



Faith Communities for Just Food

www.AccessofWestMichigan.org
@accessofwm







**Equipping food assistance
organizations in Kent County, MI**
Investing in our local food economy
Growing health equity
Facilitating community action
**Convening food and faith
conversations**



Outcomes

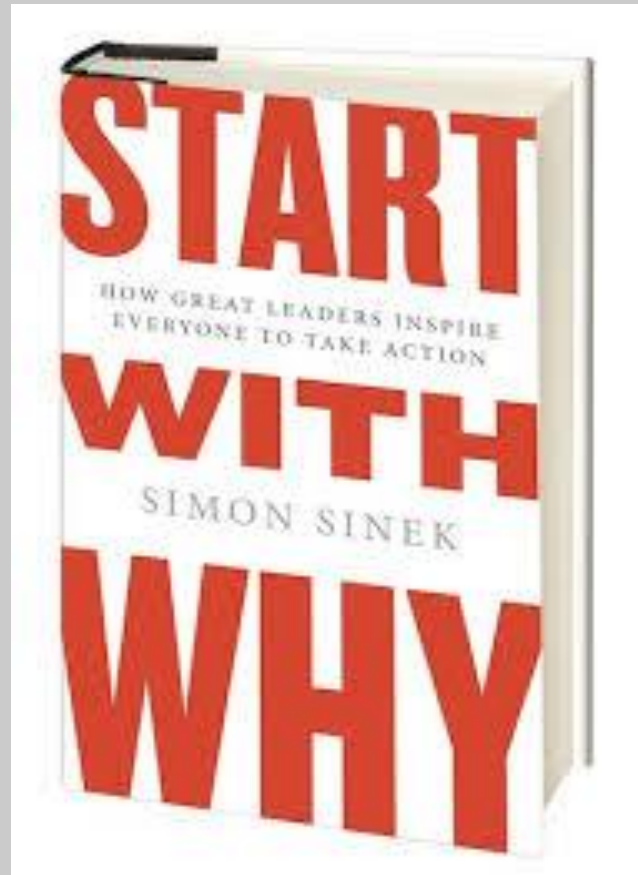
1. Equip one another with tools and resources to have healthy dialogues about **food** justice within **faith**-based organizations
2. Hold a safe space to share and learn from one another's **food** and **faith** stories
3. Brainstorm strategies to connect with **faith** communities from a **food** system framework



Food & Faith Stories

1. Experiences that shaped your understanding of your expression of faith
2. Experiences that shaped your relationship with food

Start with theology



Start with why

Aligning food ministry



With our theology



Overview

1. Tenets of Kingdom theology
2. Tenets of charitable food
3. Comparing the WHYS of both
4. Addressing disparities of the WHYS



Kingdom Theology

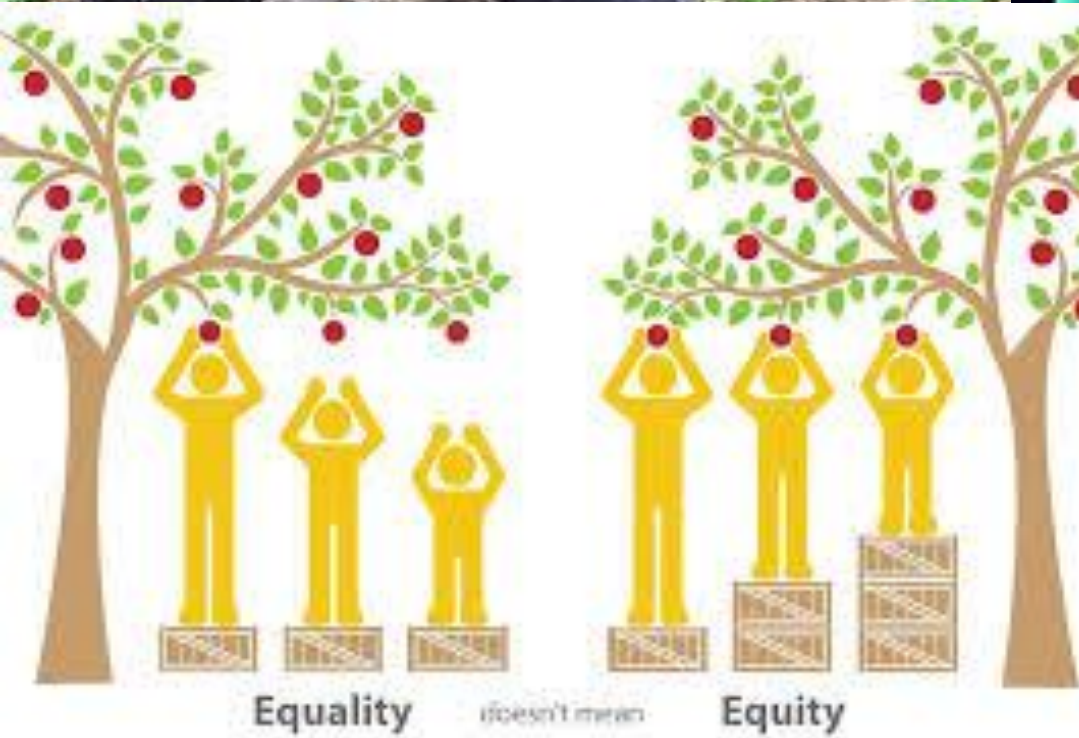
The kingdom or reign of God has been inaugurated on earth, but will come in fullness later

“May your Kingdom come
& your will be done on
earth as it is in heaven”

Pay close attention now: I'm creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I'm creating: I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I'll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people: No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don't enjoy a full lifetime; Onehundredth birthdays will be considered normal
— anything less will seem like a cheat.

They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields
and eat what they grow. No more building a house
that some outsider takes over, No more planting fields
that some enemy confiscates, For my people will be as
long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have
satisfaction in their work. They won't work and have
nothing come of it, they won't have children snatched
out from under them. For they themselves are
plantings blessed by God, with their children and
grandchildren likewise God-blessed. Before they call
out, I'll answer. Before they've finished speaking,
I'll have heard.

Isaiah 65:17-24 (The Message)

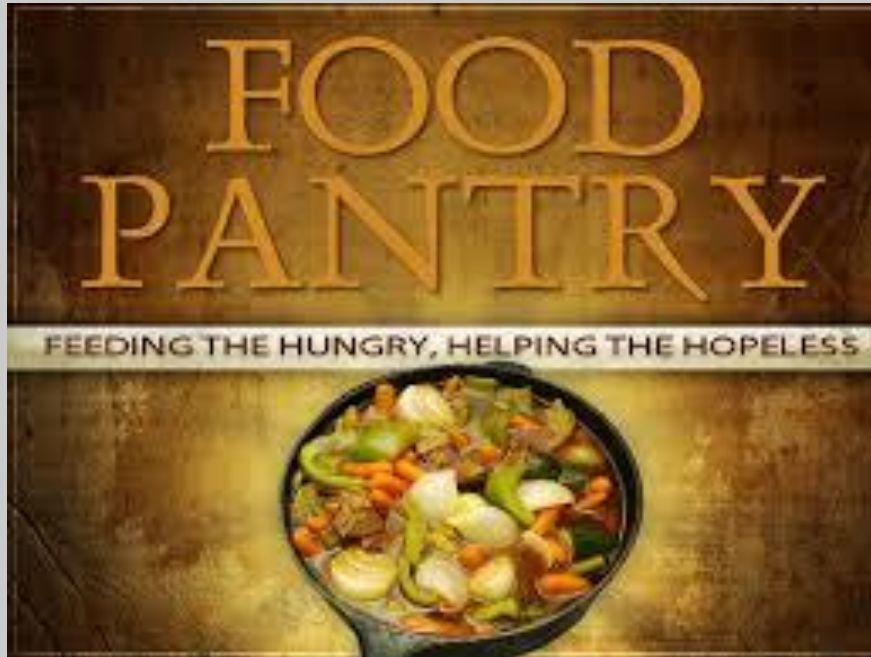


1930's



1980's

Transactional



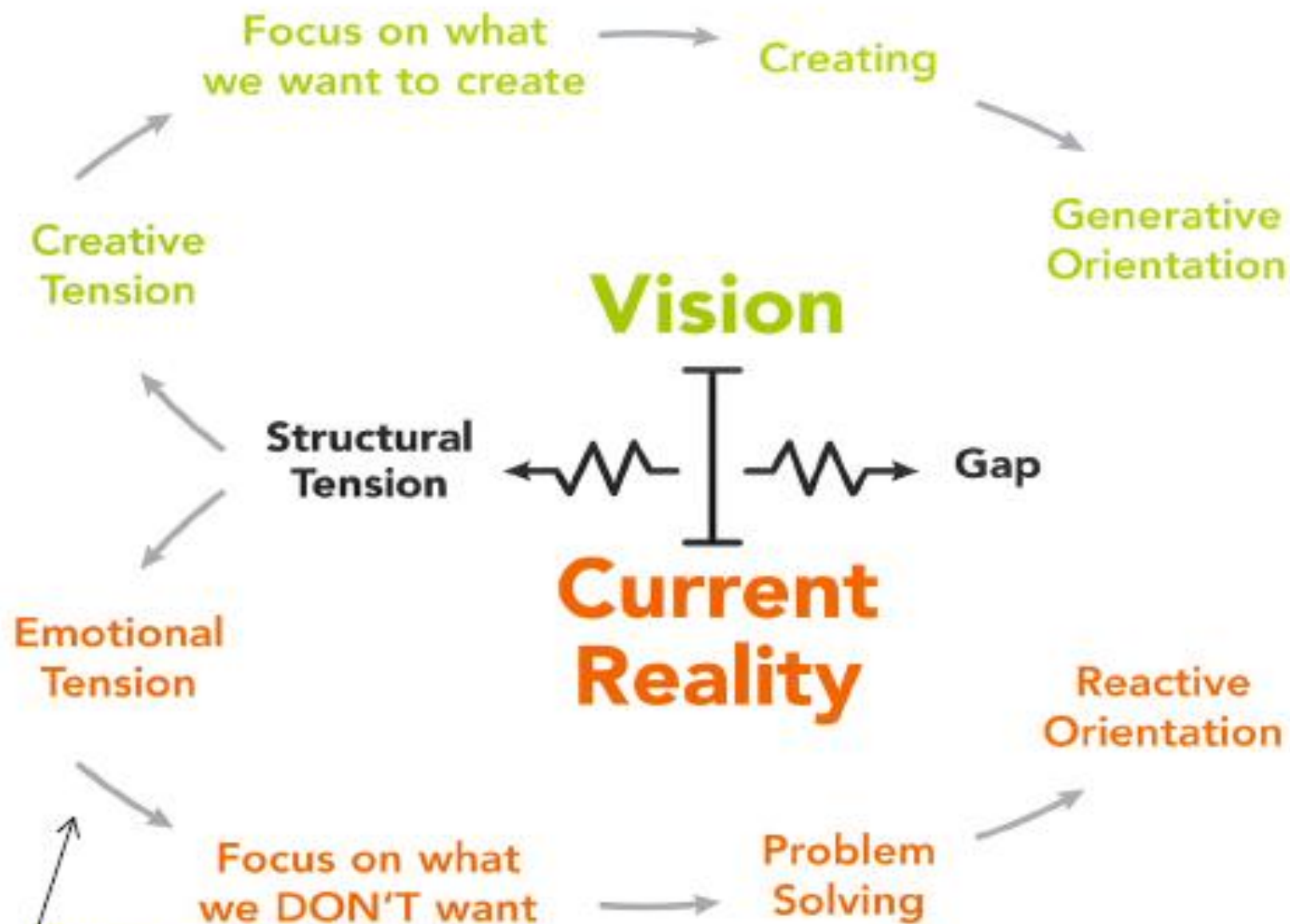
Need-based

Relief-oriented



Reactionary

Creative Tension Model



NOTE: Daniel Kim now uses the term "anxious tension", to more accurately describe the sense

Kingdom Theology

Charitable Food

Vision driven

Reactive/need-based
orientation

System of dignified
human experience

System of transaction
(dehumanization)

Abundance mentality

Scarcity mentality

Food & Faith Stories: Revisited



NOTICE:

Disconnects/disparities?
Overlaps/Congruence?

DISCUSS:

How to move forward?
Addressing disparities & overlaps

Tools & Resources

Asset Based
Community
Development





Relief (doing for)

Provide temporary, short term assistance

Examples:

Soup kitchen, clothes closet,
holiday food basket



Betterment (doing for)

Create positive caring beneficial environment and relationships that offer respite or a positive experience

Examples:

Food pantry, health clinic,
tutoring



Empowerment (Development)

Focuses on measured changes in knowledge, skills, abilities or conditions of the participants and where they take responsibility for change.

Examples:

Job placement, thrift store, food co-op, community growing projects



Systemic Change

Focuses on the systemic issues that create injustice

Examples:

Lobbying for/against policies,
implementing Policy, Systems, and
Environmental change,
community organizing



Systemic Change

Involves recognizing systems of oppression

Systemic & institutionalized racism

Marginalization & disenfranchisement

Start with faith values



Start with why

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