

Modality & Sodality

One Church ... Two Forms

One Church ... Two Forms

The design of God, from the time of the New Testament forward, has been to work through the local church *and* the church in its missionary form.

Two words used to describe these forms are *Modality* and *Sodality*.

Modality & Sodality

Modality

The church *local*
Parish Form
Focus on nurture, care
Conserves new ground
“1st decision” people
Ministry generalists
Multi-tasks
Pastoral leaders thrive
Resources for sodalities
Connectional
Near-neighbor missionality
Builds, establishes and preserves

Sodality

The church *mobile, regional*
Missionary form
Focus on vision, mission
Takes new ground, pioneers
“2nd decision” people
Ministry specialists
Narrow focus
“Apostolic” leaders thrive
Creates modalities and sodalities
Can be trans-denominational
Can be cross-cultural (E1-E3)
Inherently entrepreneurial

Modality & Sodality

(Local / Pastoral) (Mobile / Apostolic)

*In the following pairs identify which item illustrates
a modality and which a sodality?*

A M.A.S.H. unit

Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors

Camp Pendleton

S.W.A.T.

Campus Crusade for Christ

A Church *Youth Group*

Henry Mayo Hospital

An Ice Cream Truck

Seal Team 6

Police Department

Church College Group

Y.W.A.M.

Modality & Sodality

(Local / Pastoral) (Mobile / Apostolic)

Implications:

1. The church in its apostolic, missionary form (sodality) is as equally “church” as the church in its local, parish form (modality). God designed each to uniquely advance Christ’s Kingdom. *(Think Paul and his apostolic missionary team)*
2. History affirms that whenever these two structures work cooperatively and interdependently, the Christian movement thrives and moves forward.
3. Apostolic leaders *(Kingdom entrepreneurs)* and their mission/vision thrive best in structures designed for the fulfillment of their calling.
4. Apostolic leaders and apostolic structures “have an irreplaceable purpose in maintaining ongoing missional capacities, generating new forms of ecclesia, and working for the continual renewing of the church, among many other vital functions.”
Sam Metcalf p. 87

One more clarification ...

Regarding Gospel Movements

(Generic) Movement defined: “The sociological phenomenon that takes place when a group of people work together to passionately advance their shared commitments.” (Abolition of slavery, Civil rights, Environmental, Feminist)

Apostolic (Gospel) Movement: When the Spirit of God breathes supernatural power into a movement so that the focus of the movement is the good news of Jesus and his kingdom’s presence. The result is typically societal transformation. (The Reformation, First & Second Great Awakening, Welsh Revival of 1908)

“Apostolic (gospel) movements occur when the good news of Jesus spreads contagiously – like a relational virus – through a network of social relationships whereby many people become committed followers of Jesus and groups of these disciples rapidly multiply, radically impacting whole towns, cities, and nations with the presence of his kingdom.” Sam Metcalf, Beyond the Local Church, p. 169.

The ministry of Tracy and Debra exists to help people thrive in their relationship with Jesus. Our desire is to advance Christ's Kingdom by mobilizing believers, leaders, and churches into a gospel movement of visible unity.

Tracy and Debra ...

- are passionate about advancing Christ's Kingdom
- are pioneering fundamental *ecclesiological* change
- are seeking to influence church leaders and the Body at large
- are calling for the awakening of the Church to biblical unity
- have a focused mission and vision
- will require “2nd decision” commitment from participants
- are trans-denominational
- desire to spark a gospel movement that will quickly spread.

So ... are Tracy and Debra a modality or a sodality?

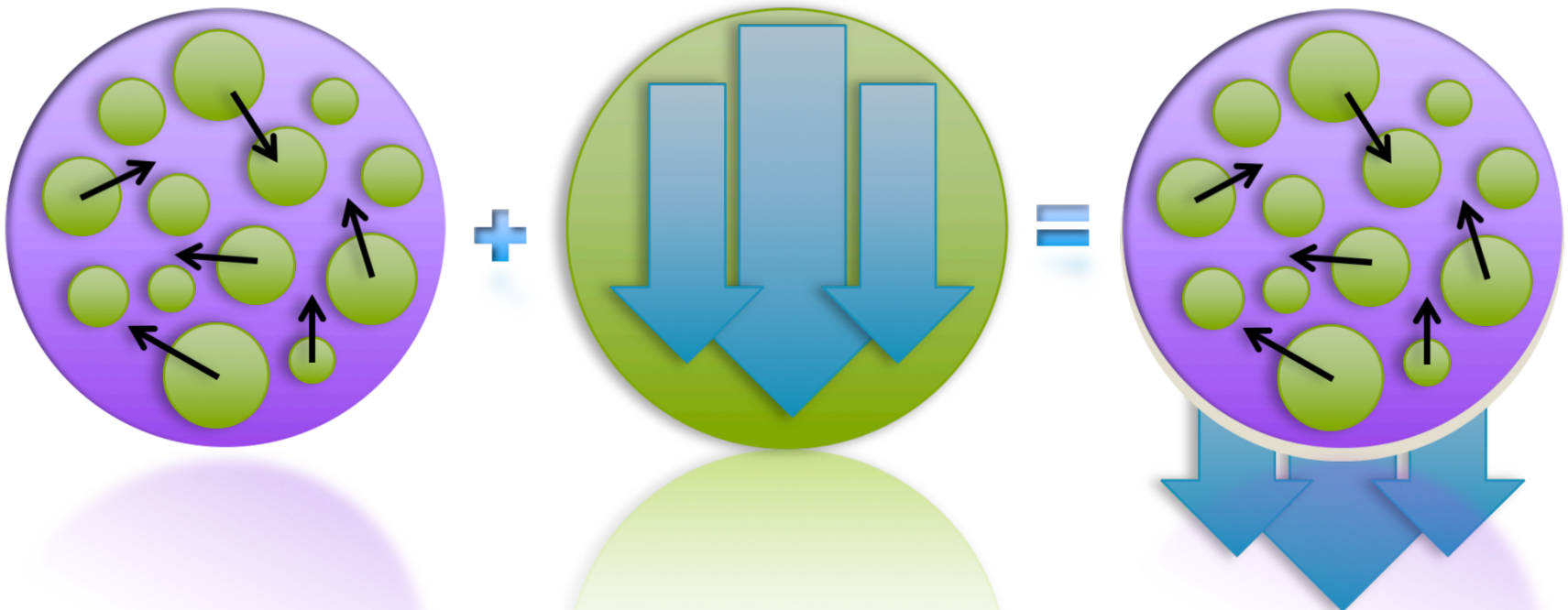
Because of the nature of their vision – *to help people thrive in their relationship with Jesus in order to advance Christ's Kingdom by mobilizing believers, leaders, and churches into a gospel movement of visible unity* - their vision and mission can best be accomplished by coming alongside local churches, networks and movements as a supportive catalyst, awakening the Church to its unified identity and calling. As such, they function as a *sodality* or an *apostolic structure*.

None of the literature addressing modalities and sodalities writes from the perspective of the collective Church of the City.

Local Church - Modality

Apostolic Structure - Sodality

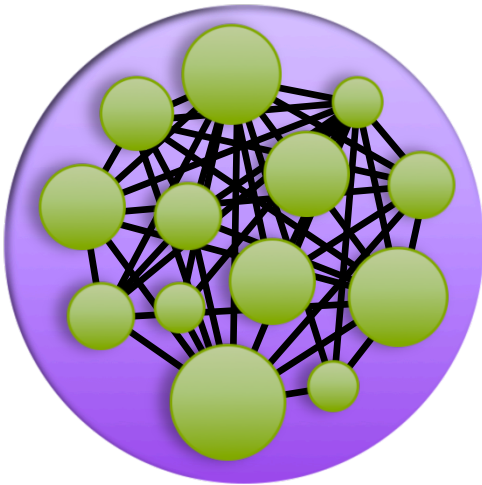
Local Church / Sodality



Typically when the two structures (Local Church and Apostolic Structure) are combined the result continues to be independent churches working in alignment with a sodalic movement.

When the collective Church of the city serves in unity with other apostolic structures (sodalities) the result is a transforming expression of ecclesia.

**Unified City Church -
Modality**



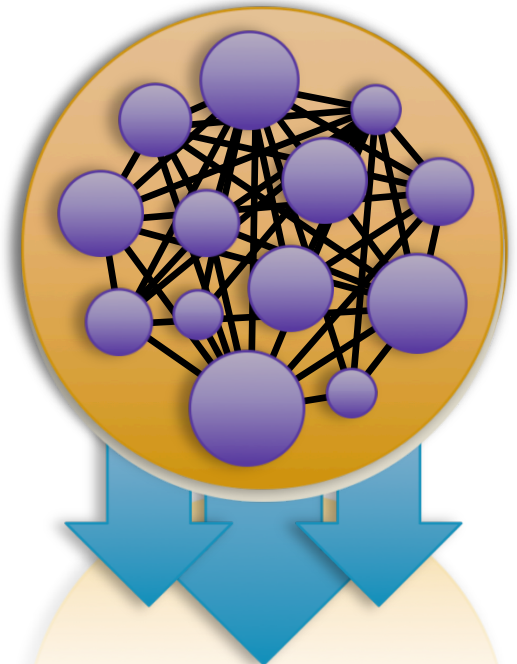
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Apostolic Structure - Sodality



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City Church / Sodality



When a unified Church of the city collaborates with apostolic structures, the synergistic result is greater than the sum total the churches could accomplish independently.

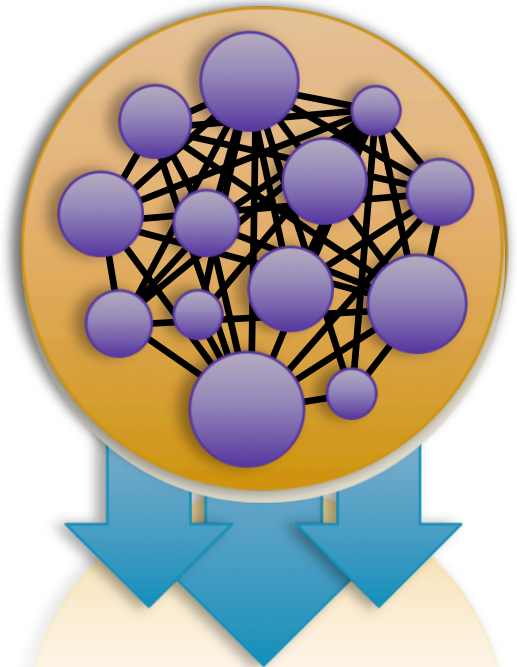
We are serving Christ in an amazing era of Church history. The Spirit of God is at work and fresh expressions of the church are being birthed

The ministry of Tracy and Debra champions the unified collaboration of the Church of the city with Apostolic Structures in order to accomplish transformational ministry.

As such, Tracy and Debra can best accomplish their vision by serving as an apostolic structure (*sodality*) in community and partnership with the collective Body of Christ (*modalities*).

God designed each (Modality and Sodality) to make a unique contribution in advancing Christ's Kingdom.

City Church / Sodality



An invitation to local church Pastors

As pastors in your community, God has placed you in a strategic role of stewarding his desire to transform your city through the visible unity of his followers for the glory of Christ (John 17). We honor your calling of pastoral leadership. The ministry of Tracy and Debra exists to help people thrive in their relationship with Jesus. We want to advance Christ's Kingdom by catalyzing leaders and churches into a gospel movement of visible unity. Our desire is to support your leadership and enhance the spiritual vitality of the Church of the City in your community. How can we serve you?

www.TracyandDebra.com