



# Dawnings

Welcome to a New Day  
In Your Church's Missional Journey

## Introduction

Dawnings creates a place for Centerville Baptist Church to develop and grow its partnership with the Holy Spirit. As you seek where God is leading the congregation, you will also be learning and practicing disciplines that deepen your personal and corporate intimacy with God's Spirit. Dawnings is a process, not a product. Dawnings is focused on our local setting, the gifts within the congregation and those of the community. God has placed you where you are for a purpose, a discerning spirit and open heart will lead you towards a missional vision. Are you ready?

## The purpose of the Dawnings contextual design process is...

Translating the ideas of Dawnings into the "language" of Centerville's culture and community. We are working in our unique context, not trying to fit our situation into another church or denominational context.

## The objective of the Dawnings contextual design phase is...

To design 9-12 months of shared congregational life informed by vision, formation, and engagement.

## Things to keep in mind

- Trust the Holy Spirit to guide you through the process.
- Dawnings is an opportunity to build a place of creativity and imagination. This is a "guide" built to help you engage one another, not a prescriptive set of lessons.
- Building confidence and trust as a group takes time. Dawnings helps to create a safe place, giving permission for sharing, as you pray and grow together.
- You will use Psalm 23 and Lord's Prayer regularly. These two readings are recognizable and well known, thus grounding Dawnings in a place of comfort and familiarity.
- This is a discerning group, representative of the congregation looking for ways to enhance the ministries of the church. It is not a decision making body for the congregation. Any decision that would require deeper church action needs to be in line with the normal decision making avenues of the church.



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## **Dawnings Contextual Design Team Covenant**

The members of the Dawnings Contextual Design Team covenant to gather for ten, two-hour gatherings. We will go through the process of visioning, forming and engagement so that we can seek out God's plan for our church and use our experiences to plan nine to twelve months of life together for our church.

We agree to make these gatherings a priority in our life and to attend each time with an openness to the Holy Spirit, laying down our own agenda in honor of God's agenda, a willingness to be honest to and respectful of our brothers and sisters on the Team. We will continue to build our spiritual life outside of the gatherings with a special effort toward listening for God's guidance concerning the work of this Team.

We agree to pray daily at Mid-Day for the individuals on the team and the team as a whole. For any decisions that need to be made, we agree to 3 possible types of votes from each team member:

- 1) Yes, I am firmly assured of this decision
- 2) No, but I can live with this decision
- 3) No, I cannot live with this decision

We agree to continue the discussion around a decision if any one person on the Team cannot live with the decision. We also affirm the right of any member of the team to ask for re- vote on a decision, where individuals may change your previous vote. All decisions will be approached with prayer and charity for one another.

Before God we agree to this covenant and will do our part to the best of our abilities.

We agree to these gathering dates for 2014:

- 1) Sunday, September 7 at 4:00 PM
- 2) Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM
- 3) Sunday, September 21 at 4:00 PM
- 4) Sunday, September 28 at 4:00 PM
- 5) Sunday, October 5 at 4:00 PM
- 6) Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 PM
- 7) Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 PM
- 8) Sunday, October 19 at 4:00 PM
- 9) Sunday, October 26 at 6:00 PM
- 10) Sunday, November 2 at 4:00 PM

Members of the team:

Phil Bradshaw  
Susan Burton  
Judy Caldwell  
Hythe Cartwright  
Bill Dunkley  
Lee Harlowe  
Doris Mayo  
Ginny Page  
Lynnette Ritter  
Josh Weatherspoon  
Brian Harfst  
Kevin Ritter



## **The Process (10 Gatherings)**

### **Organizational Meeting**

1. Overview, Designing a Covenant, Getting Comfortable with one another

### **Discovering the Practices**

2. Vision
3. Formation
4. Engagement

### **Discerning God Among Us**

5. Vision
6. Formation
7. Engagement

### **Developing a Road Map**

8. Vision
9. Formation
10. Engagement



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## **A Psalm of David.**

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I have all that I need.  
He lets me rest in green meadows;  
he leads me beside peaceful streams.  
He renews my strength.  
He guides me along right paths,  
bringing honor to his name.  
Even when I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will not be afraid,  
for you are close beside me.  
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.  
You prepare a feast for me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.  
My cup overflows with blessings.  
Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.



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*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
for yours is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever. Amen.*

## Session 1

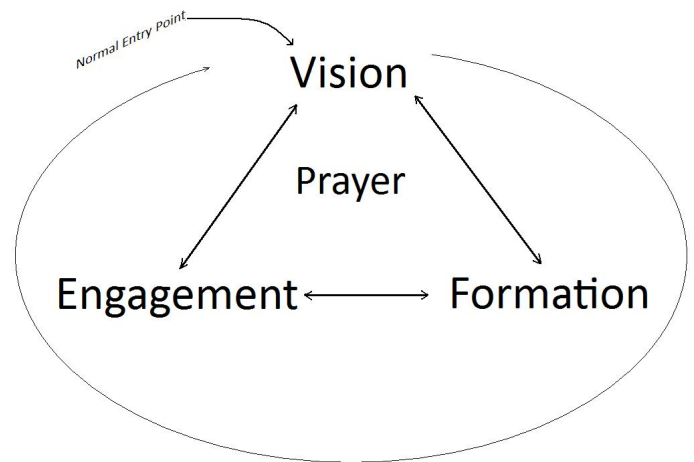
Welcome & Sharing

Psalm 23

Songs

Video

Discussion of Dawnings Process



Covenant Discussion

Exodus 19:4-11

Acts 2:37-47

1 Corinthians 11:17-28

Build a Covenant

Enter Covenant

Lord's Prayer



# Dawnings

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## Session 2

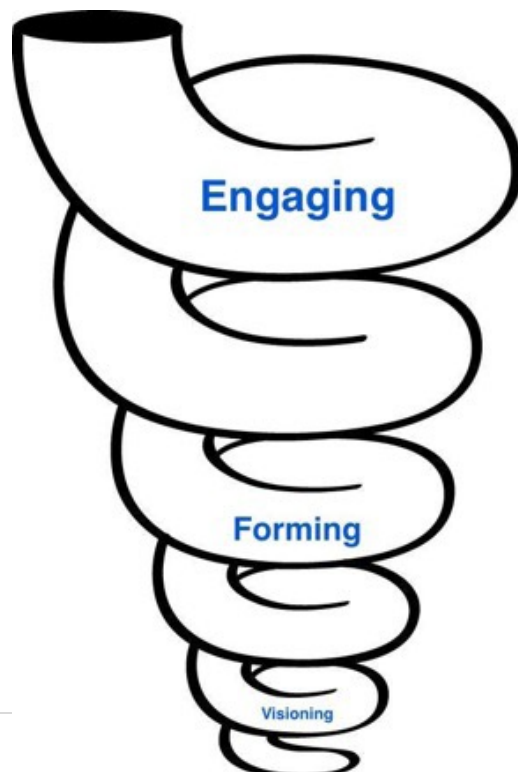
Welcome

- Prayer
- Silence
  - List anything that might be a distraction or worry for you today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Lift up the unknown concerns of others on the team and the things you listed above.

Read Psalm 23

Review Covenant

Review Dawnings Process



Shift Happens

Vision Matrix

Vision

Brainstorm Synonyms for Vision

What term would our church and immediate culture more naturally choose when talking about vision as you understand it?

Lectio Divina on Revelation 21:1-5;22-26

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their



splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. What is the role of vision in this passage? How is vision present here? How is it useful to the believer? The Church?

## Journal

How do you understand God's dream for the world?

How do you understand God's dream for the church, this church?

God's dream for you?

What one thing, done faithfully and consistently, might help me, you, us, achieve God's dream for us?

## Definition of Vision

Homework: Pray the Questions (handout), Ephesians 4:1-16

## Lord's Prayer



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## Session 3

Welcome

- Prayer
- Silence
  - List anything that might be a distraction or worry for you today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Lift up the unknown concerns of others on the team and the things you listed above.

Read Psalm 23 (page4)

Review Dawnings Process

Formation Video

Brainstorm synonyms for Formation or words that include “formation”

Consider a  
formation.



definition of

- How does formation relate to discipleship, Christian education, and/or equipping?
- Is formation accomplished through programs, curriculum, processes, procedures, lifestyle and/or disciplines?

Listen to the Word:

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. <sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>6</sup>“Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?” says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

– Jeremiah 18:1-6 (RSV)

## Reflections:

How does Jeremiah's metaphor and image inform your understanding of formation?

What does it feel like to be a potter?

What does it feel like to be the clay?

How are vision and formation both present in these verses?

## Take Time to Soak in His Word

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Philippian Church was very close to Paul's heart. They supported him and he rejoiced with them. In light of Philippians 3:10-14, how would you address a group of close brothers and sisters regarding Vision and Formation? What is your life wish for forming our church more deeply in the image of Christ?

Find a quiet place and journal your responses.

What formation experiences have been meaningful to you in your life? Why?

What one action, done faithfully and intentionally, might help deepen your formation?

How would your deeper formation help to deepen the formation of our church?

How would your formation and the deeper formation of our church impact the world?

Lord's Prayer (page 5)

Homework: Pray questions above



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## Session 4

Welcome

- Prayer
- Silence
  - List anything that might be a distraction or worry for you today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Lift up the unknown concerns of others on the team and the things you listed above.

Read Psalm 23 (page4)

Review Dawnings Process

Engagement Video

Brainstorm synonyms for Engagement

## Consider a definition of Engagement

- How do we know when we've been engaged?
- How does engagement feel?
- How is meaningful, sustainable, intentional engagement different from a one time encounter?

## Listen

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

-Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

- John 20:19-23 NIV



What can we learn about engagement from these readings?

How are Vision, Formation and Engagement related?

Discussion:

- Describe how you feel when you know you are living out God's will.
- Describe an experience when you have had this feeling.
- How are you NOW engaging in God's dream for the world?

Group:

- How is our church NOW engaging in God's dream for the world?
- How is the world being transformed by your engagement and our church's engagement?

Homework: Pray the questions above

Lord's prayer (page 5)



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## Session 5

Welcome

Prayer

Psalm 23 (printed on page 4)

Review

- Dawnings Process
- Conversation so far
- Vision Brainstorm

Lectio Reading

Prayer Walk the Property

Observations:

While on the walk:

Lord's Prayer (page 5)



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## Session 6

Welcome

Prayer - Silence

Psalm 23 (printed on page 4)

Review

Reflect

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– Jeremiah 18:1-6 (RSV)

## Listen

It is not you that shapes God  
it is God that shapes you.  
If you are the work of God  
await the hand of the artist  
who does all things in due season.  
Offer Him your heart,  
soft and tractable,  
and keep the form  
in which the artist has fashioned  
you.  
Let your clay be moist,  
lest you grow hard  
and lose the imprint of his fingers.

- **Irenaeus**

## Prayer Picture

## What is God up to?

- What is God up to in our church that is helping your prayer picture come to life?
- What resources are available to help our church bring our prayer picture to life?
- What practices and activities, done faithfully, communally, and consistently, will allow God to get God's hands on us?
- What barriers do we have in place that are obstacles to God keeping our "clay moist"?
- How might we encourage one another to make ourselves accessible to God by placing ourselves on the wheel?

Lord's Prayer (page 5)



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## Session 7

Welcome

Prayer - Silence

Psalm 23 (printed on page 4)

Review

Conversation with Jesus

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” -Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)

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# Colloquy: Conversation with Jesus about His call for our engagement in the world.



## How is God Preparing Us?

- What resources (meeting times, programs, events, leaders, etc.) are available to us for helping our congregation engage the World?
- What passions do we have in our church for helping our congregation engage the World?
- Where do we see God most at work inside our church and in our immediate community?
- How would we imagine this happening in the life of our congregation?

Lord's Prayer (page 5)



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## **Session 8**

Welcome

Prayer – Silence

Psalm 23 (printed on page 4)

Review

## Community Discernment

Take note of what you see, what you sense, and what you interpret that represents God's life-wish for this community.

- What assets are available already in the community for making this a reality?
- Where do you see God already at work in this community?
- What do you **NOT** see present in this community?
- Where are the gaps of resources to fulfill God's life-wish?
- What vision is God giving to you and your church about your community?

Lord, what would you have us to do and be?

Lord, what would you have us to be and do?

Lord's Prayer (page 5)



Welcome

Prayer – Silence

Psalm 23 (printed on page 4)

Review

- Vision, Formation, Engagement
- Third round focus on Formation
- Moving to specific: 3-4 initiatives that will enhance and deepen the ministries of our church

# Most important things you discerned in response to our Community Discernment and prayer activity:

Lord, what would you have us to do and be?

Lord, what would you have us to be and do?

place Post-It here

place Post-It here

## Consensus on initiatives

1.

2.

3.

4.

## Lord's Prayer (page 5)