

Harbor Covenant Church

September 2009



The Church As A Learning Community

Matthew 28:19-20

Acts 2:42

I Corinthians
12:12-30



Jesus

Teaching – 4 main types

- Declaration
- Proverbs
- Parables
- Questions



What is the point?

“Those who are impatient, incurious, or of an insufficiently motivated spirit will derive little from it – wanting something literal and unambiguous, they will lose interest or reinterpret the message to suit their preconditions”. (Nicholas Burbules, article – Jesus as teacher)



Parables reveal something about the readiness for learning, transformation and change of the hearer.

Jesus

Read John 1:35-42



The Church As A Learning *COMMUNITY*



Learning Communities

Presumes
Discontinuous
Change

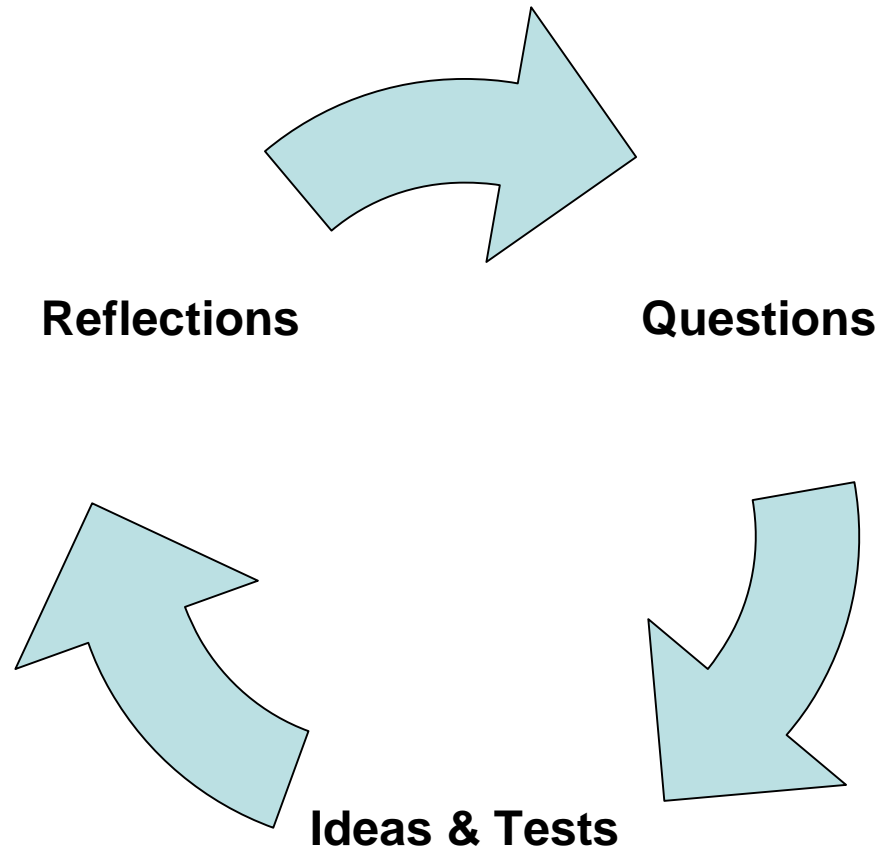


Built On
The
Assumption
Of
Competence

2500 years ago Heraclitus said, “you cannot step into the same river twice” (organizations, Handy, p.52)

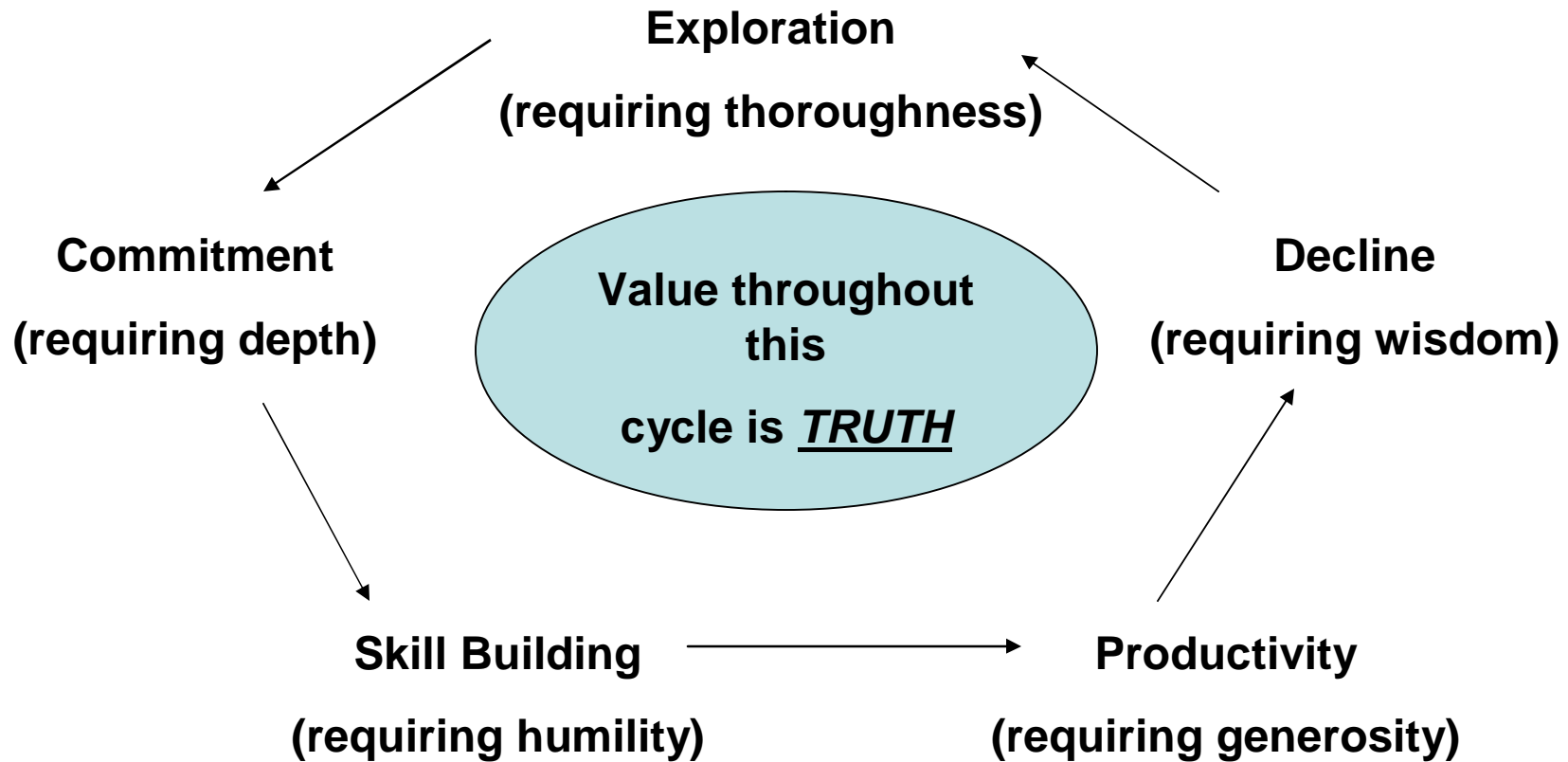


Characteristics of Learning Communities – The Wheel of Learning



The Characteristics of Learning Communities

The Wheel of Learning



Characteristics of Learning Communities

- They keep the wheel of learning in constant motion
- They empower those closest to the action
- They take community learning approaches instead of expert centered approaches
- They create safe places for questioning assumptions and mental models
- They keep attention focused on the questions

Characteristics of Learning Communities

- They value the collective process of discovery
- They make a commitment to building quality relationships
- They learn out of context
- They facilitate good process, being concerned with how and why people learn
- They open knowledge freeways

Learning Communities

Built On . . .

Curiosity

Forgiveness

Trust

Togetherness



Learning Communities

- Promote a spirit of inquiry





Learn to release the right responses . . .

Resource Reference

- The NIV Bible
- Nicholas C. Burbules. “Jesus as a teacher.” – Web Article
- Charles Handy. A Chapter from the book *Learning Organizations*.
- Jay Matthews. Presentation on “Health and Excellence” for Covenant pastors.
- Stephanie Ryan. “Learning Communities: An Alternative to the “Expert” Model. – Chapter 18 from the book *Learning Organizations*