



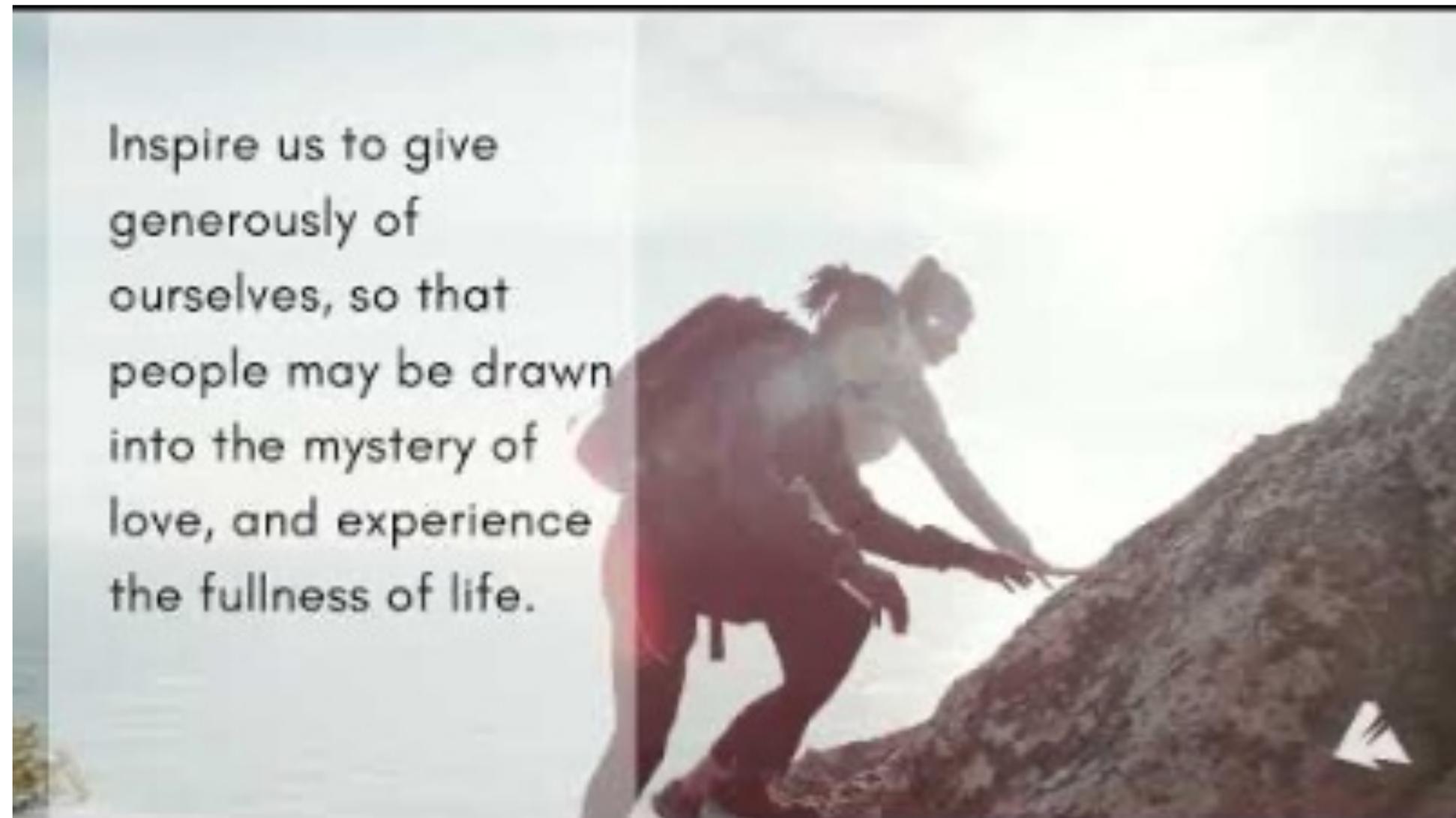
CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

Identity, Mission, and Vision

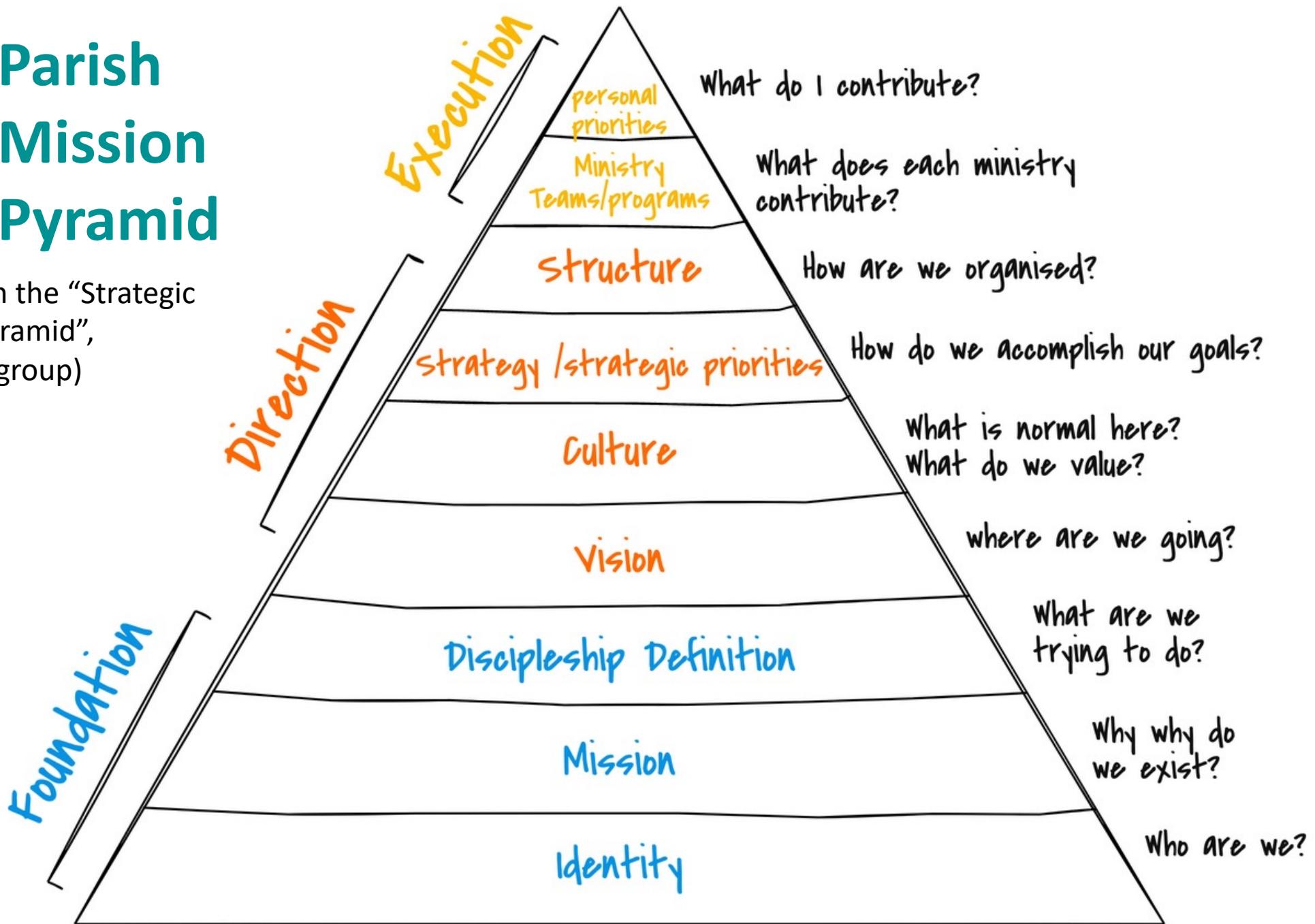
MLTP 6

Inspire us to give
generously of
ourselves, so that
people may be drawn
into the mystery of
love, and experience
the fullness of life.

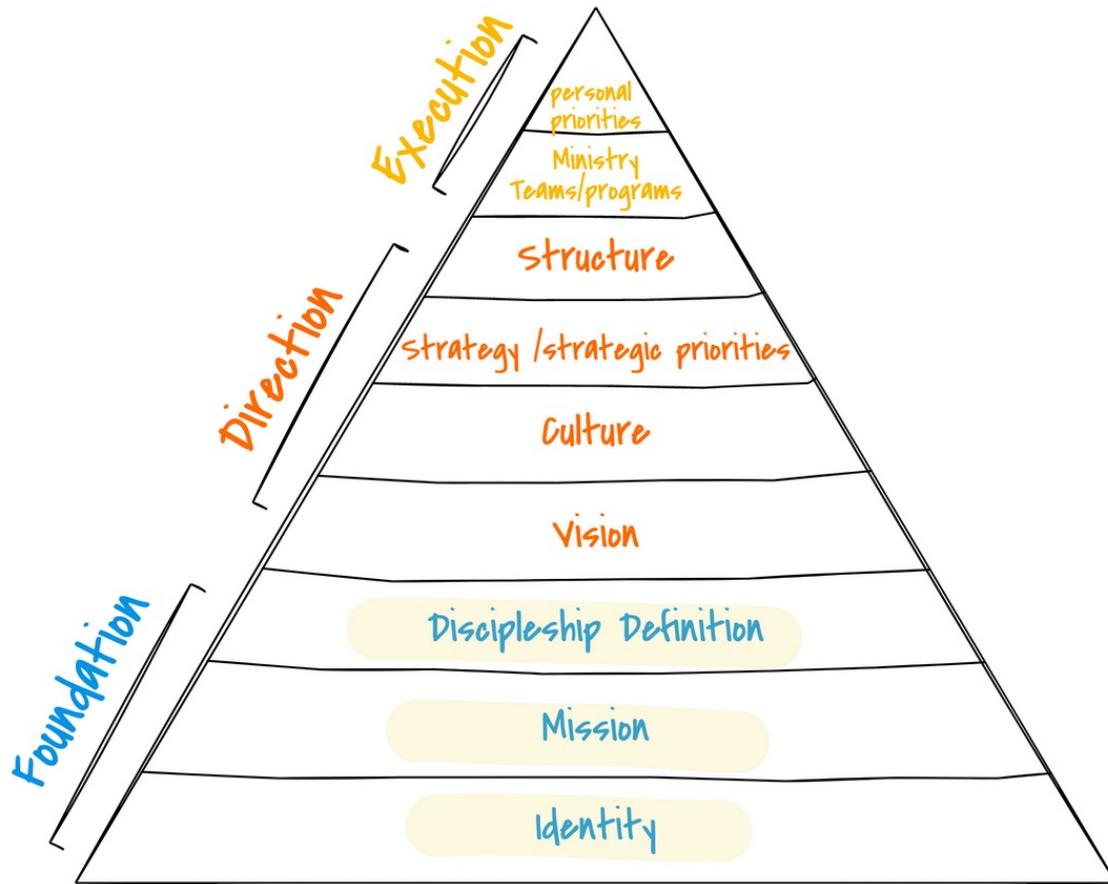


Parish Mission Pyramid

Adapted from the "Strategic Alignment Pyramid",
The Unstuck group)



Laying Foundations

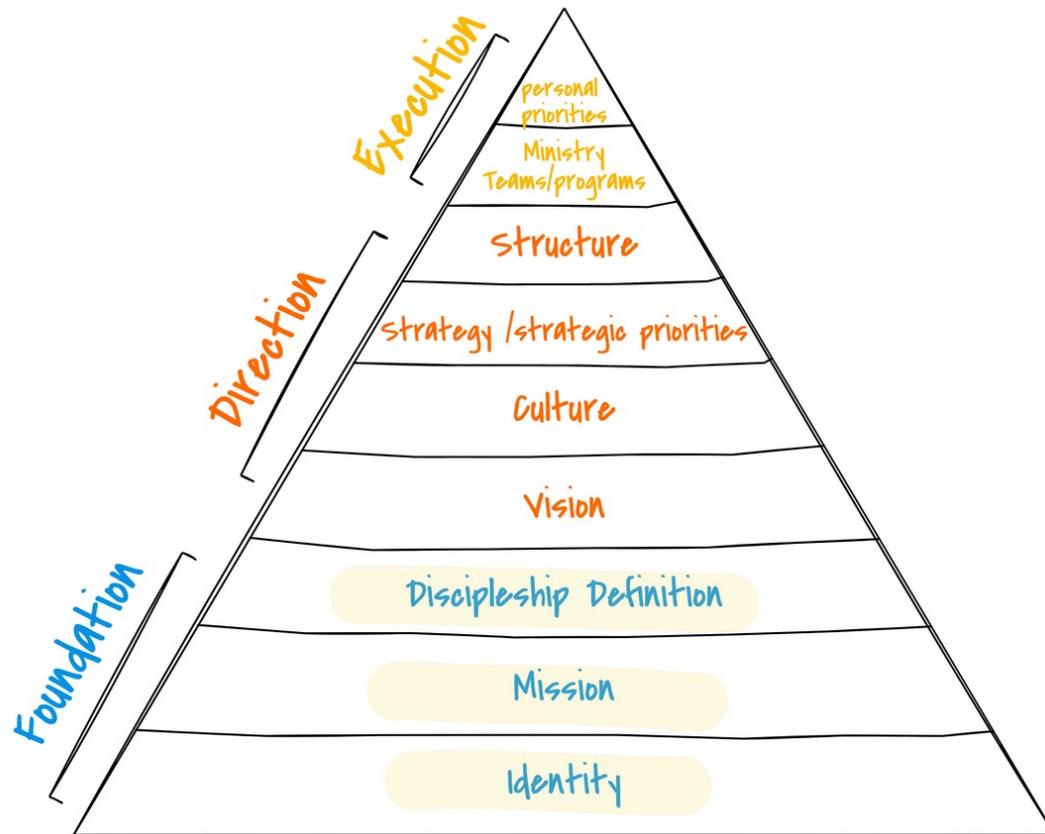


- Identity
- Mission
- Discipleship Definition

- Rarely change – may get fresh articulation (but are consistent)



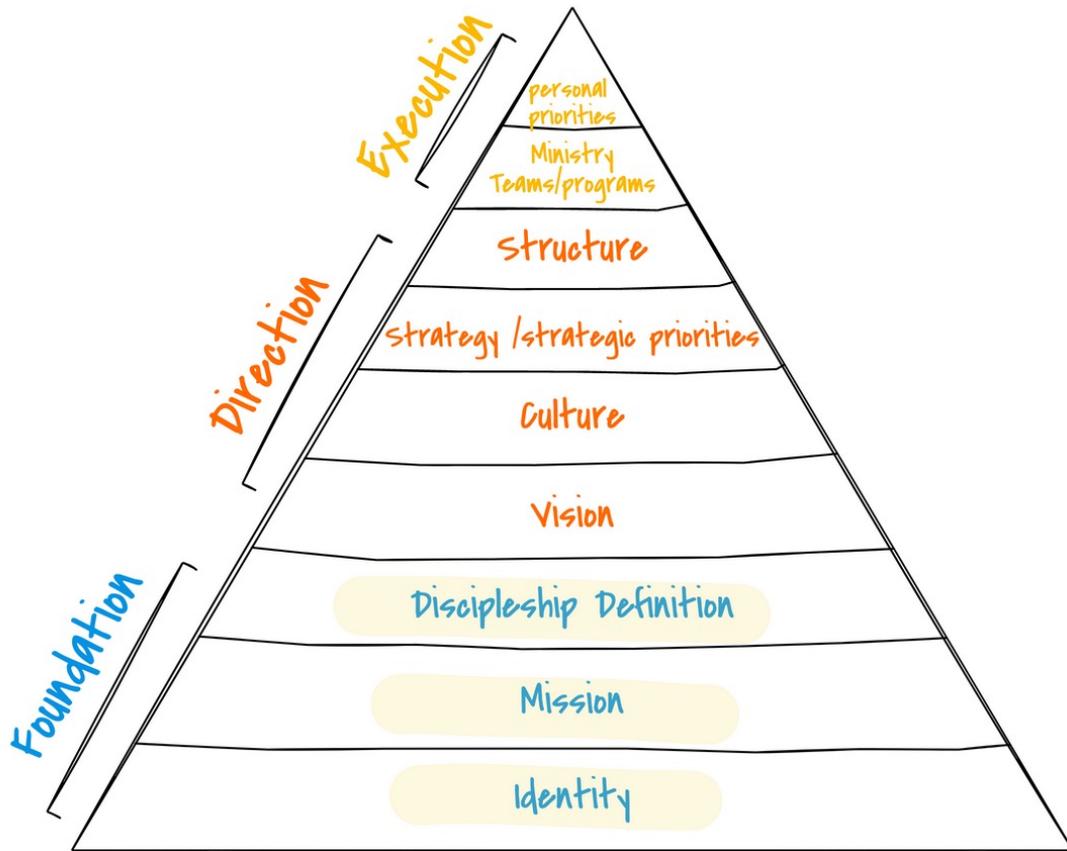
Identity Statement



- A short statement that answers the question:
- who are we?
- Aspirational – who we are at our best/want to be
- Grounded in our identity as a community of Catholic missionary disciples
- Closely linked to our values (how we behave), and our mission statement (why we exist)
- St Declan’s: “We seek to be joy-filled everyday disciples of Jesus who share our faith through words and the witness of our lives”.



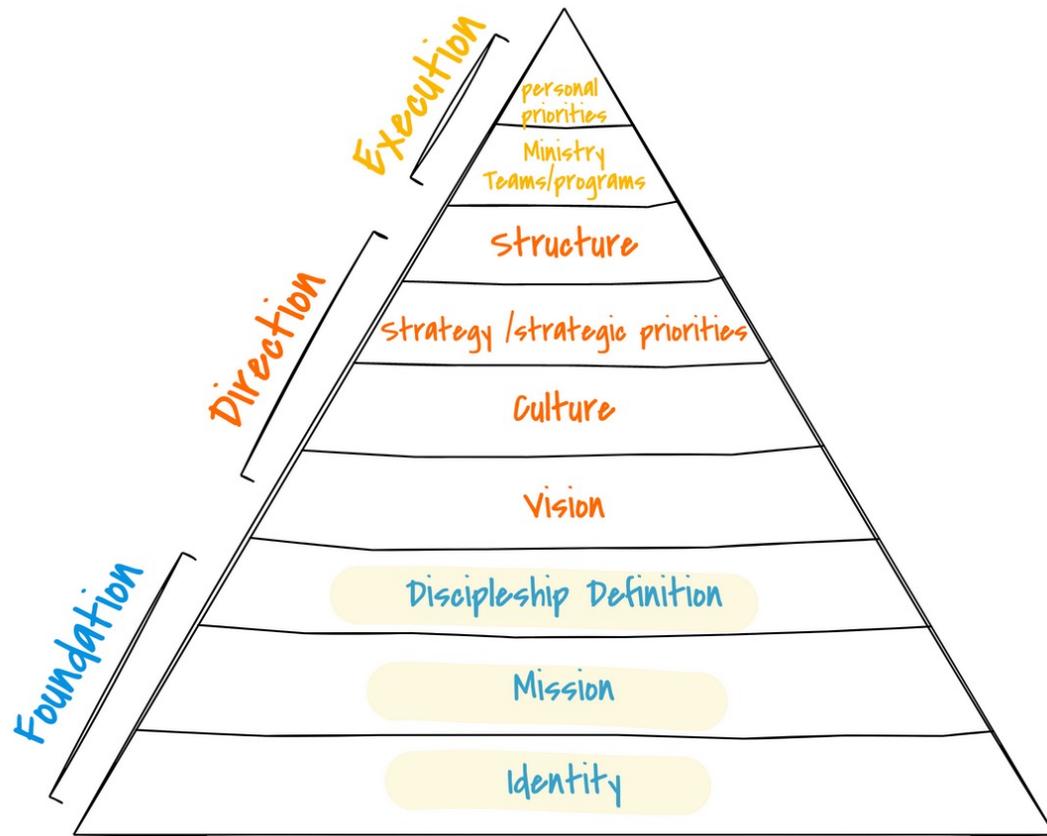
Mission Statement



- Answers the question: why do we exist?
- An expression of our purpose
- Parish mission is not ours to make up – it is given by Jesus. We are looking for a way to express the mission.
- Mission vs mission statement
- Should be a concise, memorable, simple statement that captures the molten core of why your organization is here.
- Tony Morgan – an expression of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission



E.g. St Declan's Mission Statement:

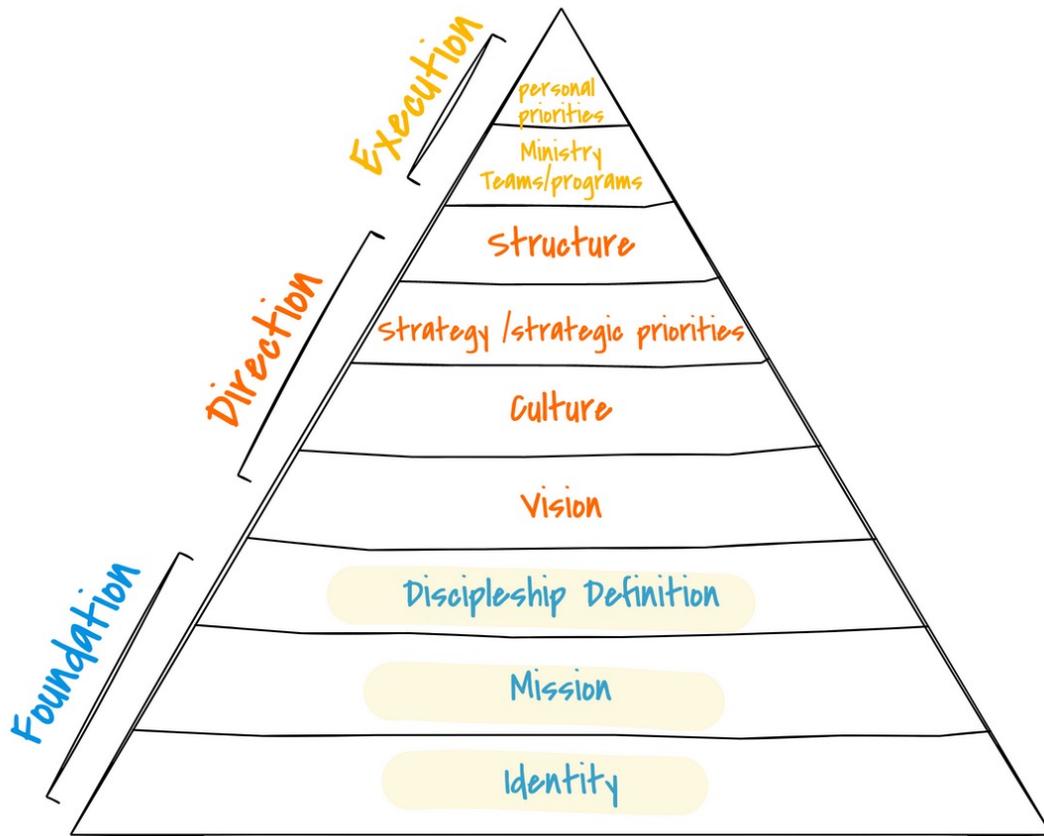


- “To bring the love of God to life in people”
- We unpack this as:

God’s love brings people to the fullness of life that Jesus promised (John 10:10). People receive God’s love and then are invited to respond to that love (1 John 4:9-11). We do this by loving God with all our heart, mind, and strength, and their neighbour as ourselves (Matt 22:37-39). Our parish’s mission is to help people to encounter God’s love, and then to love God and others in response.



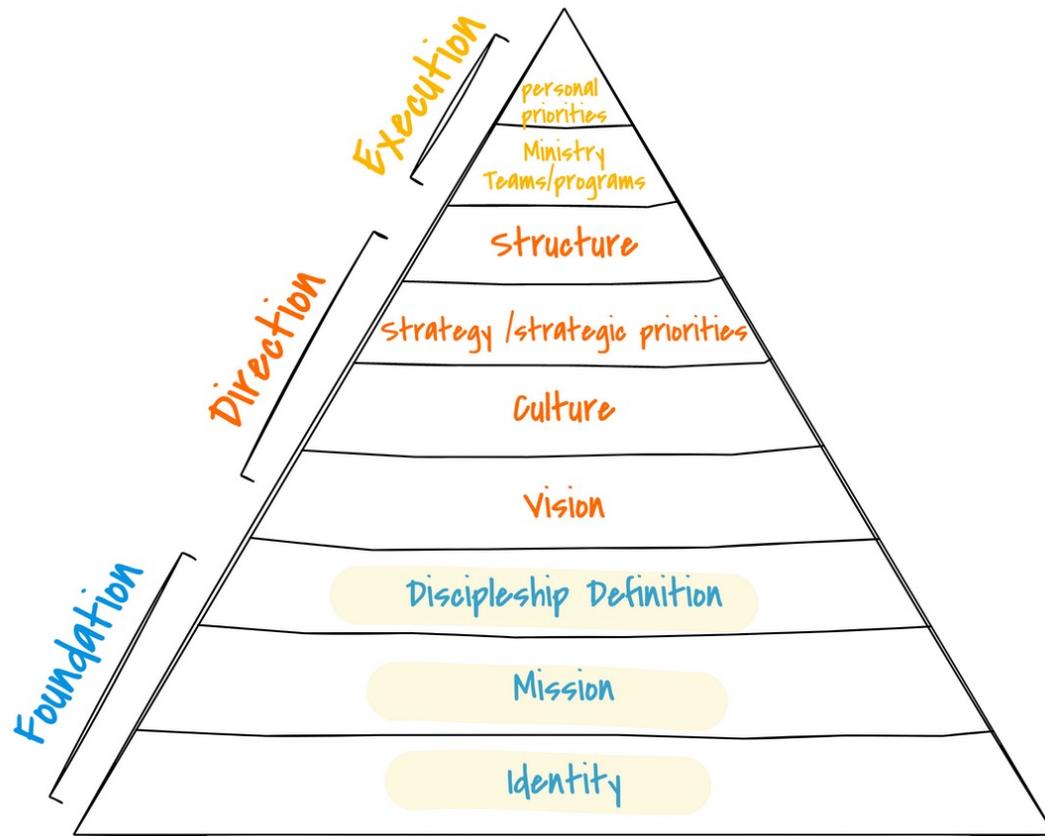
Communicating the Mission Statement



- Everywhere and often
 - Ambo (pulpit)
 - Publications
 - Signage
 - Leadership gatherings
 - With ministry leaders
- When people are getting sick of it you have traction
- Tell stories that bring the mission statement to life



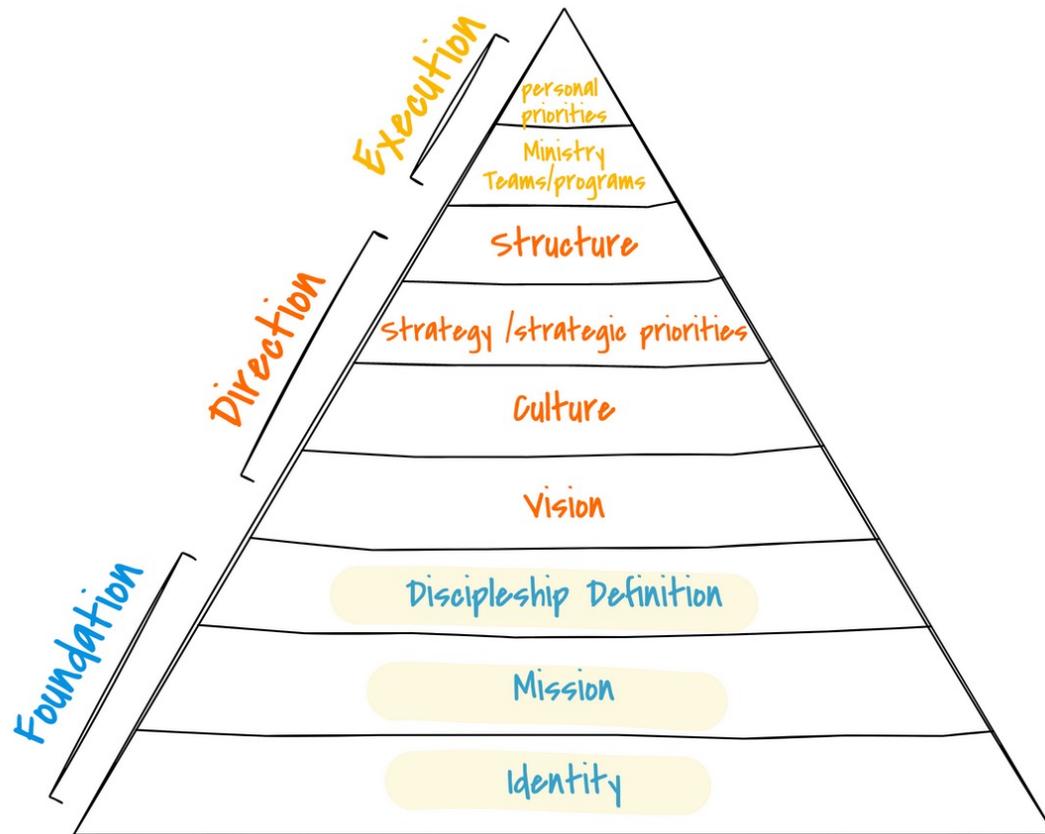
Ministries' Mission Statements



- Specific ministries can have a mission statement – but it needs to align with, even reference the parish mission statement.
- E.g. St Declan's youth: to bring the love of God to life in young people.
- Will necessarily be narrower for a ministry



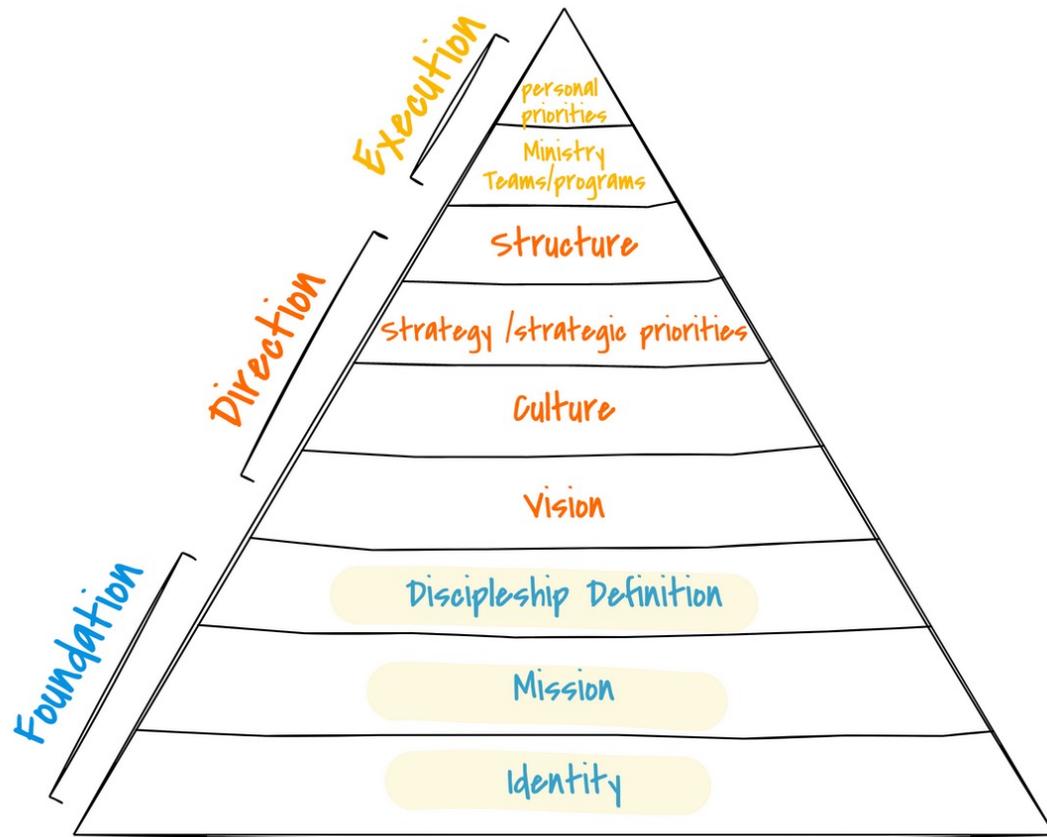
Discipleship definition



- Purpose of a discipleship definition is that it articulates what you are aiming for, what you are calling people to become
- “We will know we are accomplishing our mission when people look like this ...”
- A clear, non-theological statement of the inner disposition and practices of a missionary disciple
- Crucial to any definition is the encounter with Christ and the decision to follow him



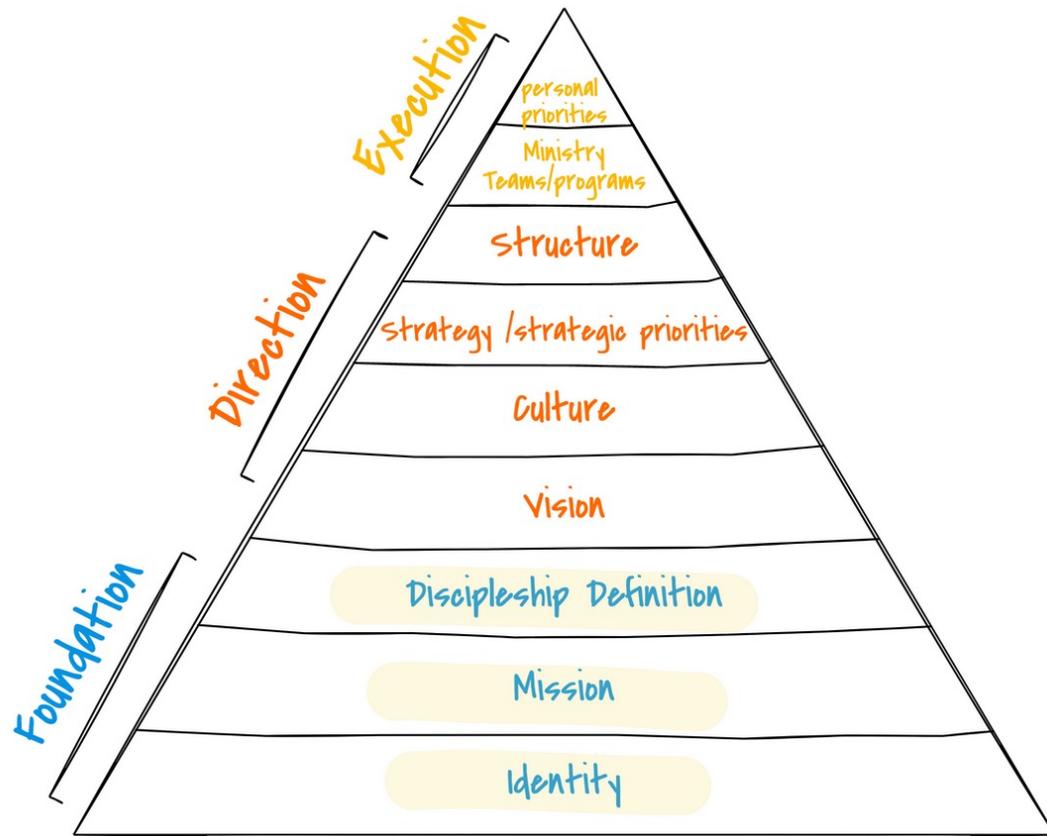
Discipleship Definition



- Youth ministry needs an age-specific and age-appropriate definition of discipleship
- Other ministries not focused directly on discipleship (e.g. music, welcomers, etc) should have some definition of what constitutes success
- Non-parochial ministries also require this
- Need to recognize everyone is on a journey



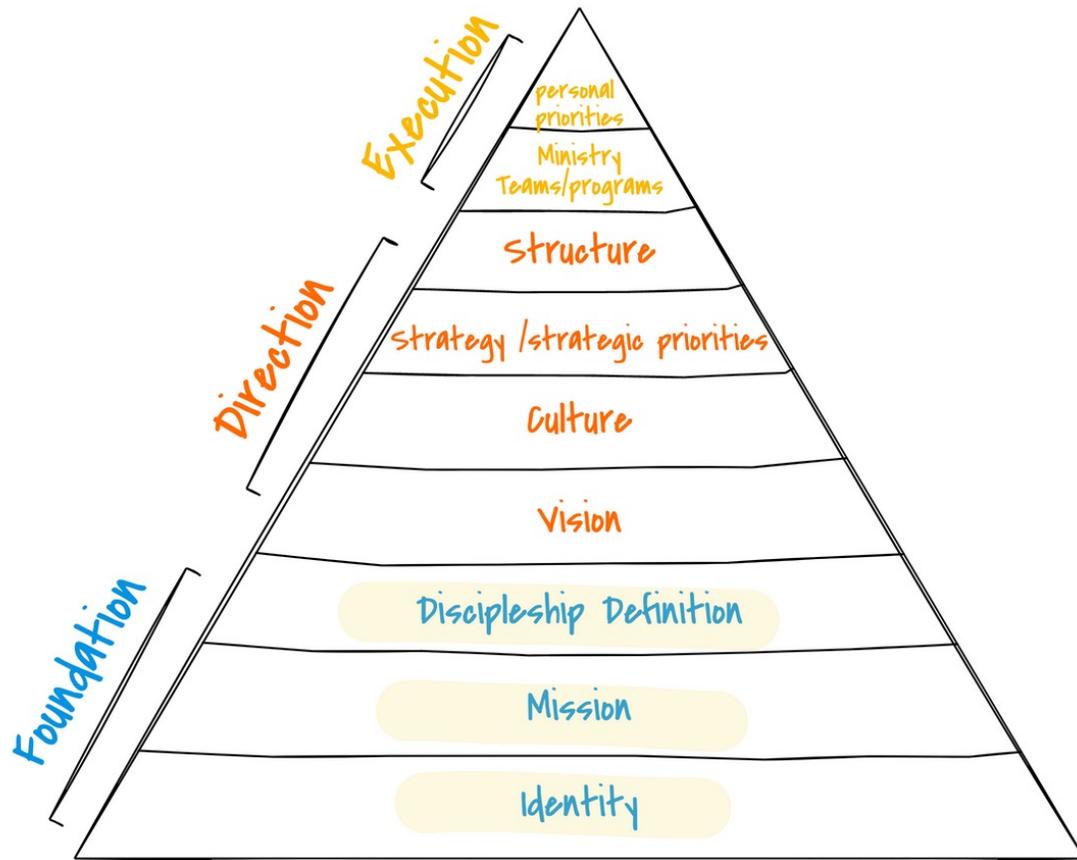
E.g. St Declan's:



- At St Declan's we fulfil our mission to bring the love of God to life in people by helping them to become disciples, or followers, of Jesus.
- **Definition: A missionary disciple is a person whose friendship with Jesus ignites a desire to follow him completely and to share the love of God with others.**



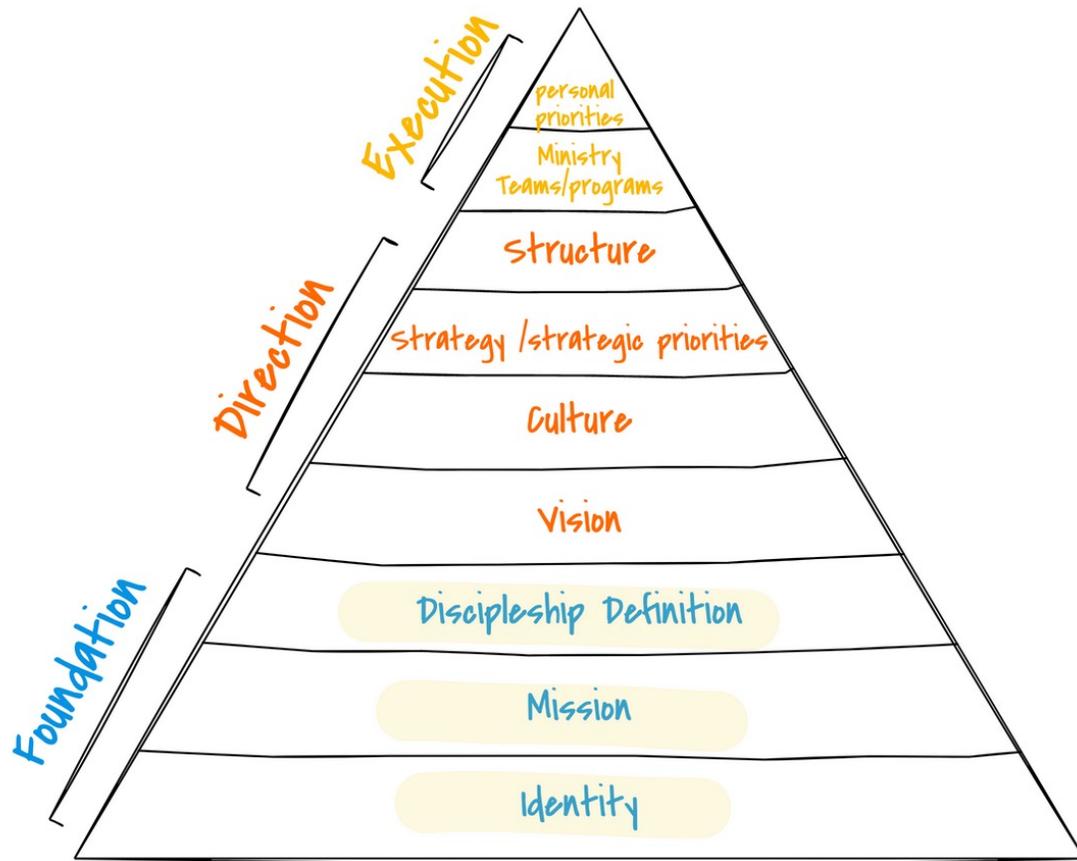
Additional explanations (St Declan's)



- <text box> “Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples””. Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #120
- <text box> “I have always been a ‘cradle Catholic’. I went to a Catholic primary school, then high school, and continued at a Catholic Uni to become a Catholic primary school teacher. I have always had my faith, but now I feel I have a proper relationship with Jesus. He is an important part of my life. The traditional Catholic guilt has gone and I feel truly loved by Jesus, and genuinely want to please Him, and be His words and hands to others.” Michelle B
- <text box> The authentic sign of missionary discipleship is that deepening experiences of the fruit of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22) – become evident in disciples’ lives.



Additional explanations (St Declan's) (2)



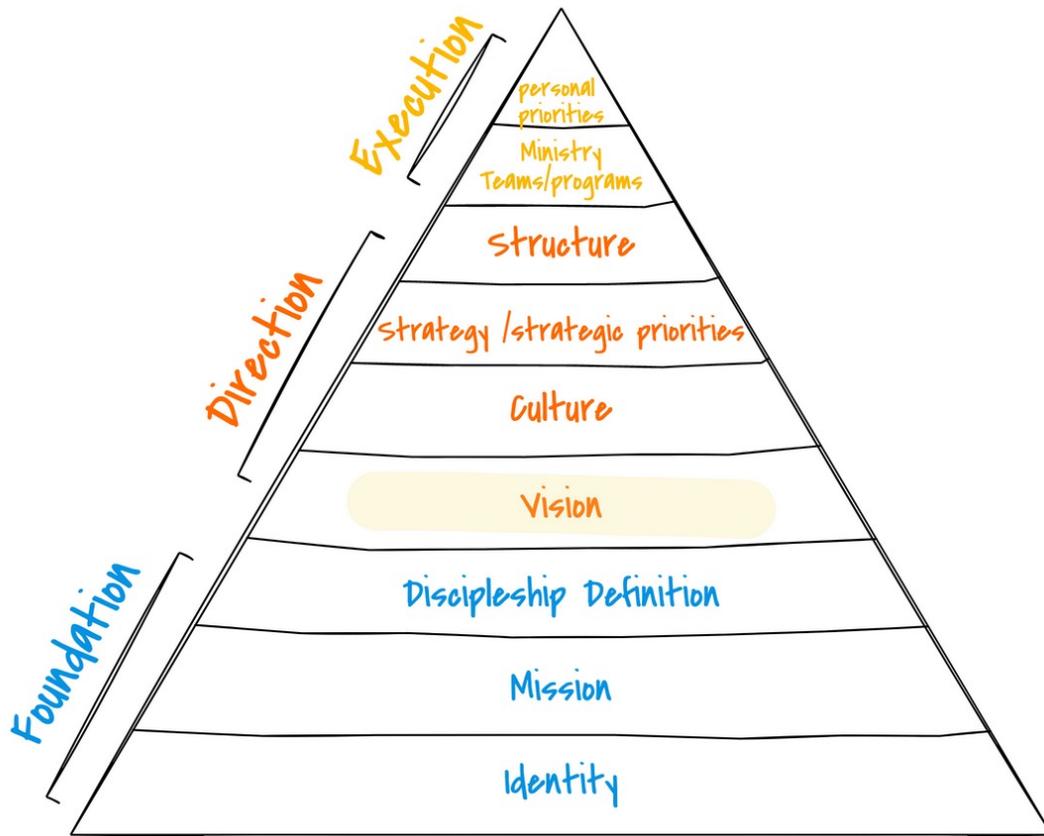
Missionary disciples cooperate with the Holy Spirit's action in their lives. They do this by:

- Loving the Eucharist
- Praying daily
- Regularly celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Embracing the life, prayer, and mission of our community
- Serving within the parish
- Pursuing the life of virtue
- Knowing and loving their Catholic faith (and especially its scriptural foundation)
- Trusting in God's providence and being generous with their gifts, time, and finances
- Sharing their faith with those who do not yet know the love of God
- Reaching out in love and service to others beyond the parish, especially the poor and marginalised

Everyone is on a journey when it comes to faith, and we want everyone to feel welcome at St Declan's, wherever they are on that journey. But we also think it is important to have something to aim for! That's why we have identified what we understand missionary discipleship to mean.



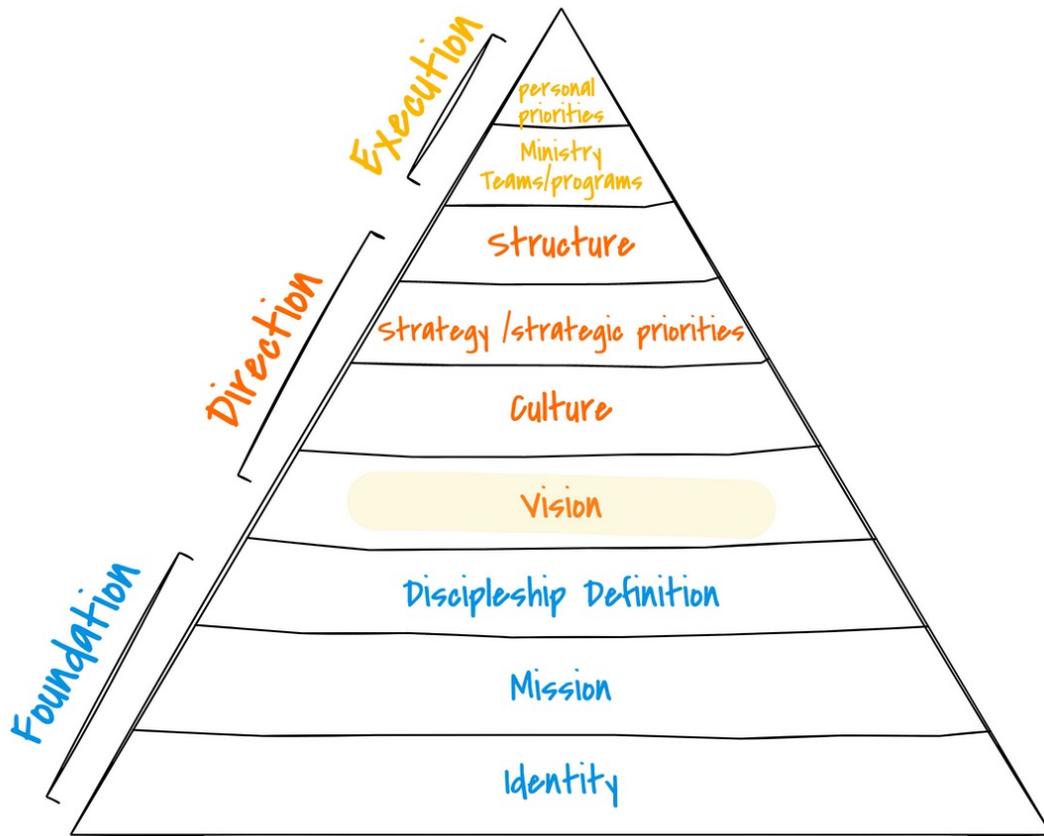
Vision



- Definition: “A picture of the future that produces passion”. Fr James Mallon
- Answers the question: where are we going?
- Does vision begin in the heart of the leader, or is it shared?
- Some people argue it should be very specific
- 10-12 years out
- Aim big! God-sized vision



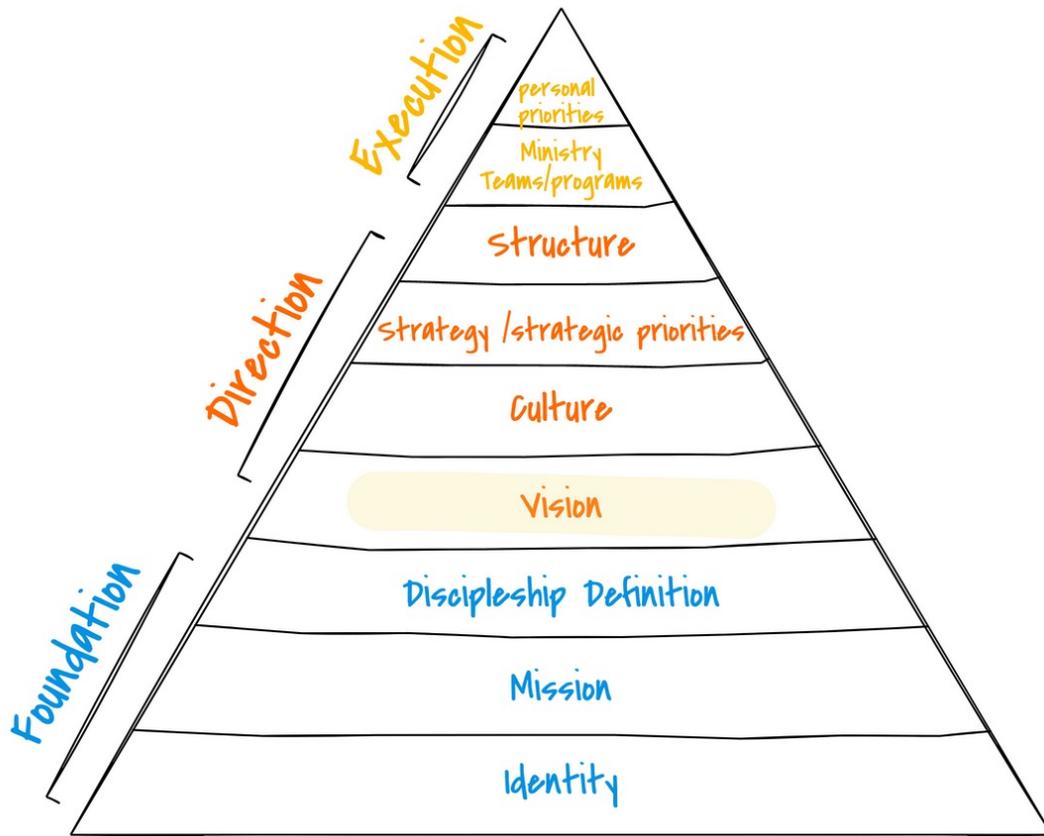
Why Articulate a Vision



- Clarifies what you are aiming for, the direction you are headed in
- Its proactive rather than reactive
- Inspires people to engage
- Makes it easier to define what you won't do



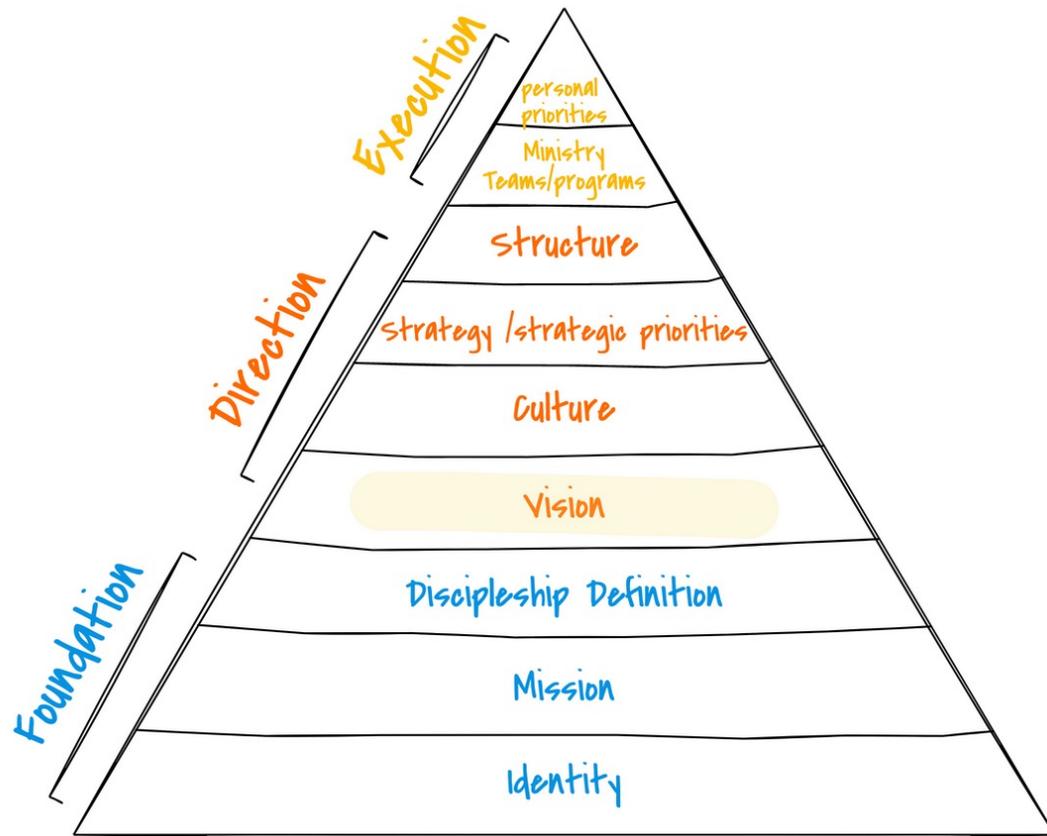
Creating Vision I



- Spend some time on your personal vision:
 - What is your holy discontent?
 - What does your parish look like in ten years
 - Write it down
 - Share it in a team



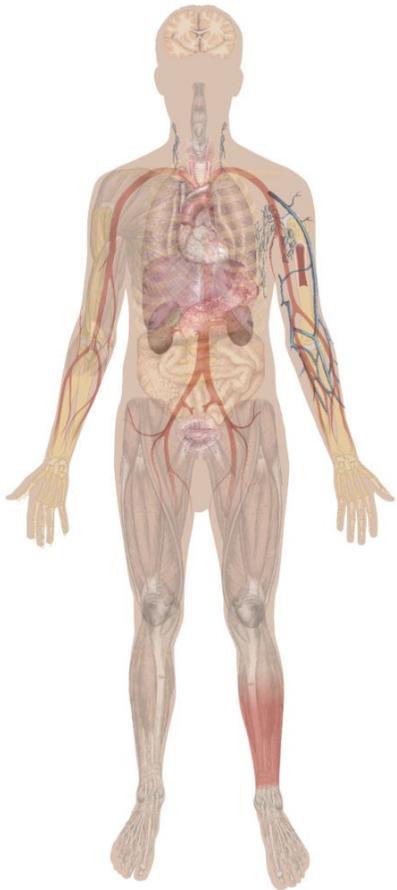
Creating Vision II – from Amazing Parish



- “If your parish were able to do everything possible, with no limitation on time, energy or resources, what would it look like?”
- In other words, how would your parish and the community that it serves be different if you were able to do all the things you dream about doing?
- Have you ever articulated those dreams? We often put boundaries around our visions by accepting the limitations that we currently face.
- It is important to dream big in order to think beyond those limitations, because a great vision, combined with God’s grace, can change a situation in ways that we might not have imagined”.



Elements of Vision - Systems



Worship

Community

Ministry

Formation

Mission (evangelisation, mercy, social justice)

Administration (communications, finances, safeguarding)



