

## Stadia Pre-Conference Session 2

### What Kind of Leaders Plant Thriving, Growing, Multiplying Churches?

#### Speakers:

Heidy Tandy, Will Blanchard, Gregg Sizemore, Leilani Sizemore

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#### Session Overview

This session explored the qualities and competencies of leaders who start churches that thrive, grow, and multiply for the next generation. The speakers shared stories, frameworks, and lessons from Stadia's reimagined Discovery process, emphasizing the need for all kinds of leaders to start all kinds of churches. The focus was clear: healthy, gospel-centered, and culturally aware leadership is essential to church multiplication.

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#### Key Takeaways

- **It takes all kinds of leaders** to plant churches for all kinds of people. There is no single prototype of a successful church planter.
- **Stadia's Discovery process** is designed to help leaders uncover their calling, assess readiness, and identify the role they might play in church planting. It's relational, reflective, and empowering—not a high-pressure evaluation.
- **Four core competencies** define strong church leaders:
- **Gospel Competence** – Vibrant faith, gospel fluency, and a passion for the lost.
- **Relational Competence** – Emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, empathy, and community-building.
- **Entrepreneurial Competence** – Vision casting, resilience, and the ability to motivate others in a variety of models.
- **Cultural Competence** – Contextualizing the gospel, knowing your mission field, and demonstrating cultural humility.
- **Healthy assessment starts with posture.** Stadia shifted from calling their team “assessors” to “guides,” reframing the process to be less evaluative and more like spiritual coaching.
- **Diversity and contextualization matter.** Younger leaders are more naturally thinking about cultural engagement and diverse leadership teams.
- **Actionable development recommendations** are provided after Discovery, tailored to help leaders grow, such as “Share your story with five non-believers” or “Host neighbors from different backgrounds for dinner.”

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#### Notable Quotes



“It’s not hardship Olympics, but church planting is hard. Resilience matters.” – Heidy Tandy

“We’re not trying to be the sage on the stage—we want to be the guide on the side.” – Heidy Tandy

“You’re not trying to impress people—you’re trying to love people.” – Leilani Sizemore

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#### **Next Steps with Stadia:**

- **Learn how Stadia can help you start thriving, growing, multiplying churches:** [stadia.org](https://stadia.org)
- **Have a vision for multiplication but lack a strategy or services?** Join a Stadia Vision Trip to see our work up close: [stadia.org/visiontrips](https://stadia.org/visiontrips)
- **Exploring or discerning a call to start a new church?** Learn more about how we can help: [stadia.org/discovery](https://stadia.org/discovery)

