



The Timothy Project is a leadership program designed to jump start discipleship at Erickson Covenant Church. Open to 20 participants and lasting a year, the Timothy Project will make disciples who make disciples and launch them into leadership in the Church and the community.

In his blog, Carey Nieuwhof compares running a church to running a grocery store. A small church, he says, can run like a Mom 'n Pop shop. The owners do everything from stocking shelves to keeping the books. Similarly, in a small church, the pastor does everything and everyone reports to the pastor. A larger church needs to structure itself more like a supermarket, where there are people in charge of departments and systems. It requires many people to make things run smoothly and help everyone grow to maturity in the faith.

Erickson Covenant Church exists to help people find and follow Jesus. That mission drives our decisions and programs. But there's a bottleneck right now in our Church: Most of us think only the pastors are equipped to help people grow. But there are too many people here – too many new believers and too many growing believers – for the three pastors to disciple them all!

The Timothy Project will address the need for more disciple-makers in our growing congregation. It will help 20 emerging leaders grow in maturity and equip them to continue making more disciples.

The Trellis Foundation has generously contributed \$11,000 in support of this program, which means the cost to participants is only \$150. The funds will be used for things like food and housing for retreats, speaker honorariums, books, and assessments. The Trellis grant makes the program accessible for anyone in our congregation.

If you've been wondering how to take the next step – how to grow in your faith, how to develop deep and mutual relationships with other believers, how to lead more effectively, or how help other people grow – the Timothy Project might be for you!

Here's what's involved. The Timothy Project has 5 components:

- 1) **Weekly Bible Study.** We'll meet Tuesday evenings, 6:30-9:00pm, to do a manuscript study in the gospel of Mark.
- 2) **Monthly Training.** We'll gather the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 9am-noon, for training on various topics related to discipleship (like self-awareness, mentoring, group dynamics, difficult conversations, leadership styles, etc.).
- 3) **Mentoring.** A pastor or senior leader will meet with participants in pairs or triads several times over the course of the year. These meetings will be focused on implementing course learning and personal development. Additionally, each

participant will offer mentoring to others. We'll learn together who to mentor and what that means.

- 4) **Personal Learning.** We will read 4 books together and participate in two personality assessments.
- 5) **Retreats.** We will go away together twice during the year, in February and August. These retreats will help us consolidate our learning and cement relationships and values within our community.

The Timothy Project offers a lot, but we do expect a lot from our participants. We are looking for 20 people who are faithful, available and teachable. You need to be able to commit to all the components and you need to come ready to learn.

If you think this is the place for you, here are the next steps:

- 1) Fill out the attached application and drop it off at the office or email it to Dana at dsproule00@gmail.com by August 1st.
- 2) Mark the dates from the attached calendar in your home calendar now to avoid any potential conflicts.
- 3) Dana will call you to set up an interview over the summer.
- 4) The Timothy Project participants will be confirmed within a week of their interview or by September 1st.

The Timothy Project is going to help us write the next chapter for Erickson Covenant Church. This is the chapter where people are equipped for the work of the ministry and they start multiplying disciples in every corner of our Valley. It's where we learn how to study, obey, and teach the scriptures and where we see people's lives transformed as they come into relationship with Jesus. It's where mature believers are able to care for those who are struggling and see them become who they were intended to be. It's where we begin sending people out in mission way beyond our Church.

We really believe this is possible. It sounds simple, but forming a cohort of disciples who are committed to helping others grow in faith is the way Jesus practiced ministry. It has worked all through history and it will work here.

On behalf of the staff and Leadership Team,



Dana Sproule,
Timothy Project Director.
dsproule00@gmail.com
902-817-0556



Schedule for 2017 – 2018

Please mark these dates on your calendar now to make sure you're free.

Bible Study:

Every Tuesday evening, 6:30-9:00pm.

- October 3rd through till December 12th.
- January 9th through till June 26th.

(We'll book time off during March break, when we know those dates.)

Monthly Training:

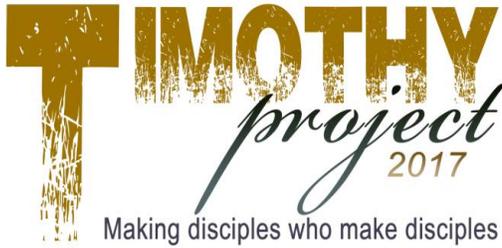
The 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00-noon.

- October 14th
- November 11th
- December 9th
- January 13th
- February (cancelled due to retreat)
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th
- July 14th
- August (cancelled due to retreat)
- September 8th

Retreats:

February 16th – 18th

August 10th – 12th



Application Form:

Please complete this application and submit it to Dana by **August 1st, 2017**. You can leave it at the office or email it to dsproule00@gmail.com.

These questions are intended to help us discern together whether the Timothy Project is the right fit for you at this stage in your life. Please answer honestly, knowing there are no right or wrong answers. Use a separate page for the Reflection Questions and try to answer each question in about 1/3 of a page.

Personal Information:

Name:

Spouse and children's names (if applicable):

Email address:

Phone number:

History:

How long have you been following Jesus?

How long have you been at Erickson Covenant Church?

Which Connect Groups have you been part of?

Reflection Questions:

Why do you want to be part of the Timothy Project?

Tell us about a time in your life when you were growing in your faith. What made that growth possible?

Are there people in your life who mentor you or help you grow? If so, tell us about them. If not, why do you think that is?

What experience do you have leading others?

How do you handle conflict and criticism?

Do you have any questions or concerns about the Timothy Project?