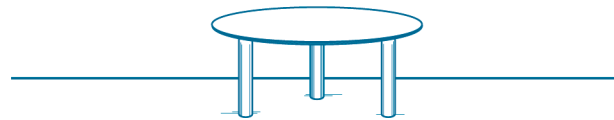


Faith Communities for Just Food



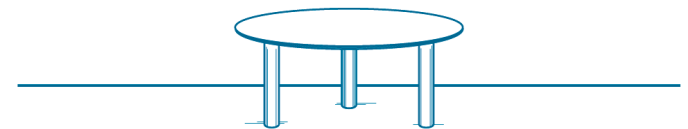
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Introduction

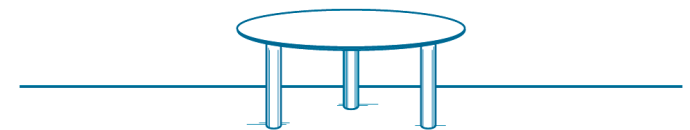
- Access overview
- Starting with theology... starting with “why”



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Kingdom of God Theology

- The reign of God
- Not only eventual, but values and practices for today



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Reflecting on the Kingdom of God

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.

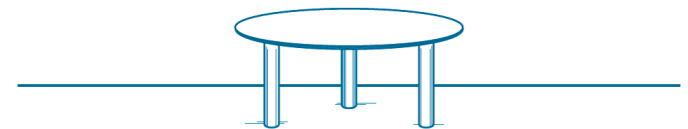
Reflecting on the Kingdom of God

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)

Nature of the Kingdom

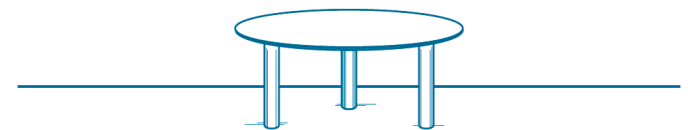
- The Lord's Prayer "...on earth as it is in heaven"
- Imparts vision and hope
- Bearers of the values and ethos of the Kingdom



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Defining Charitable Food

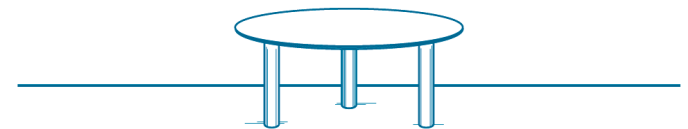
- History
- Proliferation of food providers in the '80's
- Today: Over 60,000 food providers
- Temporary to institutionalized



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Character/Nature of Charitable Food

- In West MI, majority is faith-based
- Based on Scriptural injunctions
- Transactional
- Reactionary
- Relief-oriented
- Need-based



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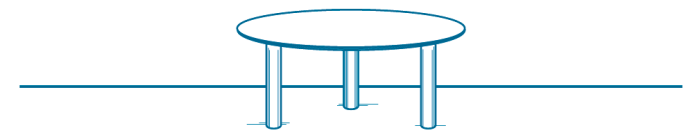
Creative Tension Model



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

Comparing Kingdom and Charitable Food

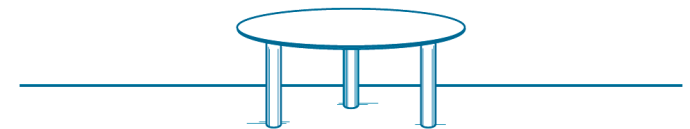
- Vision driven vs. need/reaction driven
- Equitable systems vs. transactional systems
- Perpetuated by abundance vs. scarcity



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Addressing the Disparities

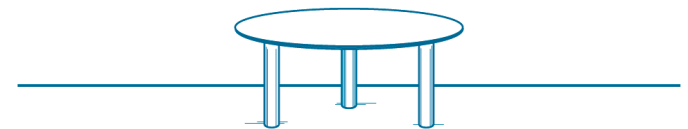
- Evaluating ministries and programs against theology and values
- Food asset mapping
- Asset Based Community Development
- Relief to Development orientation



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Relief

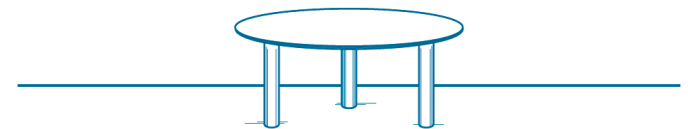
- Relief (doing for)
 - Provide temporary, short term assistance
 - Examples:
 - Soup kitchen, clothes closet, holiday food basket



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Betterment

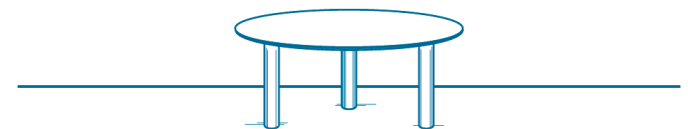
- Betterment (doing for)
 - Create positive caring beneficial environment and relationships that offer respite or a positive experience
 - Examples:
 - Food pantry, health clinic, tutoring



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Empowerment

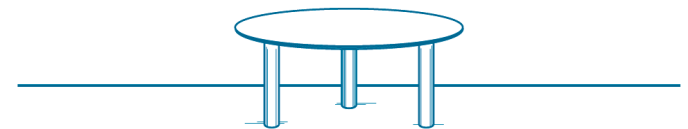
- Empowerment (Development)
 - Focuses on measured changes in knowledge, skills, abilities or conditions of the participants and where they take responsibility for change.
 - Examples:
 - Job placement, thrift store, food co-op, community growing projects



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Systems Change

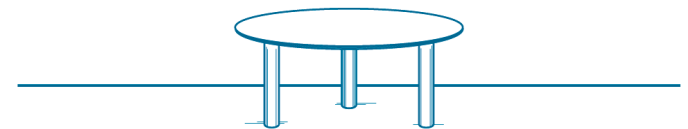
- Systemic Change
 - Focuses on the systemic issues that create injustice
 - Examples:
 - Lobbying for/against policies, implementing Policy, Systems, and Environmental change, community organizing



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Systems Change

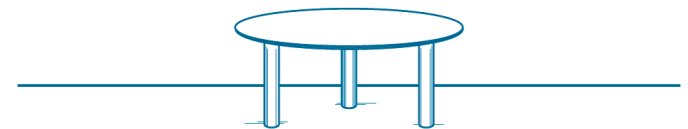
- Involves recognizing systems of oppression
 - Systemic & institutionalized racism
 - Marginalization & disenfranchisement



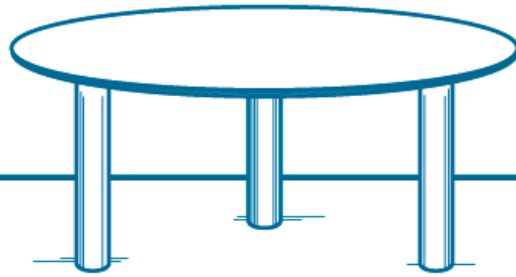
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Catching the Vision

- Good Food System values
 - Growers satisfied in the work of their hands
 - Creation is cared for and stewarded well by all
 - Neighbors plant and eat and are nourished



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