

D2 Concepts

What we have learned so far

1. A D2 is designed to discern and develop people into a lifetime of strong and effective service.
2. A D2 is designed to observe people in their life and mission over time. The goal of careful observation is to make wise assessments of what is true about people's lives and ministries as well as what will be helpful for their growth. Pursuing careful observations and wise assessments ensures that the D2 does not abdicate its discernment function by falling into untested affirmation.
3. The work of the D2 is that of guiding people along a journey of understanding and living out their vocation with excellence and impact. Each vocation has a particular equipping and preparation track necessary for it to be done well and with integrity. The D2's role is to help people get on track with God's vocation for them.
4. A D2 is not intended to be comprised of friendly conversations where we help people feel better. A D2 is in place not primarily to make suggestions but to establish development plans that missionaries are required to follow through on in a timely fashion for the purpose of strong and effective mission outcomes.
5. In most cases the D2 is developing people by asking them to perform assignments that will strengthen their personal, professional and leadership development as well as provide the D2 with necessary inputs that will satisfy their specific D2 requirements.
6. Keeping the conversation task oriented will prevent the D2 from losing momentum and will ensure that something specific and excellent is accomplished.
7. Having an agenda, taking minutes, and documenting the process ensure that the D2 stays on a clear track and maintains momentum towards accomplishing an outcome.
8. Verifying details (obtaining references, obtaining copies of source documents, visiting, etc.) is a necessary best practice for a D2.
9. The D2 process is strengthened by face to face interaction. Given the intensity of the conversations and the potential implications on people's lives, face-to-face meetings are often necessary.
10. It is understandable that people tend to get rooted in their context, organization, and philosophy of ministry in ways that make it difficult for them to receive an outside perspective or to make significant changes.
11. D2s need to be prepared to explain their position clearly and to stand together on essential items.
12. A significant task in some D2s will be the deployment of human and financial resources to develop the missionary or to strengthen the D2's assessment.
13. A D2 is intended to be a holistic process. Attentiveness to the whole person in their seasons of life and their mission context is a normal function of a D2.
14. Seeking the wisdom of other professionals may be required at different moments in the life of a D2. Seeking the wisdom of gifted church leaders in the individual's city/country may help to ground a D2's cross-cultural wisdom and bring much-needed local church talent to our missionary.

15. A D2 functions best with skilled leaders as the members. The task that we do involves selection and monitoring of people, and the people best suited to this task are those who engage in those activities in our church. Engaging professionals and asking them to use the methods and instincts of their profession in partnership with prayer (information and revelation) has the potential to bring about grounded decision making.

Ron Burdock
Missions Pastor
North Park Community Church
London, Ontario, Canada
9/14