

Evangelists

Evangelists have a dual passion for the liberating Gospel and for the goodness of all God's children. In the context of intentional, loving relationships, they leverage their own experiences of transformation to engage the unconverted. Evangelists often find themselves in unfriendly territory, relying on their fellow laborers to support them as they spread the Good News in unexpected places. Evangelists deepen discipleship by transforming curiosity into holiness.

How does this type lead?

- **Patient, persistent, and respectful conversations on social media**
- **Building relationships with folks who do not yet share the vision of liberation**
- **Boldly entering spaces of injustice to engage folks from opposing perspectives**

Evangelists often work within loose networks, bringing an open and invitational attitude toward those not yet connected with communities of justice. Alternately, they work within existing communities with opportunities to grow towards liberation, identifying and working with individuals who might be open to transformation.

Evangelists are aware of *the temptation of both side-ism*, reminding the community that empathy and compassion do not require compromising the Gospel of liberation or "meeting in the middle."

Evangelist leader in action:

R attends a majority straight congregation that has toyed with the idea of becoming reconciling, but their pastor is resistant. As a straight cis person herself, R went through her own process of becoming LGBTQ affirming about a decade ago. She is passionate and vocal, as well as empathetic. She decides to systematically schedule coffee meetings with every member of her congregation to talk to them about where they stand, and whether they are open to helping move the church in a more inclusive direction.

Evangelist community in action:

Church J is a community that loves celebrating their interfaith Thanksgiving service. In their own context, they have a number of community members and leaders who are deaf or hard of hearing. When they collaborate with other faith communities for the joint service, they advocate within the planning and execution for ASL interpreters and printed materials to increase accessibility. As that becomes normative, they use

the opportunity to ask the leadership to consider together what else they can do to make their service accessible in other ways.

Apostles

Apostles are called "the sent out ones," on the front lines of visible, public justice and liberation work. They are boldly pioneering in their leadership, implementing and operationalizing the work of the Prophets. Apostles consistently offer resources (material and spiritual) on the ground level or outer edges of existing ministries, paving the way into new territories and expressions of liberation. Apostles deepen discipleship by transforming convictions into action.

How does this type lead?

- **Church Planting with clear justice and liberation mission**
- **Leading or supporting street protests**
- **Participating in civil disobedience**
- **Providing street chaplaincy to activists outside of congregation**

***Apostles** work on the front lines and edges of existing communities, always pushing into new spaces of liberation, discipleship and justice. They often define "church" in nontraditional ways.*

Apostles are aware of the temptation of works righteousness, reminding the community that though they are called into action, it is still grace and limitless love of God that brings salvation to the world.

Apostle leader in action:

Pastor S leads her community through crisis, after a confrontation with the police ends in the death of an unarmed black community member. This pastor brings her congregation into the streets for the first time as a congregation, to bear witness and demand justice.

Apostle community in action:

Church X has been out in the streets with activists for many seasons, when the police brutality crisis escalates both nationally and locally. Community activists declare that there would be 200 days of street protests, and needs arise regarding a supply chain of food, water, and medical supplies..

Church X uses their resources (building, leadership, volunteers, experience of street protest) to open a supply drop and distribution center.

Teachers

Teachers empower individuals and communities to integrate new beliefs or understanding, sharpen their skills of critical reflection, and become aware of their place in systems of power and oppression. Teachers develop both systemic understanding of structures of evil and the places each person has within those systems as individuals with overlapping identities of privilege, power, and oppression.

Teachers deepen discipleship by transforming ideas into wisdom.

How does this type lead?

- **Teaching classes, Bible studies, skills workshops**
- **Leading book discussions**
- **Preaching or writing for a specific community**

Teachers *work within communities who find themselves in the in-between, and are open to learning new ideas and practices of discipleship towards liberation.*

This type is aware of *the temptation of over-intellectualizing*, reminding the community that learning is best when it is paired with action.

Teacher leader in action:

A is a trans man and a student of the Hebrew scriptures. He knows that the Old Testament is much more complex and liberationist than many people realize. He writes a book on trans affirmation in the Bible, and tours churches to lead book discussions.

Teacher community in action:

Church B is a white flight congregation in a now majority Black neighborhood. Most members are white suburbanites who live at least 20 minutes away from the church building, which is just outside of city limits. Church B wants to facilitate relationships between church members and community members, but they know that their congregation has a lot of learning to do. The church works with trusted Black community partners to host a series of conversations about racism, asking their members to commit to learn as an act of personal and communal discipleship.

Pastors

Pastors bring healing practices, attentiveness to the divine, and spiritual depth to communities in doing liberationist ministry. Through leading worship, offering pastoral care, or facilitating collective discernment, Pastors create the conditions for communities to thrive and heal in the midst of struggle.

Pastors deepen discipleship by transforming wounds into awareness, and activism into worship.

How does this type lead?

- **Leading practices of worship and formation**
- **Providing spiritual/pastoral care**
- **Facilitating spaces of healing**

Pastors often work within communities who are deeply impacted by systemic oppression and/or the wounds incurred by laboring for justice.

This type is aware of *the temptation of narrow scope*, reminding the community that even as we tend to the needs and wounds of those around us, we must remain faithful to upending the systems that cause harm.

Pastor leader in action:

Community member E has been a street activist long enough to see that small wounds can grow deep, even among close allies, if left untended. She begins facilitating a monthly healing circle, offered to any community activists for processing on a regular basis.

Real life **Type** community:

Community Organization M was initially a bail fund for street activists, but the leadership soon discovered that the funds could support those laboring for justice in various ways. In the peak of the summer, when local leadership was feeling most burnt out, organization M held a celebration, awarding nominated leaders with thank you bags including gift certificates for massages and other body work.

Prophets

Prophets dream, envision, and challenge individuals and communities to reflection, self-critique, and transformation. Prophets have a finely honed ability to imagine the coming kingdom of liberation, both hopeful and not yet. They demand accountability from figures and institutions of power, as well as proclaim the possibilities of the Gospel. Prophets inspire and galvanize communities into action. Prophets must balance their call to speak out against that which prevents full liberation with their call to inspire the hope and imagination of those laboring for a better world.

Prophets deepen discipleship by turning truth and accountability into vision and transformation.

How does this type lead?

- **Creating art, or artistic forms of communication**
- **Public preaching & writing**
- **Signs and wonders**

Prophets are aware of *the temptation of purity*, reminding the community that though we fall short of the glory of God and the Gospel, there is goodness already at work that is worth celebrating and calling holy.

Prophet leader in action:

Pastor L is queer and Black, trying to lead meaningful in a majority white and straight culture. He can imagine a church that is truly queer affirming and anti-racist, but he grieves how far his dream is from his reality. Rather than fall into despair or be silenced by those satisfied with the status quo, Pastor L becomes vocal and relentless advocate for liberation within his church - creating platforms to make his critiques, disappointments, hopes, and dreams publicly available for any and all who will join in the conversation.

Prophet community in action:

Project L is a gathering of visionary leaders from across a wide range of geography, identity, and authority within the church. They have witnessed glimpses of the church as they believe it could be, and so have dedicated themselves to facilitating conversations, art, resources, and budding communities that can catch one another's passion and accelerate the wildfire of passion for the liberation of the Gospel.