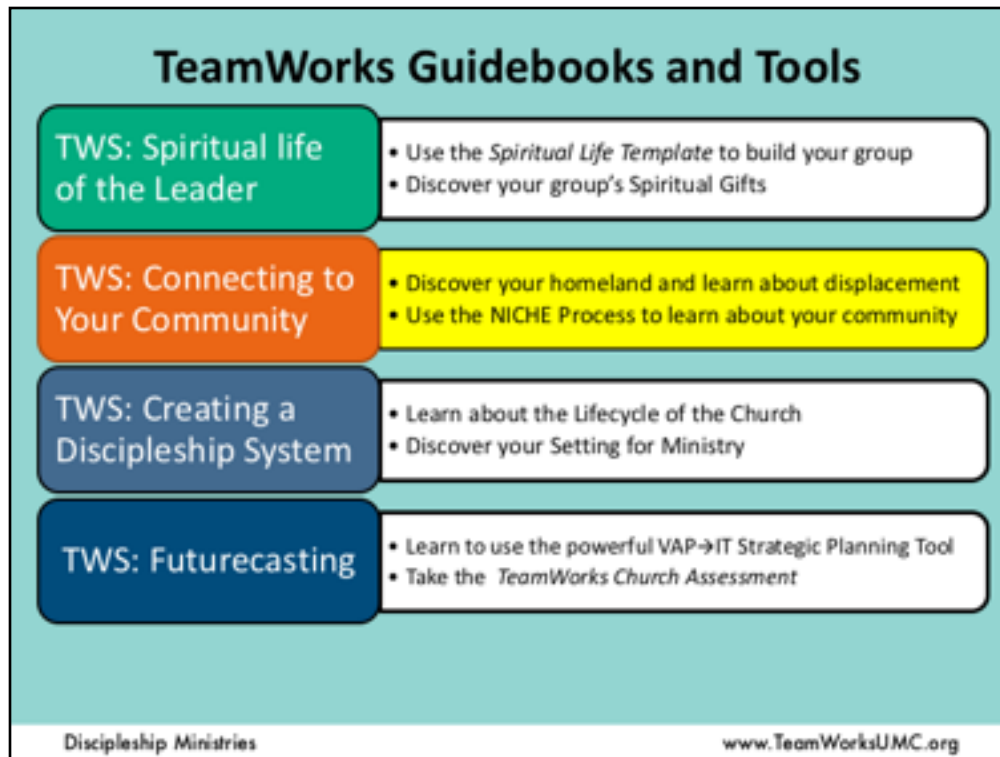


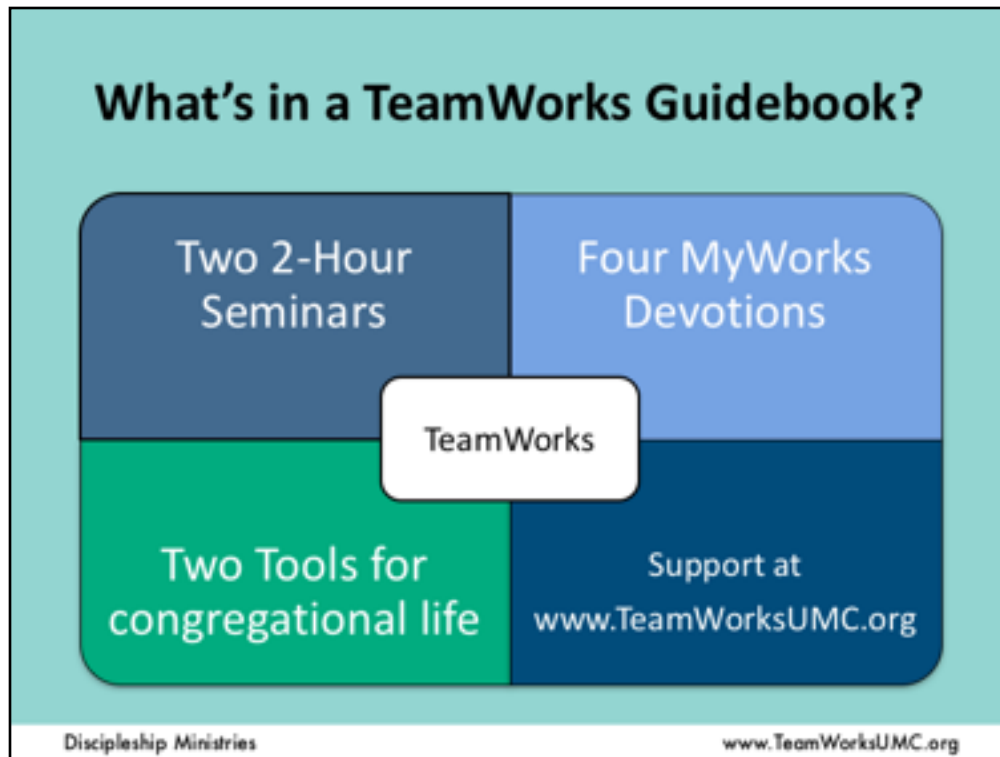
Read through the following slides to prepare for your seminar. You also can go to www.TeamWorkUMC.org and view the seminar leader's webinar to get more ideas and tips.



Connecting Seminar 2: Finding Your NICHE is found in the TeamWorks Connecting Guidebook. You will need a copy for each participant. They can be ordered on Amazon and cost \$7.50 each.



This is the list of the whole series of the TeamWorks Guidebooks. If you decide to do the whole series, it is suggested you start with Spiritual Life of the Leader and follow the series in the order listed.



Each TeamWorks Guidebook has these components. In addition, some also include articles.

Instructions for Seminar Leaders

TeamWorks Seminars are designed to encourage discussion. To prepare for each seminar do as follows:

- Setup a room with table and chairs for your seminar.
- You will need an LCD projector and a screen or a large TV that can be hooked up to a computer to show the presentations.
- Download the presentation slides for TW: Connecting Seminar 2: NICHE from www.TeamWorksUMC.org. You may get them as a PDF or in PowerPoint. When using PowerPoint use it in presentation mode so you can view the notes for each slide.
- Download TW Connecting Seminar 1 Homeland with Notes PDF. Here you will find every slide with tips and ideas about its content.
- Before leading a seminar, go to www.TeamWorksUMC.org and watch the Seminar Leaders Webinar for the seminar you are leading. The webinar will go through each slide and will offer tips and ideas for how to lead the seminar.
- Set dates for the seminars or for the one-day experience.
- Recruit a group of participants who will agree to attend both seminars and to do the MyWork devotions.

This gives you an overview of what you need to lead your seminar.

Schedule your Seminars

Schedule for the *TeamWorks: Connecting With Your Community* seminars and MyWork devotions

Use the template below to schedule your sessions. TeamWorks Seminars are designed for 2-hours.

If you offer this as a one-day experience, make sure participants fill out the *Demographics By Walking Around Surveys* before they attend or take a lunch break and give them time to visit as instructed.

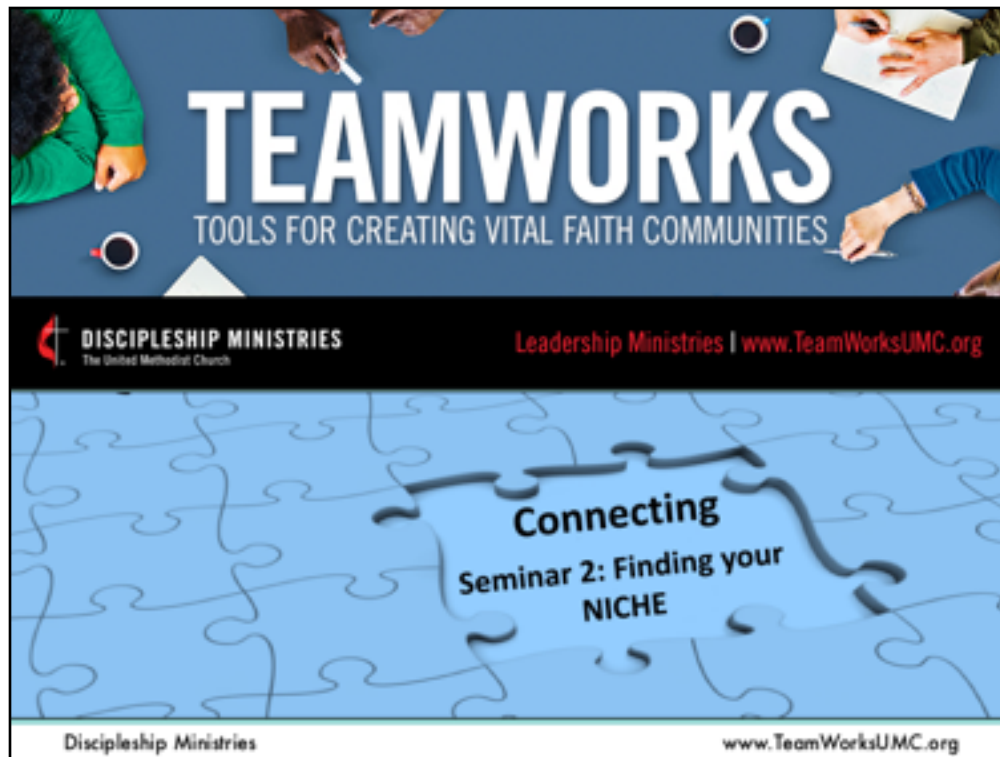
| Session | Date |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Seminar One: Looking for Homeland | _____ |
| MyWork – NICHE: Nexus | _____ |
| MyWork – NICHE: Informed | _____ |
| MyWork – NICHE: Context | _____ |
| MyWork – NICHE: Hopes & Experiences | _____ |
| Seminar Two: Finding your NICHE | _____ |

Use this to schedule your time.

How to lead the seminars

- TeamWorks Seminars are designed to foster discussions within the group. Your primary role as the seminar leader is to facilitate discussions.
- When you come to a discussion slide divide people into groups of three or four people. Have them share with one another. After they are finished, you can ask individuals to share with the wider group.
- Avoid starting with the larger group. Why? Because few people are willing to talk in front of larger groups. By dividing into smaller groups you help everyone have an opportunity to share their ideas.
- Spiritual Life Template: If you did TeamWorks: Spiritual Life of the Leaders and are doing the whole series, start each seminar with the Spiritual Life Template.

These are the instructions for leading the seminar.



Use this slide for the opening slide of the seminar.

*Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach;
but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.
Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish,
have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to
them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat,
and you will find some." So they cast it, and now
they were not able to haul it in because there
were so many fish.*

John 21:4-6



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Use this as your opening devotion. The next slide invites discussion.



Discussion 1

Fishermen of Jesus' time trained all their lives to throw the fishing net to the left. So to be asked to fish from the right side was a complete challenge to the conventional wisdom about how to catch fish, not to mention a challenge to the mechanics of how you threw the net into the water.

- What does this tell us about what “works”?
- What is most important, fishing or catching the fish?
- What implications does this have for your ministry?

Break into groups of two or three to discuss these questions.

Demographics by Walking Around

(45 minutes)

- Have team members take out their “Demographics by Walking Around” surveys so they can share their experiences with one another.
- On a whiteboard, chalkboard, or an easel, copy the chart on the next page. Have each person share their experiences. Make notes as each person talks.

Make sure to create the chart on the next slide before your meeting.

| | Demographics By Walking Around Summary Chart | | | | |
|----------|--|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------|
| | Businesses visited | Whom are they reaching? | Do customers reflect the target audience? | Do the staff reflect the customers? | Service |
| Person 1 | | | | | |
| Person 2 | | | | | |
| Person 3 | | | | | |
| Person 4 | | | | | |
| Person 5 | | | | | |

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Use this chart to keep track of your groups learnings.



Discussion 2

(Breakup into groups of 3 or 4)

After hearing all the reports, ask “What are the implications for our church?”

After the breakouts conversations, use a chalkboard, whiteboard, or newsprint to capture the insights from the whole group.

Follow the instructions above.

Niche

Nexus:

What is the center of congregational life?

- the means of connection, tie, link
- a connected series or group
- the core or center



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We are now going to look at the NICHE process. The first letter in each word spells out the NICHE process.

Nexus focuses on what is at the center of congregational life. Is it worship?
Outreach into the community? Ministry with families?

Niche

Informed:

What ways do you listen to the culture of the community in order to share the gospel in a way that connects?



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Informed has to do with how well you know what is happening in your community? Do you know the principals at the local schools? Do you know the owners of local restaurants? Are you aware of what is happening in city hall? Are their people in your church who are community leaders? Listening is key to knowing the issues that are affecting people in your community.

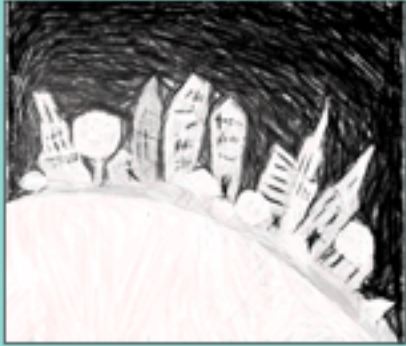
Niche

Context:

How has your community changed in the last five years?

How are retailers and restaurants connecting with new people?

How does your church fit into the future of your neighborhood?



Churches that understand the context of their community are able to look towards the future. The demographics by walking exercise was designed to help you understand the context of your community.

Niche

Hopes & Dreams:

What are the hopes and dreams of the people who live in the community?



Many times the hopes and dreams of the people who are new in the community are very different than the hopes and dreams of people who have lived their for a long time (Seminar 1: Looking for Homeland helps people to see the differences.) Hopes and dreams are what give meaning and purpose to peoples' lives.

Niche

Experience:

What is unique about what you have to offer in the context of community life (sports, non-profits, businesses, etc.)?



Churches are not the only game in town. To connect with people churches need to be able to define what makes them unique. What is the alternative they have to offer? Just doing community service is not enough. Offering communion once a week – that is something that makes a church unique. The spiritual life of the faith community can be the alternative that makes your church unique.

Niche

Nexus: What is the center of congregational life?

Informed: What ways do you listen to the culture of the community in order to share the gospel in a way that connects?

Context: How has your community changed in the last five years? How are retailers and restaurants connecting with new people? How does your church fit into the future of your neighborhood?

Hopes & Dreams: What are the hopes and dreams of the people who live in the community?

Experience: What is unique about what you have to offer in the context of community life (sports, non-profits, businesses, etc.)?

Here is a list of all five.

| Discovering your Congregation's NICHE <small>On a white board, chalk board, or an easel make the following columns. As a group discusses each element of the NICHE. For each element, first talk about Your Community and then Your Church. Keep notes for future reference.</small> | | |
|--|--|---|
| NICHE | Your Community | Your Church |
| <u>N</u>exus: | What brings people together in your community? (sports teams, schools, shopping areas, government) | What is at the center of your life as a congregation? |
| <u>I</u>nformed: | Who do people listen to in your community? (media, city leaders, resident historians, community leaders, the church) | How are you actively listening to what is happening in the community? |
| <u>C</u>ontext: | How has your community changed in the last five years? How are retailers and restaurants connecting with new people? | How does your church fit into the future of your neighborhood? |
| <u>H</u>opes & Dreams: | What are the hopes and dreams of new people coming to our community? | What are the hopes and dreams of people who are active in our church? |
| <u>E</u>xperience: | What experiences gather people together in your community? (sports, concerts, community events, movies, etc.) | What is unique about what you have to offer in the context of community life? |

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Prepare this chart on newsprint with space to take notes for each one. For example, you could have one sheet of newsprint for each row. Work with the group to answer each set of questions. To start, break into five groups with each group taking one of the niche categories. Group one takes Nexus, group two gets Informed, and so on. Let the each group do a first draft of the answers to their questions. Bring the total group back together and work together to fill out the chart.



Discussion 3

- What is the most significant thing you have learned about your community's Niche?
- What is the most significant thing you have learned about your congregation's Niche?
- Write down three actions your church must do to make a connection between the people who live in your community and the people who are active in your church.

After completing chart, work through these three questions.

Next Steps

- Do a more detailed look at your community. If you are United Methodist, contact your conference office for more resources to look at the demographics of your community. You also can go to www.census.gov and find info on your neighborhood.
- Use this guidebook with other people in your church to help them reflect on ways your church can better connect with your community.
- To develop a discipleship system, use *TeamWorks: Creating a Discipleship System*.

Think of ways to share some of these ideas with others in your church.

TeamWorks Series



www.TeamWorksUMC.org

Discipleship Ministries

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For more info you may contact Craig Miller at cmiller@umcdiscipleship.org.