

# **A Summary of “The Five Convictions”**

As defined in “The Vine Project: by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne

This summary is designed to give a quick outline of the “Five Convictions” based on our Lord’s Great Commission: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” Matthew 28:19. These convictions will be included in the information shared by Marty Sweeney at our **BSLC Vision 2022** Mini-Retreat on September 30 and October 1, 2022.

## **1. Why make disciples?**

“God’s goal for the whole world and the whole of human history is to glorify his beloved Son and in the midst of the people he has rescued and transformed”. Making disciples is an important and urgent task. It is focused on rescuing people out of “this present darkness” into the kingdom of his Son by his death and resurrection—people, who are being transformed to be like Jesus and who will now have a sure and certain place around Christ’s throne in a new creation where evil and death are no more.

## **2. What is a disciple?**

“A disciple is a forgiven sinner who is learning about Christ in repentance and faith”. The definition of disciple is “learner”. Learning about Christ and His redeeming sacrifice on the Cross is “transformational learning”. It changes us as we accept the salvation that God has won for us through Christ and includes an ongoing daily commitment to living out a life that reflects that transformation. The redeemed people of Christ are his Church.

## **3. How are disciples made?**

“The making of disciples is God’s work achieved through his word and Spirit.” This is achieved through the activity of Christian disciples and in the hearts of the people they speak to. This is summarized in the Vine Project as the four Ps.

- ✓ **P**roclamation of the word in multiple ways
- ✓ **P**rayerful dependence on the Spirit
- ✓ **P**eople are God’s fellow workers.
- ✓ **P**erseverance, step by step.

## **4. Who makes disciples?**

It is the joy and privilege of all God’s people to be involved in making disciples. “God by his Spirit, opens the mouths of all disciples to speak the one word of Christ in a richly varied way.” All Christians can be disciples (Christ learners) who help others to learn Christ.

## **5. Where are we to make disciples?**

This is a basic activity that should be at the enter of everything we do as a church. Becoming a transformational learning community through the prayerful proclamation and speaking of the work of God. “It happens in every facet and activity of the transformative learning communities we call churches; and through our churches, it also happens in every corner of this present darkness.”