

SOCIO-CYCLE ANALYSIS OF HEALTHY CHURCH TRAINING MODEL

CAPA CONCEPT PAPER.

Surely contextual and self-evaluating involving every member of the church starting with leaders to children:

Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Paul attempts in his theology to put emphasis on individual personal relationship with God and fellow human beings as foundational to a healthy life. The fact that Holy Spirit, God Himself coming and dwelling in believers is significant and empowering to enable believers live a productive life that glorifies God.

In 1st Corinthians 12: 12-31 Paul continues to build on the theology of healthy body by emphasizing on the significance of each part of the body and the need to be in proper functioning state in order to be of help to each other. He points out that each part need one another for survival and for complete healthiness. *The World Health Organization (WHO) defined human health in its broader sense in its 1948 constitution as state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.* From our perspective this definition is lacking one key fundamental aspect to complete health state of a human being. The Spiritual component. To be healthy does not just take into consideration complete physical, mental, and social well-being without anchoring it in the fact that human being are made up of Soul, mind and body. The African worldview appreciated a reality of human life being directly controlled by supreme divine powers that humanity depended on for living. Right from morning to evening, all activities were controlled by the divine power beyond man's control. Human relationships and all their dealings with one another were determined by how well they related to the supreme deity. Relationships ranged from family ties, religious, political, economic, sickness and disease, etc.

We can further define health as A healthy life is determined by a number of factors: Health breathing system, a healthy functioning heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, healthy eye sight, healthy hands, legs, and healthy functioning brain/Mental stability. In medical terms, a healthy life is a life that is absent of diseases. Nutritionists emphasize that for one to keep healthy must watch his/her diet and exercise. These two principles keep away most diseases that would easily attack us. In this respect, it becomes the responsibility of every individual to ensure that they are healthy fit by safe guarding themselves from hazards that are likely to put their lives under threat of being infected by diseases. Psychologists would add that being healthy is attaining state of physical, emotional, mental and spiritual harmony, characterised by peace and tranquility.

This same principle directly applies to the life of a christian who desires to live a healthy spiritual life that glorifies God. It is therefore imperative that for any doctor to provide healthy services to those who come to seek help, he/she must endeavour under normal circumstances, be healthy in order to offer the same.

If this is true, then a professional doctor or healthy practitioner cannot offer treatment without carrying out thorough diagnosis to establish the cause of ailment.

In our case, Paul in 1st Corinthians 12: 12-31 describes the church as a body with many parts. He draws a conclusion that if one part of the body is in pain, the whole body pains. It is therefore important that all parts of the body are given equal attention to allow healthy functionality of the body system.

Health on the other hand has to do with how humanity handles environment: the social well-being as WHO puts it. The late Professor Wangare Mathai concluded that Nature is divine and imperative to human survival, if miss-handled, it is cruel and unforgiving. It is therefore vital that as we look at the Mission of the Church to the world, concern for nurturing a health church in her mission mandate becomes the main focus of our mission delivery and indicator that we are on the right track.

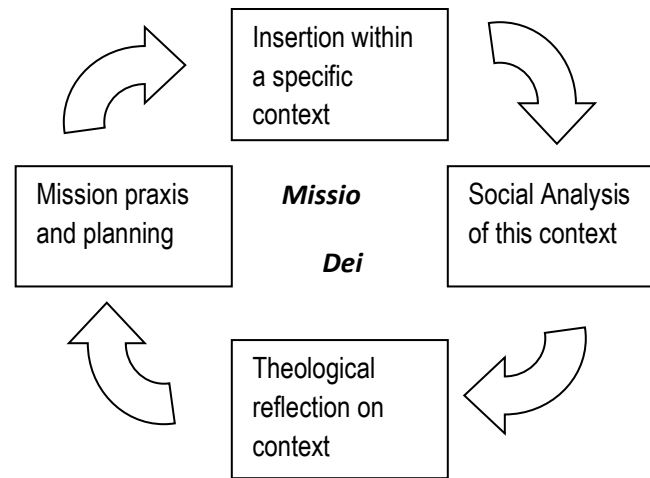
In Romans 12: 1-2 Paul addresses three key factors that determine healthiness of any believer. (i). Offering of our bodies as living sacrifices to God, which is a true act of worship. This first key factor connects with his argument in 1st Corinthians 6: 19-20 where he reminds believers that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. A healthy believer must be one whose sole responsibility is to worship and serve God in all aspects of life. This is priority to Christian calling into the world. (ii). Not conforming to the patterns of the world. The usage of the term “world” refers to any act that is contrary to God’s will. Acts that are directed to self gratification, opposed to acts that seek to glorify God. Such people are sick spiritually with deprived moral acts that blaspheme God. Believers who are spiritually healthy obediently follow God’s leading in all their undertakings. (iii). to be transformed or completely changed by renewal of personal mind. The usage of the term Renewing of mind is in continuous present tense, means that it is an ongoing process and not an event. It is a state of transformed mind set, positively focusing on progressive acts that glorify God.

Conclusion:

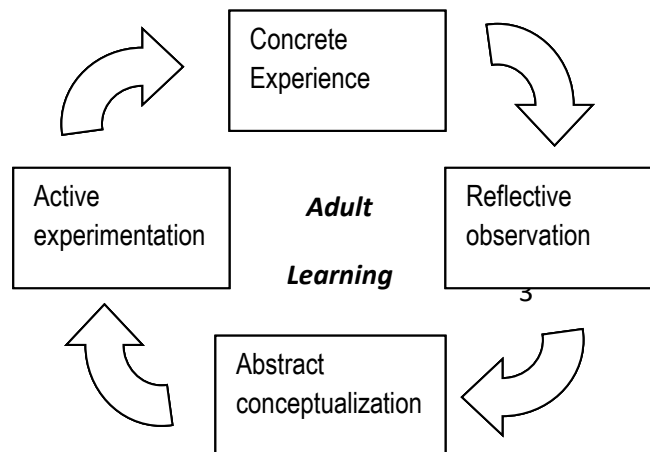
The Church is called to live, work and serve God in a deprived, corrupt, tribal, ethnized, racialized, greedy, romanticized, with serious vices that have resulted into political and economic sabotage thus leading to weak systemic structures that have contributed to civil unrest, wars, tribal clashes, moral depravity, hence, wrong societal values that have left humanity at the brink of collapsing.

It is the issues above that have deeply informed development of this discipleship approach, beginning to interrogate the status of the church in its current position, in relation to its primary calling as a missionary movement.

The model adopts a reflected in a pastoral cycle which has the *Missio Dei* at its center:



The pastoral cycle is itself a development of principles of adult learning outlined below:



Point of entry:

The process begins by empowering Bishops, clergy and laity in a self discovery process towards exploring traits and attributes of a healthy church. The survival and strategic focus of any organization depends heavily on the kind of leadership provided. In the case of the Church, ecclesiastical leadership is imperative to the survival and relevancy of either local Parish or Diocese. The indicator of a healthy church therefore is measured by the degree of healthiness of leadership offered thus resulting into a healthy congregation that is rooted in a context carrying out healthy missions that lead to productive life that glorifies God.

Diagram 1: Focuses on Bishops healthy life and how that impacts the rest of the Church and society:

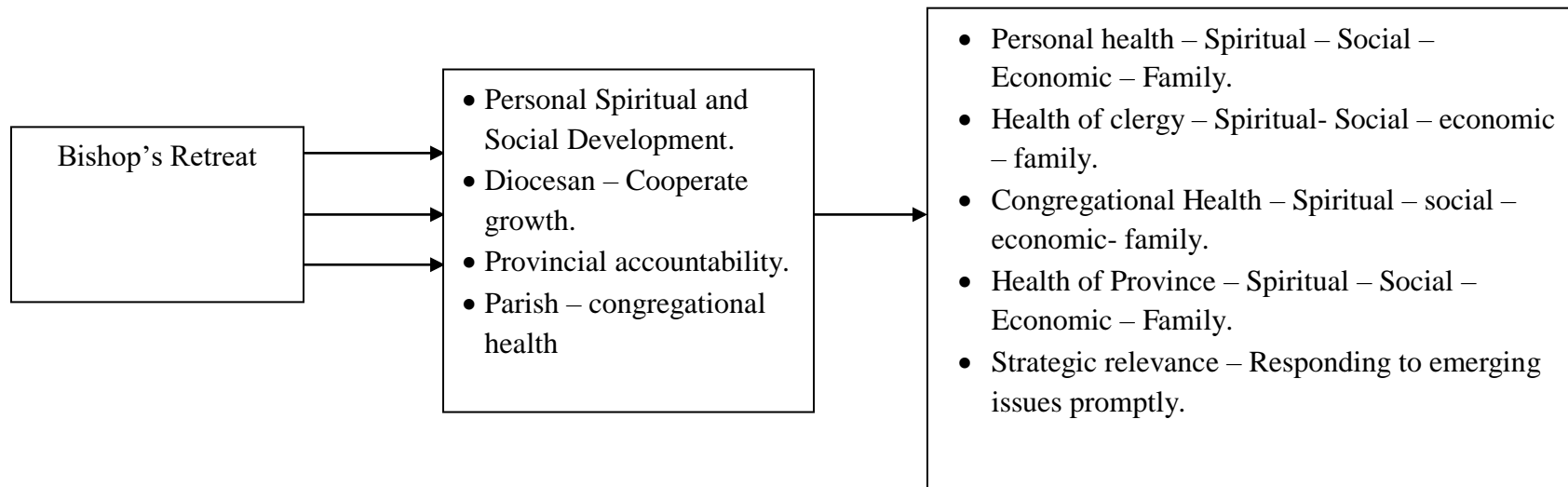


Diagram 2: Focuses on healthy life of clergy and how his personal ministry impacts the life of the Church and the wider society

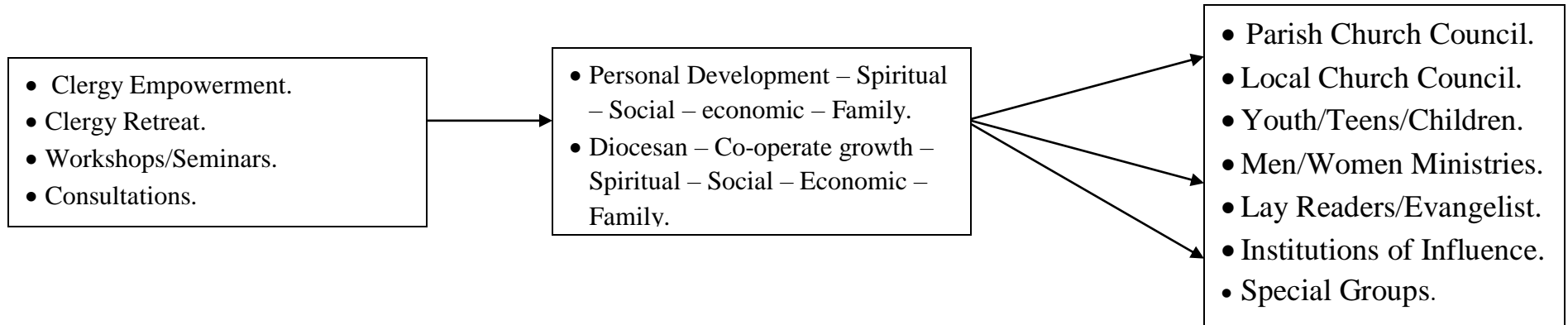


Diagram 3: Focuses on the healthy life of the Church (Laity) and how their strategic engagement influences the society towards societal transformation

