships across Church divides like race.*
- *Focus Church in Action episodes on creating cross-cultural and cross-political understanding.*
- *Consistently and compellingly communicate the need to invest in unity to bridge divides in the Church.*

SHARING JESUS

Equip the Church for This New Context

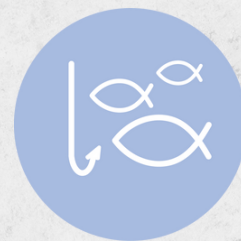


Believers who become disciples grow more like Jesus and less like our world, disadvantaging themselves to love others, answering the call to do justice, while fostering unity across divides in our world. This makes people want to know our Jesus! But change is hard, as is building the disciple making cultures that enable it. Leaders and ministries will need training and coaching to drive the change and adapt.

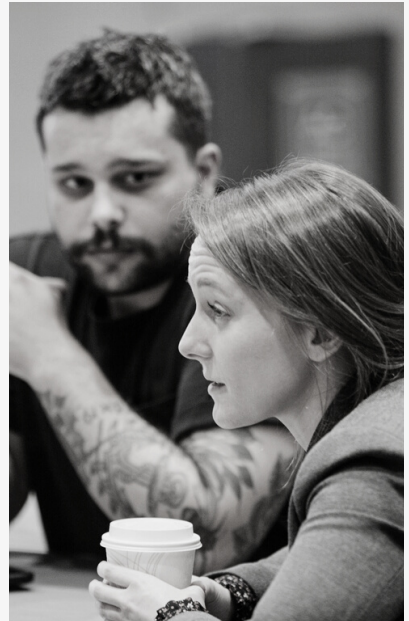
As leaders step into ministry without formal training, as is common, and becoming more so in urban and rural contexts, they'll need equipping in many practical aspects of ministry in addition to driving change.

And given the prominence of sexuality in our context we almost all need equipping to speak to this issue in truth and love, to be able to share Jesus.

VISION NEW ENGLAND'S FOCUS



- *Provide training and coaching for leaders and ministries to change their culture to be one of disciple making, doing justice, and fostering unity, i.e. renewal, to share Jesus.*
- *Offer training in “practical ministry,” e.g. understanding your call and church finances for leaders without formal training.*
- *Incorporate training to talk about sexuality in THRIVE and other applicable events.*
- *Spotlight opportunities to be equipped to better share Jesus.*



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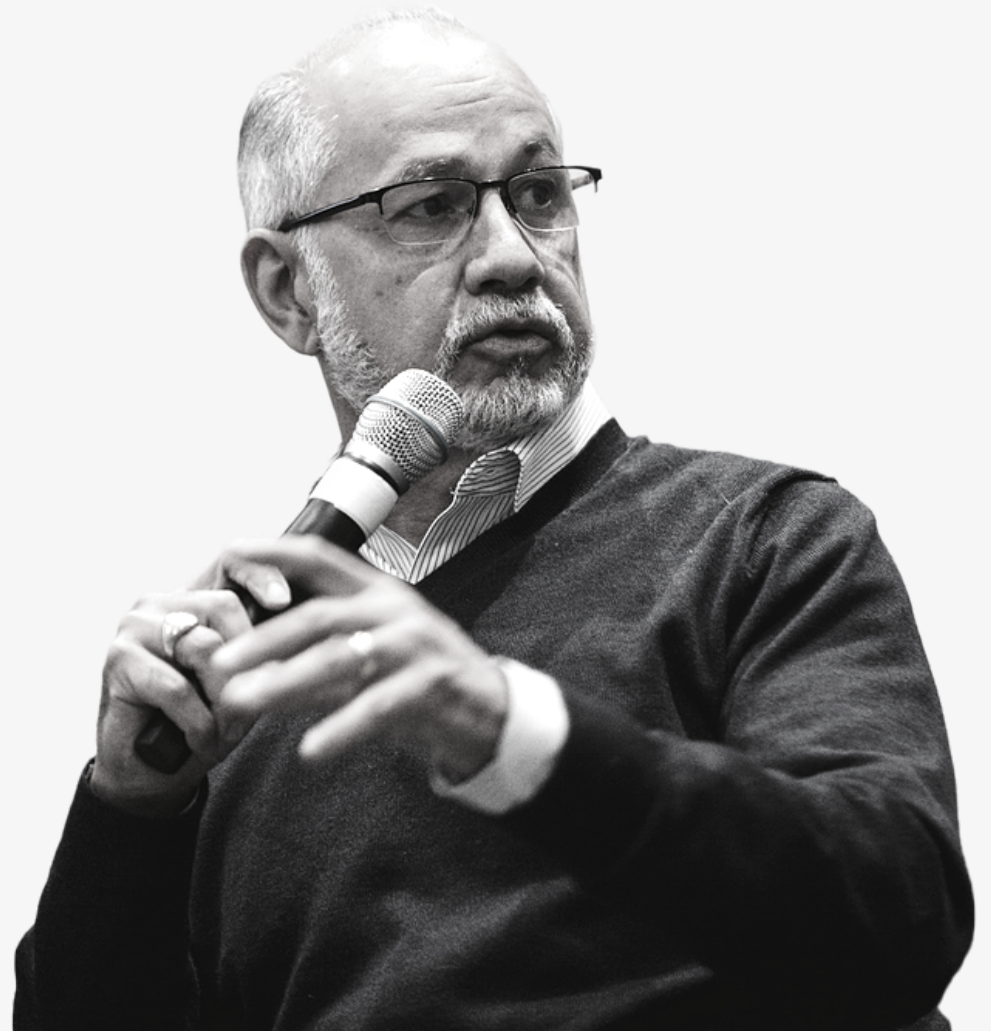
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Gordon-Conwell
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*“The Church needs to
experience a move of
the Spirit. Where is
love? Where is kindness?
Where is gentleness?
Where is patience?”*

Pastor Roberto Miranda,
rest in peace.



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