



# Empowered Servant Leadership

Presented by the Commission on Congregational Vitality  
(CCV)



# Who is CCV?

*“The purpose of the Commission on Congregational Vitality is to **support innovative, creative, and connectional congregational ministries** that enhance the vitality of congregations and empower leaders. This support may include training, resources, grants, and accompaniment.”*

**Vitality is...**

# 7 Marks of Vital Congregations

Caring Relationships

Lifelong Discipleship Formation

Outward Incarnational Focus

**Empowered Servant Leadership**

Ecclesial Health

Spirit-Inspired Worship

Intentional, Authentic Evangelism

# Empowered Servant Leadership

Please take a moment in holy wondering asking: How well does your church do the following...?

- **Empower members to share their voice, ideas, and opinions**
- **Help members cultivate their spiritual gifts for use in service to church & community**  
*We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8)*
- **Help members find the best way they can contribute to the life of the church**
- **Model servant leadership among its leaders**

Have you seen these symptoms?

EMPOWERED SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Is NOT ...



# Why is Empowered Servant Leadership Important?

*Then Jesus said to his disciples,  
'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;*

There is much work to do, however, many congregations are shrinking in size. As we seek to maintain ministries, we might:

**Rely too heavily on our pastors**

**Rely too heavily on dedicated volunteers**

**Burn out pastors AND volunteers**

**Miss the movement of the Spirit manifesting in the gifts of others**

*therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'*

Matthew 9:37-38

***Step #1- Praying- It empowers us and helps us to empower others.***

# What is Empowered Servant Leadership?

## It Is Not...

Looking to others to do the job

IN POWER

Keeping control, leadership only for the few

Serving to the point of self-harm (or expecting others to)

Being consumers of others' creations

## It Is...

Empowered by the Spirit to use the gifts we've been given

AND Empowered by the support of the community around us to express those gifts.

Answering Jesus' call to servanthood

Co-Creating ministry to the glory of God

Remembering ordination vows to serve the people with **energy, intelligence, imagination, and love**

# Being an Empowered Servant Means

## *Step #2 Knowing yourself, Knowing your boundaries*

- *What are your gifts?*
- *What skill set do you bring?*
- *How much time can you offer?*
  
- *Are you overfunctioning?*
- *Are you irreplaceable?*
- *What responsibilities could be handled by someone else?*
- *“No” is a complete sentence.*



# Recognizing Empowerment

Video testimony

Cindy & Kingsley videos

<https://youtu.be/SF-v1sSOTLQ>

<https://youtu.be/4xbe1Z7Pxlw>



# Being an Empowered Servant Means

## *Step #3 Stop, Look & (Holy) Listening*

- **Pause to observe.** Notice gifts and passions.
- Holy Listening is active listening. **Be present** to really hear what's being said.
- Continue to **be generous** with your own resources; share your knowledge, resources, attention, gifts.
- **Be open to accepting** the gifts of others, but leave demands and expectations behind.
- Listen to **discern** connections between **holy gifts** and **holy needs**

# Meet a New Friend!

***Describe a time when you felt Empowered to Serve as a Leader at your church?***

Have you seen these signs of health?

This Is What  
**EMPOWERED SERVANT LEADERSHIP**  
Looks Like ...

# Being an Empowered Servant Means

## *Step #4 Putting it in Action*

- Teach, Guide & Mentor
- Instead of offering a solution, talk through the possibilities
- Take the next, most faithful step forward.
- Go together until you can go it alone. Build confidence as you go!
- Hold safe space for experimentation, trying & growing
- Affirm the good
- Express gratitude! Name specific attributes, lift up examples

# Small Group Discussion

We began with the question “How well does your church do the following?”

Now, please consider:

**How DOES your church do the following...?**

- **Empower members to share their voice, ideas, and opinions**
- **Help members cultivate their spiritual gifts for use in service to church & community**  
*We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8)*
- **Help members find the best way they can contribute to the life of the church**
- **Model servant leadership among its leaders**

## Sharing Wisdom

***Name one thing you've learned, or an example that's sticking with you!***

***(please write it on the sticky note too)***

# Strengthen Your Skills

Our ability to recognize and develop Empowered Servant Leadership begins in these steps:

#1- Pray remembering to **invite the Spirit** in to strengthen good leadership and to inspire servanthood

#2- Know your boundaries and respect them. **Offer that grace** to others.

#3- **Stop, Look & (Holy) Listen** to stay aware of where the Holy Spirit is moving

#4- Put it into action by **practicing** Empowered Servant Leadership and **encouraging** others to do the same



# Empowerment

talk it up





**EMPOWER**





