

HIGH POINT

Helping Churches, Disciples and Leaders

Flourish



“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

II Corinthians 2:18

Additional Facilitator Strengthens DISCIPLEON!

By Katie Best, DiscipleOn! Community Manager



Ken Schripsema

- Director of Ministries at the Square Campus of Madison Church the last seven years.
- Chair of their discipleship team.
- Receiver of discipleship coaching from Ascending Leaders over the last three years.
- Participant in the 2016 DISCIPLEON! experiment and Season 1.
- DISCIPLEON! community facilitator in Season 2.
- Adjunct Ascending Leaders’ Coach/Teacher.

Pastor Ken Schripsema joined us this season in the role of facilitator of one of the monthly catalytic gatherings. He also helps us provide coaching services to those who would like the additional coaching we have available to maximize the effectiveness of DISCIPLEON! membership.

Ken was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he continues to reside with his wife of 23 years, Kinita and their four children, Caleb, 21; Joshua, 18; Seth, 15; and Victoriana, 12. His hobbies include his family, biking, home improvements, and landscaping.

After high school, Ken spent some time in the commercial and residential construction industry. He then graduated from Reformed Bible College, now Kuyper College, in Grand Rapids with a Bachelor of Religious Education.

Ken has been in full-time ministry for 25 years. The last seven years he’s served as the Executive Pastor of Ministry at Madison Church in Grand Rapids, MI: an urban, multi-cultural congregation of around 1,000 members over three campuses. Ken’s ministries have been wide and varied. From focusing on small groups to building unity, he worked on creating vision, developing leaders, and reaching students. Ken also developed and managed systems to enhance staff and volunteer leadership.

His passion is to create and develop processes that enable church members to be disciples

Continued on page 2 >>>



Why Ken Said “Yes”

“The call to see the Church thrive and flourish in making disciples isn’t just about my specific church. It’s about the kingdom work that we all are called to do together as the Body of Christ. It’s one of the most important aspects of my job. When I can be a part of something that fits that calling, that fuels my passion, that allows me to interact with others who are doing the same work; then an invitation to help facilitate those kinds of conversations make for an easy YES!”

by Ken Schripsema

Welcome to Zuni Land

By Cathy Richardson Hastie

Teaching



In March I traveled with AL President Mike Johnson to a place I had never been and to people I had never met, of whom I had heard Mike often speak. The actual experience is priceless. I had been told about this place, and I knew some of what to expect. However, there are no words to adequately explain the beauty of the work of the Lord. One can only experience its richness.

We landed in Albuquerque, rented a car and began the drive west. Each mile took us closer to the beautiful mesas in Zuni Land. We stopped at the welcome sign to take in the view (and take a picture

of course). Just a little after that we pulled into the parking lot at the Zuni Christian Reformed Mission and School.

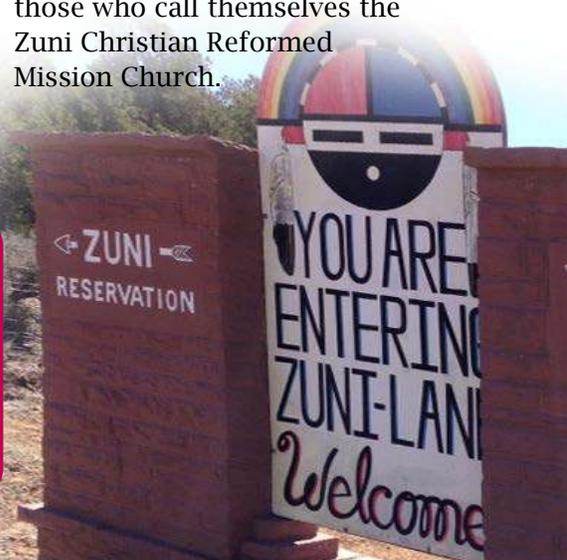
For three days we joined together with the Zuni church. We shared our faith stories—beautiful stories of God’s faithfulness to restore brokenness, break through shame, and equip His people in the power of the Holy Spirit. Mike and I taught on the Christian journey through the four developmental stages we see in Jesus’ disciples: Come and See, Come and Follow, Come and Be with Me, and Remain in Me.

There were many places along the trip to Zuni where we could have gotten stuck: at the airport, with a flat tire along the road, or construction along the freeway. But I was determined to get to Zuni and meet those who were sharing the love, hope, and redemption of Jesus with the Zuni people. If we had gotten stuck, we would have missed out. **Our hope is that all the disciples of Jesus today will recognize the places**

where we may get stuck and not let *anything* get in the way of knowing and loving Jesus more deeply.

My time in Zuni was a beautiful gift. I met a young man who was working through the consequences of his choices—not letting them keep him from knowing God, sharing Christ, and living out his purpose. I met his mentors in the faith. I met parents working diligently to raise their children in faith. I met several who shared how God gave them strength to overcome addictions to live an abundant life in Jesus. I met teachers and leaders who refuse to give up on sharing the love of Jesus and the hope he brings with the Zuni people. I met people who do not yet know Jesus, but one day will because of the mission of those who call themselves the Zuni Christian Reformed Mission Church.

In the Stages of Faith seminar, we teach what to expect in each stage of our faith development, what we need in each stage and what to anticipate in the next stage. We seek to inspire each disciple to continue to move through the stages of faith. Just like my trip to Zuni, people could tell me about it, but I had to experience it to come to know the people of the church; so the disciples of Jesus must experience this journey to intimately know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



>>> Continued from page 1

for the Lord! He has been interacting with Ascending Leaders since mid-2013. Ken has led the charge in his church in building a DisciplePath, to make it clear how disciples can grow, no matter what stage of growth they are in. His experience with congregants at every stage of faith and in different age groups brings a unique perspective to the DISCIPLEON! community he facilitates and the entire DISCIPLEON!

community. Ken is also one of four skilled discipleship coaches/teachers Ascending Leaders is orienting this summer to coach and teach with Ascending Leaders beginning this fall.

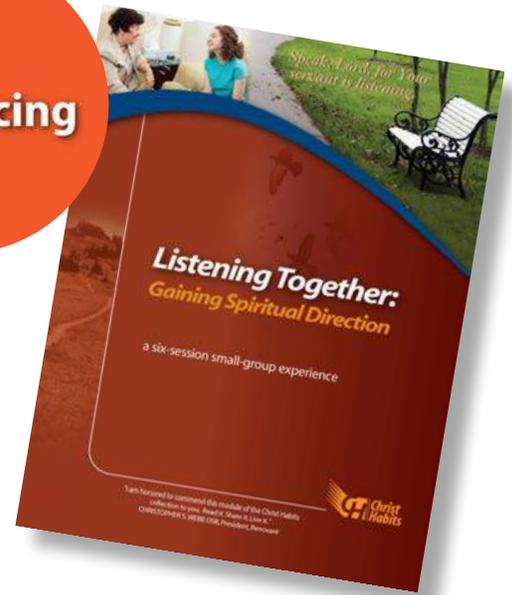


DiscipleshipDare: Holy Listening for Spiritual Friends

Adapted from *Listening Together: Gaining Spiritual Direction*

Spiritual friends are as essential to our individual following of God's directions as close trusted friends are to life in general. In holy listening, we can serve each other by truly being present and asking probing questions—while trusting the Holy Spirit to do His work, and respecting the spiritual journey of your friend. In this setting, you are not the teacher, advice giver, or counselor; this requires humility and a deep trust of God to do His work without your input. Spiritual direction focuses entirely on the relationship between God and the person seeking direction. Become for your friend a mirror in which can be seen a more accurate reflection of his or her beliefs about God and his or her discipleship.

Resourcing



“Not my will but Thine be done.”

Our challenge to you: Grab two friends, open up your calendars, and schedule a 30-minute block of time to go through an exercise of holy listening for spiritual friends. Print off our free guide (www.ascendingleaders.org/listening) and follow the instructions for a wonderful experience of intentional practice. Remember that you and your friends meet in the company of God, who is the true guiding presence of this time together.

Online Bonus

Head to ascendingleaders.org/listening for a free guide on holy listening for spiritual friends!



“Ascending Leaders has articulated what I'd been yearning to lead in my congregation for years. Disciples grow along a continuum, not a certain curriculum. DiscipleOn has been so helpful to me in leading our discipleship ministry. Rather than a general sense of frustration with the whole thing, I can more clearly see the strengths and the gaps. I have the language to describe how I want to lead on!”

Dr. Peter Seiferth, Associate Pastor
Northminster Presbyterian Church, Tucson, AZ



DISCIPLEON!
Online Community. Real-time Catalyst.



Free Info Webinar with Q&A!

June 28 1:30-2:15 p.m. (Central)

- Overview of the DiscipleOn! 5-month experience
- Meet the facilitators
- Learn more about the catalytic gatherings and the Resource Vault
- Get your questions answered

Register today to join this information session!

www.ascendingleaders.org/june28



Dr. Michael Johnson, Founder/President
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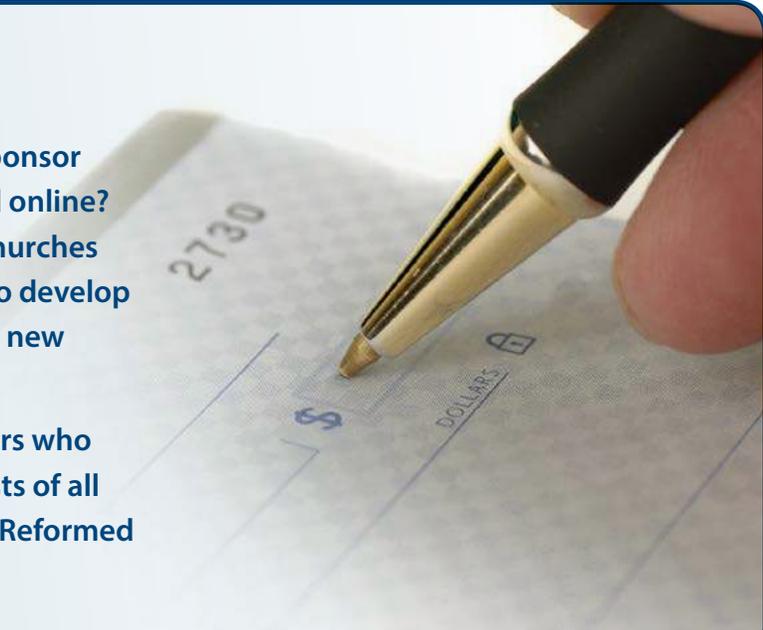
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Did you know we rely on donors to sponsor our advertisements in magazines and online? This is a key part of our outreach to churches and church leaders who are looking to develop clear discipleship pathways or chart a new church course.

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Our work in helping churches with clear DisciplePaths for discipleship momentum is 85% funded by donations. If you want to be a part of this work in helping churches, leaders and disciples flourish, please consider making a donation today!



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