

REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATIONS
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
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FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION
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When a college football team steps on the field they know why they are there. They are there to out-score their opponent. They don't try to do all their scoring in one play. They do it over four quarters with multiple possessions and timeouts while using a wide variety of offensive and defensive plays. Not only that, they do it in the midst of a multitude of distractions. Bands are playing. Fans are yelling. Vendors are barking out their sales pitch. The team knows they are not there to watch the band, eat a hot dog and peanuts or even hang out with friends. They are there to move the ball toward the end zone.

Ultimately, their focus is on putting the right combination of players and plays together to move the ball toward the goal every time they have the ball. That is the end game.

What is the end game for those of us called to serve the churches we lead? We believe the end game has been established by Jesus. He said "make disciples." So, how do we move the ball toward the goal every time we can? Just like in a football game, making a disciple does not happen on one set of downs. Just like in a football game, there is an adversary. Just like in a football game, there are unique sets of players in every congregation. How do we help congregations put the right combination of plays and players together to make disciples?

We believe in the previous twelve months the Church Development Division has continued to be a unique value adding partner to the congregations of the Florida Baptist Convention in their disciple making processes.

We come to the game ready to add value to the disciple making process through the network of relationships, conferences, coaching, web resources and consulting that are made possible through the Cooperative Program. Our energies are focused toward encouraging and equipping Florida pastors and church leaders to:

1. Develop and lead from a missionary mindset
2. Learn with other church leaders in their context for encouragement, instruction and accountability
3. Create a welcoming environment for guests on their church campuses
4. Avoid ministry failure by reconnecting with their calling and developing ministry and people skills
5. Model for their congregation what it means to love your neighbor and share Christ with them
6. Connect their church's worship service, Sunday School/small group environments and ministry opportunities into an intentional part of a discipling process
7. Develop a staff team (paid or volunteer) that has character, competence, and cohesiveness for a vibrant Great Commission ministry
8. Reframe the way they think about VBS as a childhood evangelism tool
9. Navigate the conflicts that ultimately arise in congregational life

The members of the Church Development Division stand ready to come along side churches as they pursue their process of making disciples. Every day we are here to help customize clear, helpful and doable steps as churches seek to develop leaders, develop believers and create the structures and environments that will further their ability to accomplish the end game - making disciples.