

RE-connect RE-engage

Blake Bradford, D.Min

District Superintendent, Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

February 9, 2022, Clergy Meeting
Alexandria and Arlington Districts

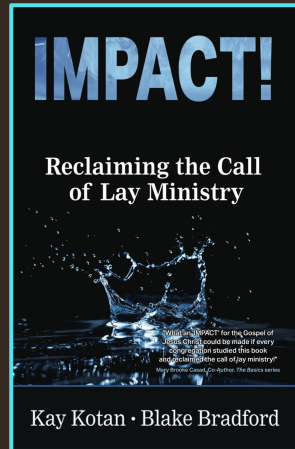
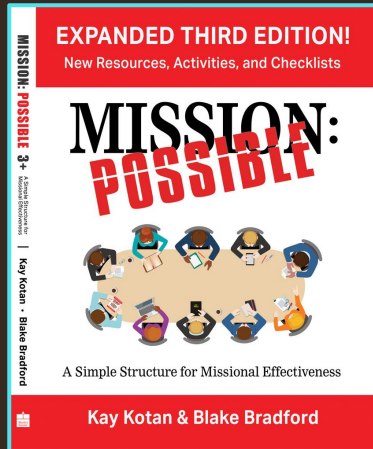


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RE-connect RE-engage

The Washington Post


August 27, 2021

“At the start of the summer, recess at Silverbrook Elementary looked weird.”

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Education

Educators nationwide completely reimaged summer school this summer. It could signal a new era.



Fifth-grade students at McAlpine Elementary School in Charlotte dance and sing during a music class on June 17. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools was among districts able to offer or expand summer school programs by leveraging federal pandemic relief money. (Nancy Pierce/AP)

By [Hannah Natanson](#) and [Laura Meckler](#)

August 27, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. EDT

At the start of the summer, recess at Silverbrook Elementary looked weird.

Whenever Shannon Mueck, who led summer learning at the Northern Virginia school, stepped outside to the playground, she saw children engaged in solo play: swinging alone, sitting by themselves or repeatedly pacing the perimeter. Kids at all grade levels, especially the youngest

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**We cannot assume our
2019 ministry plans and
programs are relevant**

**We need to drop our
agendas & programs
and instead focus on
*engagement***

Re-Connect

Re-Engage

1

**“Shakedown”
of Ministries
to fit your
new Reality**

2

**Utilize
Experiments
to Re-engage
Community**

3

**Right-Size
your
Leadership &
Governance**

4

**Leverage
Relational
Intimacy to
rebuild
community**

Q&A pauses

You can type your questions
in the chat window.

There will be two
set aside Q&A pauses
during the presentation.

Quick Survey #1

What is your Worship
status right now:

- In-Person Only?
- Digital Only?
- “Both/And” Hybrid?
- None of the Above?

**As you relaunch, perform a
“shakedown” of all
ministries based on how
they support relationships
and fulfill an impactful
purpose**

RE-connect RE-engage

1



Performing a Shakedown before your Backpacking Trip

“Every ounce matters”

STRENGTHENING
**DECISION-
MAKING**

and

GOVERNANCE

for

supporting
expeditions

Blake Bradford

EXPEDITIONS

**Churches do not have
the capacity to continue
every pre-COVID
ministry**

**Make “every ounce
matter” as you relaunch
and evaluate ministries**

Assess every ministry before relaunch

- ❖ **Purpose:** every ministry relaunched should clearly fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation
- ❖ **Impact:** transforming lives, connecting people to Christ
- ❖ **Relationships:** creating opportunities for members to be engaged to show up, build relationships with each other, and experience meaningful ministry

Ministry Example

**Bring a
Friend
with a
Hammer**

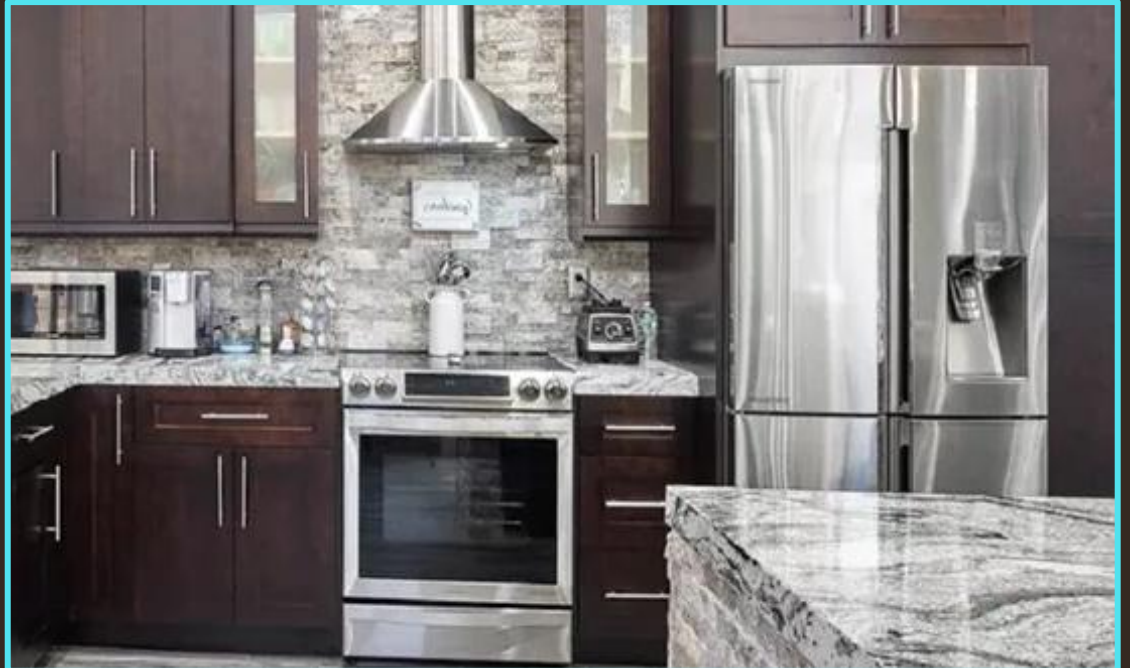


**Building
relationships
and reaching
new people
while also caring
for a needy
homebound
neighbor**

Ministry Shakedown

Criteria: Purpose, Impact, & Relationships

- Stove
- Countertop
- Refrigerator
- Deep Freeze
- Compost Bin



Use experiments to re-engage your community

RE-connect RE-engage

2

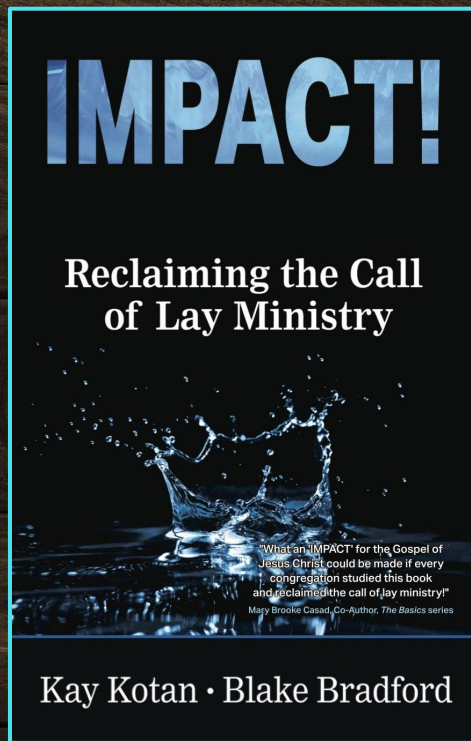
“

“I have a confession....

I didn't walk across the street....

**I was under the mistaken impression
that I was supposed to pastor
the church ~ not much was said
about the community”**

”



Face to Face

Disciple-forming and Missional Impact



Experiment with lay-led affinity groups



Move from
“Come & See”
into
“Go & Be”

“the church needs to change tactics to “Go & Be” – go find the affinities around which people are gathering, take the Gospel there and be part of that community.”

Rev. Jason Mackey
*The Journey of
Community Discipling*
The Greatest Expedition Series

**Ignoring (Both/And)
Hybrid & Digital
Ministry...**
**is saying
“You Don’t Matter”**

- ✦ **Budgeting**
- ✦ **Staffing**
- ✦ **Time/Schedule**
- ✦ **Equipment & Facilities**
- ✦ **Prioritizing engagement**

(Both/And) Hybrid & Digital Ministry

- ❖ Move beyond worship with a camera in the back of the sanctuary
- ❖ Create shareable digital opportunities for human connection and storytelling
- ❖ Mix lay, staff and clergy voices
- ❖ Experiments in Hybrid discipleship opportunities were needed long before COVID

**Hybrid &
Digital Ministry
is more than
putting Sunday
Worship on
FaceBook**

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide features a teal-colored wood grain texture. The rest of the slide has a solid dark teal background.

Q&A

RE-connect RE-engage

Take a BREAK

See you in 10 minutes!

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Right-Size your Leadership & Governance

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3

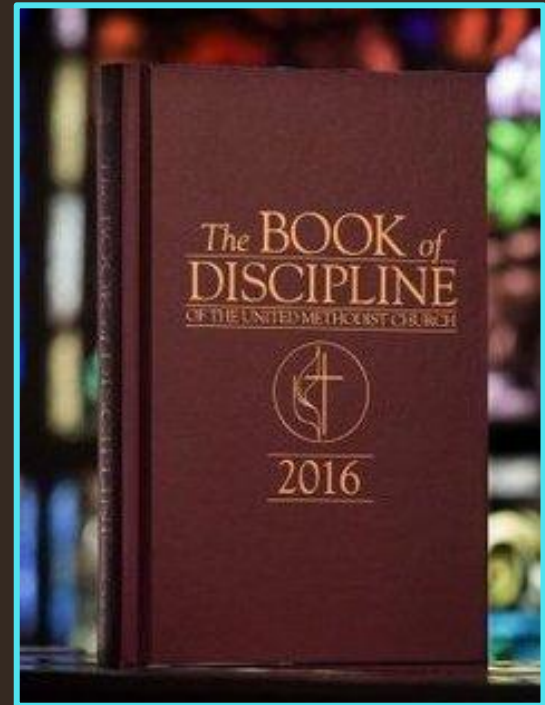
Quick Survey #2

How many elected
“leadership slots?”:
(other than nominations)

- Under 12?
- 13-25?
- 26-50?
- 50-up?

The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶ 243 are observed.

¶ 247.2 “modify the organizational plans”





**Simplify & Right-Size
your Governance**

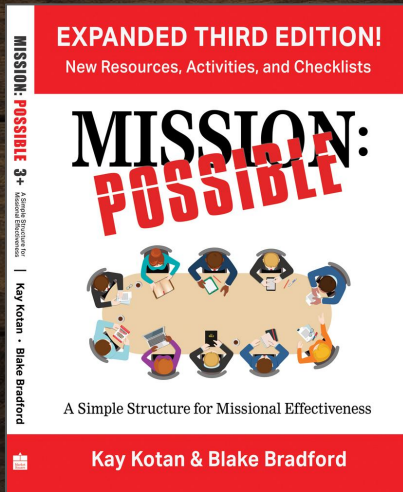
**Move all your
personnel, fiduciary,
facility, visioning,
legal board of directors,
and finance functions
under one small,
accountable
leadership board
of 9 disciples.**

The Focus Changes

“

Changing to a simplified, accountable leadership structure is more than reducing the number of people at the table; it is about changing the work and conversation at the table.

”



STRENGTHENING
**DECISION-
MAKING**

and
GOVERNANCE

for
supporting
expeditions

Blake Bradford



Porch Swing Leadership

- ❖ **Pastor is a Coach, not the CEO.**
- ❖ **Sit side-by-side, not across.**
- ❖ **Look into the distance together, instead of pushing an agenda.**
- ❖ **Bring curiosity and questions, not demands, fears, or ultimatums.**
- ❖ **Spiritual Guide and Vision Caster, not Cruise Director.**

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**Leverage
relational intimacy
to rebuild community
(in-person, hybrid, & digital ministries)**

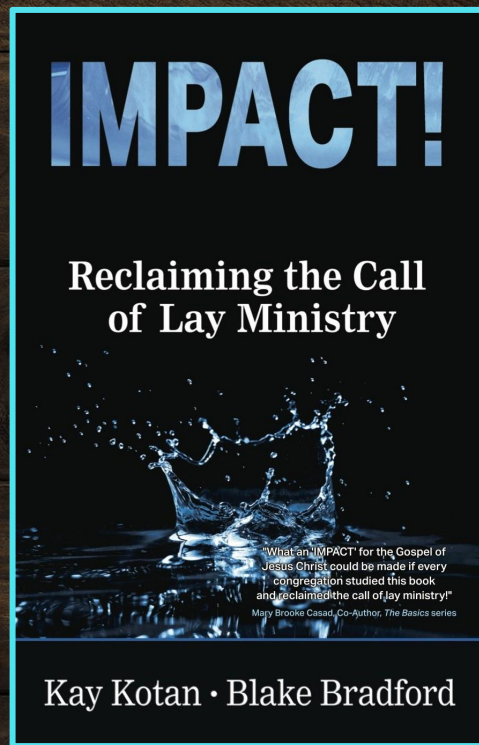
RE-connect RE-engage

4

“

“People can go anywhere
to find *friendliness*,
but most people are
looking for something far
beyond friendly.
They are looking for a
place to *belong*.”

”



**Programs and
Buildings don't
make disciples.**

**God uses disciples
to make disciples.**



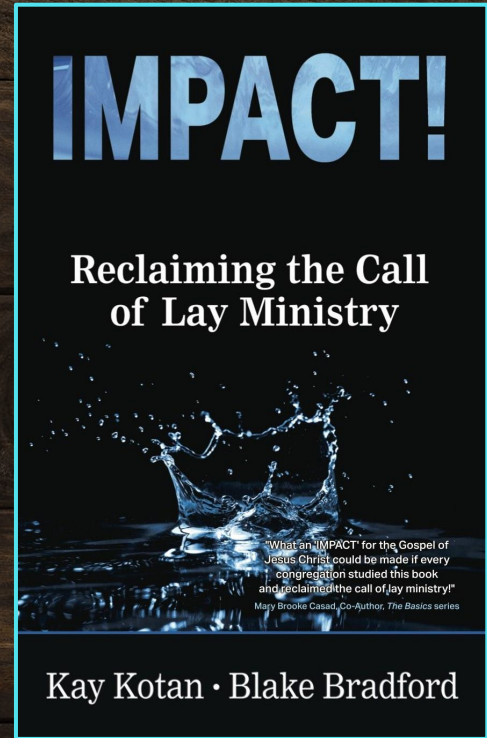
You can't put "authentic caring" in the budget.

“

“Checkbook Charity is not a replacement for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

What differentiates the church from other charity groups is that we are in the Jesus business.”

”



Adapt Ministries for Relationship-Building



Pre-COVID example: From DMV Line to Community

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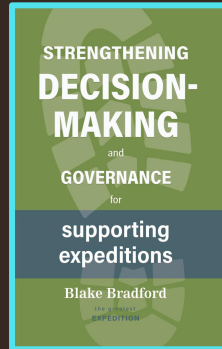
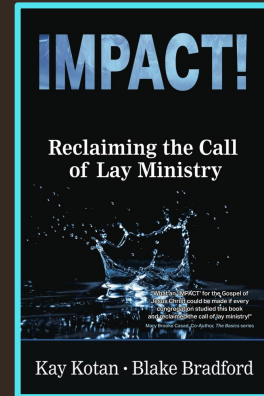
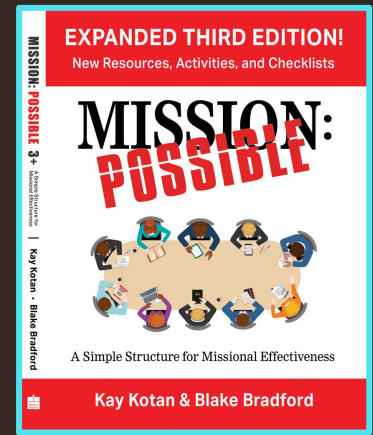
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Q&A

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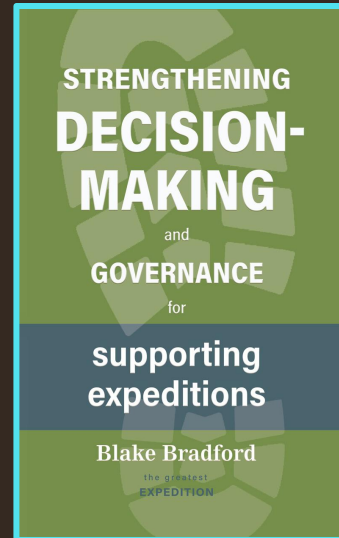
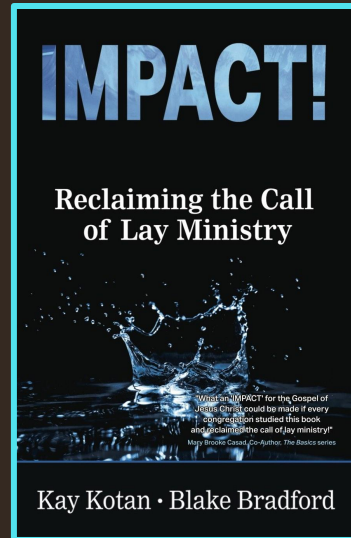
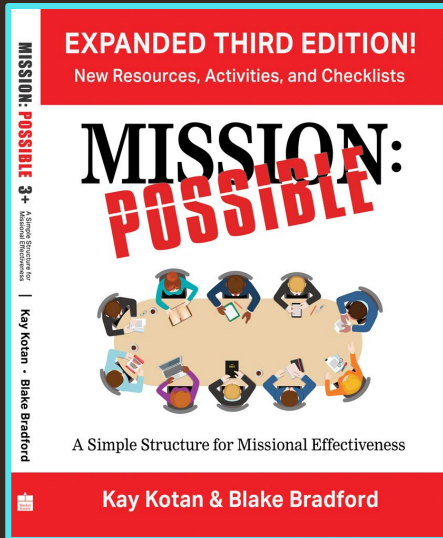


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