



# Cultivating Flourishing Congregations



National Gathering 2025

# Fruit

## FRUIT FOCUS

“We just need more young people”

“Here is a good \_\_\_\_\_ program”



# CULTIVATING FLOURISHING CONGREGATIONS

Creating environments where pastors, leaders, and congregations can flourish in every season.



**SEED**  
IDENTITY/DNA

Seeds innately carry the identity of a tree and its fruit. Knowing what kind of seed you plant is crucial to creating an environment for flourishing and growth.

The work of discerning leadership and congregational identity provides a blueprint for other parts of the process.



**ROOTS**  
VISION  
(KNOWN/DISCERNED)

Roots serve to both stabilize and nourish. The root system is determined by the seed and its environment. Established roots are necessary for flourishing.

Vision anchors leaders and congregations as they do the work of ministry. Vision that is well-developed and shared can give life to that work.



**SOIL**  
CULTURE  
SYSTEMS & PROCESSES

Seeds need to be planted in the right kind of soil, in the right place, that has been prepared/cleared.

Congregational systems, leadership structures, and processes create the environment where roots will grow. Some structures might inhibit growth while others can support new life.



**TRUNK**  
LEADERS

The trunk carries both the DNA and nutrients above ground. The fruit we see depends on deep work carried upward.

The leadership of a church moves the underground work of identity, systems, and vision above ground. Flourishing churches identify, develop, equip, and launch leaders regularly.



**BRANCHES**  
MINISTRY

Branches extend from the trunk and hold space for the necessary work of the leaves and give support to growing fruit.

The strategic ministry practices of a church create the environment for all of the previous work to be realized. The branches must be regularly pruned to ensure continued growth.



**LEAVES**  
SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Leaves are the site of energy production - receiving sunlight & converting it to energy. They also contain vascular structures that carry water.

The spiritual rhythms & practices of pastors, leaders, and the congregation energize and nourish them.



**FRUIT**  
OUTCOMES  
(VISION REALIZED)

Healthy trees produce a good crop of fruit. Fruit can act as a measure of the tree's overall health. Fruit carries within it seeds for multiplication.

The goal of a flourishing congregation, whatever its unique DNA, is to produce deeply transformed disciples that are prepared and equipped to multiply.



# FRUIT

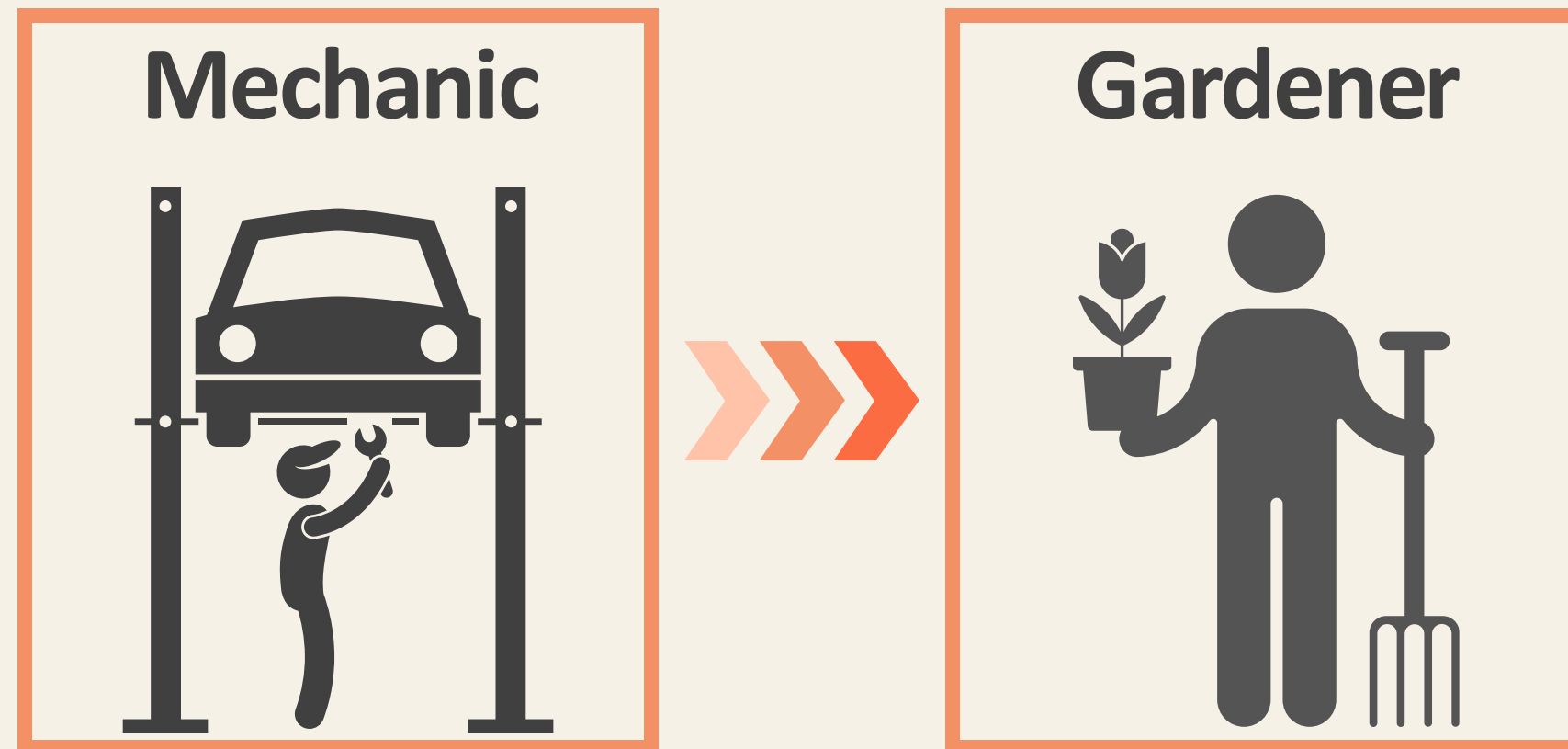
OUTCOMES  
(VISION - SEEN/REALIZED)

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## Changing the Conversation



How could this change reignite a church's imagination?



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# What's Next?



## September 8th - 10th, 2025: Dallas In-Person Cohort

To Sign Up:

- Email [info@flourishmovement.org](mailto:info@flourishmovement.org) by April 7
- Prepare your congregation & session
- Work through pre-work

If you're interested in an **on-site or regional process**, please reach out to us at [info@flourishmovement.org](mailto:info@flourishmovement.org)