

Lexicon for the *CaSTLE Project*

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The following definitions are provided to clarify the language used in the *CaSTLE Project*.

Basic Terms

Attraction Model of the Church: The prevailing mode for being church centered on having a building, pastor, and program with the purpose to attract volunteers to work in the organization.

Baptismal Ecclesiology: A way of being church that focuses on equipping the baptized people live out the five baptismal promises.

Baptismal Promises: At baptism we promise to live out our faith as a way of life: 1) to live among God's faithful people, 2) to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, 3) to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, 4) to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and 5) to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Callings: The various ways God is calling us to live out our baptismal promises in all our roles and relationships in daily life.

CaSTLE: Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology.

Catechesis: The ancient Christian practice of teaching and forming the people to live as disciples of Jesus, which remains our responsibility today.

Christian people: An alternate way to refer to lay people (the laity) in the church that avoids negative connotations of being amateur and inferior.

Coaching: A process by which the coach engages in deep listening, powerful questions, and intentional exploration to produce awareness, change, and transformation.

Daily life: Describes the roles and relationships the Christian people assume when they are not in church, including family involvements, one's work/job, the local community, volunteering, and citizenship. This is what the Christian people are doing with most of their time when they are not in the church building.

Deacon: A minister of Word and Service whose call includes encouraging the Christian people to connect the ministry of the church to the needs of the world.

Diakonia: The ancient Christian practice of teaching and forming the people to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ, especially those most in need.

Discipleship: The intentional practice of living one's life according to the person, teachings, and way of Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiology: A formal theological word that refers to our understanding of the church.

Equipping Model of the Church: A paradigm shift toward becoming a church that focuses on equipping the Christian people for ministry in their daily lives at all gatherings of the congregation, especially at worship and learning opportunities.

Evangelizing: The ancient Christian practice of teaching and forming the people to talk about their faith and share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

Formation: The intentional process of making disciples of Jesus that takes place through worship, prayer, study, and community.

Laity: The traditional word to refer to the Christian people who are not called as pastors or deacons but who are called to serve Jesus Christ in their daily lives.

Lived Ecclesiology: A way of being church that focuses on how the Christian people live out their faith in all the arenas of their daily lives—home, workplace, neighborhood, civic organizations, and government.

Mentoring: A longer-term relationship whereby knowledge, experience, and wisdom are shared through mutual conversation for the growth and empowerment of the mentee.

Paradigm shift: A monumental change in how we understand and practice what it means to be the church. This involves moving beyond technical fixes to adaptive change.

Spiritual Direction: An ancient form of soul care focused on the presence of God, the individual's relationship with God, and how divine promises and the Holy Spirit shape one's becoming.

Vocation: The identity and sense of purpose we receive in baptism. Our baptismal vocation is the deepest basis for how we understand ourselves and our relationships to others.