

Servants Passage



A guided 'journey' of learning that equips ministry teams and individuals to participate with Jesus in his disciplemaking ministry.

GCI Ministry Development (MinDev) provides Servants Passage to serve GCI congregations in the United States. This information sheet answers questions and invites participation. We are here to help people participate effectively in the work Jesus is doing, in the Spirit, to fulfill the Father's mission on earth.

What is Servants Passage?

Servants Passage is not a formulaic, one-size-fits-all program. It's not about busy-work that loads new tasks onto already over-flowing plates. Rather, it's about sharing growing together as ministry workers, ministry leaders and pastors who share in the ministry *lifestyle* of Jesus in and through their congregations.

Servants Passage is a *journey* of exploration and learning that...

- Provides opportunities to think deeply about personal and shared ministry callings and giftings.
- Affords insight about personal and shared ministry strengths and needs for growth.
- Equips participants with useful tools to help them grow within 'real-world' constraints of time and money. These tools are typically utilized within church-based 'learning communities' - usually these are existing ministry teams that learn in the midst of doing ministry together. We find this approach to be both realistic and transformational.

Who is it for?

Servants Passage is a valuable tool for any believer, of any age, who wishes to make progress as a ministry worker, ministry leader or pastoral leader. It's ideal if ministry teams participate together—but it's accessible to individuals who want to explore their calling to ministry within the church.

Servants Passage is also a great way to 'jump-start' or strengthen a ministry team by clarifying roles and callings—perhaps leading to restructuring for greater effectiveness. Our experience with over 600 participants to date is that for many, Servants Passage is a catalyst for ministry and even congregational transformation.



Servants Passage equips ministers and ministry teams

What is involved?

Though Servants Passage is a life-style, it's of limited (and flexible) duration. It typically includes the following five steps:

1. **Join the Journey.** This initial exploratory intensive focused on thinking deeply about personal and team ministry callings and giftings. This 1 ½ daylong event is usually hosted by a GCI congregation. *Join the Journey* has been held in camps, hotels, church buildings and even on canoe trips—places where existing and potential ministers of Christ get away from regular routines to hear together from the Lord.
2. **Church-based discussion.** For those who choose to continue the journey, the next step involves six once-a-month “learning community” meetings back home to explore further the material covered at *Join the Journey*. These meetings are usually an add-on to ministry meetings the group already holds.
3. **Growing Deeper.** This second intensive helps journey participants grapple with 'ministry survival' issues, measure ministry abilities, and chart a course for further growth related to ministry callings.
4. **Church-based learning.** Following *Growing Deeper*, participants journey for another 18 months meeting in learning communities related to specific ministry assignments with an eye toward enhancing strengths and filling ability gaps. This learning in community is focused and achievable, recognizing limitations of both time and money. Servants Passage staff coach these communities to help them take advantage of readily available resources—many downloadable at no cost from the MinDev website.
5. **Staying the Course.** This final intensive completes Servants Passage in a formal sense. It provides a ‘graduation’ and discusses life-long learning strategies and additional ‘ministry survival’ issues.

How do I get on board?

Take the first step by participating in *Join the Journey*. Check with your district pastoral leader about schedules. Invite other ministry workers, leaders and pastors in your congregation and your district pastoral network to join in.

- If your congregation would like to host *Join the Journey* in your area, email Servants Passage director Ted Johnston at Ted.Johnston@gci.org or phone Ted at 330.497.7188
- To speak with a GCI pastor who has led his congregation through the two-year journey of Servants Passage (and beyond), call Jim Valekis at 937.432.1892 or email him at Jim.Valekis@wcg.org

