

Purposeful Living - An Addendum for CLC Pastors and First Learners

The purpose for using a portion of Purposeful Living is for you and your team to create and experience a deeper and safer authentic community of grace and truth.

For some teams, the process of going through PL might be easy, as you are already in deep relationships of vulnerability, authenticity, and courage. This is great! And yet, as disciples (and humans) we recognize that there are often many more experiences in life and parts to our stories that we keep hidden from others, even close friends. You and your team are still capable of going deeper, and you can invite each team member to take another step beyond her/his comfort zone to reveal more of themselves.

For most teams, you live and work and do church in ways where people do not know one another very well, or your team is made of individuals who do not serve alongside one another within your church (or they serve in different churches completely), and therefore your team members might only know the bare minimum about one another (name, career, etc). In this case, PL might take more preparation and more coaching along the way, as you help your team (and yourself) discover and practice authenticity, vulnerability, and courage with one another.

Here are a few tips for you as you (the pastor and/or 1L) guide your team through the first few sections of PL:

1. Journaling
 - a. This is part of section C in the facilitator guide, or the top of page 4 in the congregational leaders guide
 - b. Get this to your team prior to the meeting where you will create your timelines, so they can start to think through and journal the many parts of their life story.
 - c. Doing their journaling ahead of time will help shorten the time needed in the next section.

2. Post-It Note Timelines
 - a. This is section E of the facilitator guide, or pages 4 and 5 in the congregational leaders guide
 - b. This takes some prep work and materials, so be sure to look at the details in the facilitator guide.
 - c. If everyone did their journaling ahead of time, this should take an hour or so.
 - d. Although this part is done individually, we recommend doing it at a meeting together, in prayerful silence or with meditative music playing in the background. Many teams have found that doing this work in the same room is meaningful and holy, even though each person is silently working on their own timeline, apart from each other. Some will want to compare notes about when a particular community or national event occurred. There may be moments of laughter, or sudden tears of grief or shame, as someone names and writes out a particular event in her/his life.

3. Sharing your timelines with one another
 - a. This is the crucial part of PL that will take the most time (and may have to be done over multiple meetings, to give enough time to each person).
 - b. Remember the sharing of one's story is holy
 - c. Review the '*Guidelines for Leading and Listening Well*' to help you facilitate this time of sharing as effectively as possible.

4. Sharing insights with one another
 - a. This is section F in the facilitators guide, or the top of page 6 in the congregational leaders guide.
 - b. After everyone has shared their timelines, you can send people back into solitude and prayer as they work to discern the "chapters", lessons, and values God has instilled in them... or you can send them home to do this work, as long as they know they will be coming back to this in a following team meeting.

5. The sections beyond this - discerning core values, biblical purpose statement, vision, etc. - are *NOT* required for CLC.

However, these sections could very likely be the "icing on the cake" for you and/or your team. It is up to you and your team to discuss and decide whether or not you want to make the time to continue through these steps together, or perhaps a subgroup of the team wants to continue on together. Remember, you are responsible for your learning and growth, as individuals and as a team! For those that participate in FW 201, these sections will be very helpful and relate well with Guiding Principle and Positive Vow Statement work.