



THE
DWELLING

where God and God's people meet

Dismantling Transactional Ministry

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Kickstarter

Oh shoot! It's already January?! I really need to get the youth mission trip (or Vacation Bible School) on the books for next summer. What will the theme be? Where will we go? Should we plan our own or use an existing company/curriculum? Lots to do before Sunday's Christian Ed committee meeting!

- How does your church make decisions about the types of mission work you do with young people? What values or theologies do you hope to articulate through these trips?
- If planning a VBS, how do you integrate social ministry into the curriculum? What messages do you communicate to young people about folks living on the margins?
- How do these messages and theologies relate to your church's general mission or vision regarding social ministry?

Transactional Ministry: A Case Study





Transactional Ministry

“Take this food;
make me feel
good.”



Paired Discussion

1. What do transactional service experiences teach young people?
2. What are the benefits of transactional service experiences? Or, why do we keep doing them?
3. What makes transactional service problematic, especially when doing them with young people?



Key Idea:

Transactional ministry robs people living on the margins of their dignity by:

- 1. prioritizing results over relationship,*
- 2. centering one's worthiness on their work*
- 3. taking away one's agency and the expertise of one's lived experience*



How do we dismantle transactional ministry?

*We dismantle transactional ministry by standing in **solidarity** with the suffering.*



Solidarity looks like...

- Seeing the suffering as beloved children of God
- Build intimate relationships with people who the world ignores.
- Sacrifice our own comfort in hopes that one day all people will be free.

“with” vs. “for”

Solidarity should transform the way we talk about service in the church. Instead of doing “service to,” we should be prioritizing “building community with.”

- What is the difference between “service to” and “building community with”?
- How does this minor semantic shift impact our lens (or even our theology)?
- What does this difference communicate to our young people?





OUR SHARED STORY

Located in downtown Winston-Salem, the Dwelling is a community of faith built primarily, but not exclusively, for our neighbors without homes along with their intersecting identities of addiction and recovery, severe and persistent mental health challenges, and incarceration and re-integration into society.

AS A COMMUNITY, WE BELIEVE:

- HOUSING DOESN'T EQUAL WORTHINESS
- TRAUMA DOESN'T EQUAL SHAME
- HUNGER DOESN'T EQUAL EMPTINESS
- SOBRIETY DOESN'T EQUAL SALVATION
- WEALTH DOESN'T EQUAL BELOVEDNESS

In a world which names folks living at the margins as unworthy, the Dwelling dares to recast the narrative by boldly proclaiming that all people, especially the housing insecure, are beloved children of God who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.



COMMUNITY

average worship attendance

87



weekly Bible study



10 baptisms



750 more than hours of pastoral care



12 funerals

1,736 showers



\$ 46,758 in direct assistance

5,639

meals served

MISSIONS

3.5 weeks of summer service learning

with 170 campers



12 participants in Witnessing Homelessness community education course

16

congregation visits



1.1 million dollar building project

ADVOCACY

SPARK'DWELL





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

with Cliff Srgai



Closing: 3, 2, 1 Thinking Routine

- Name three things you learned during this session (or, perhaps three things you hope to takeaway and implement in your congregation).
- Name two things you hope to do differently when presenting service to young people (or things you hope to emphasize more).
- Name one (or more) questions you will continue to wrestle with when planning service learning opportunities for young people.

