



Vital Ministry Journey

*A congregational vitality initiative of
Congregational Life Ministries*



Church of the Brethren



“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. . .By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God. . .”

Mt. 5.14-16



Purpose

Support the growth of mission vitality through a strategic partnership between the local church, congregational life ministries, and district

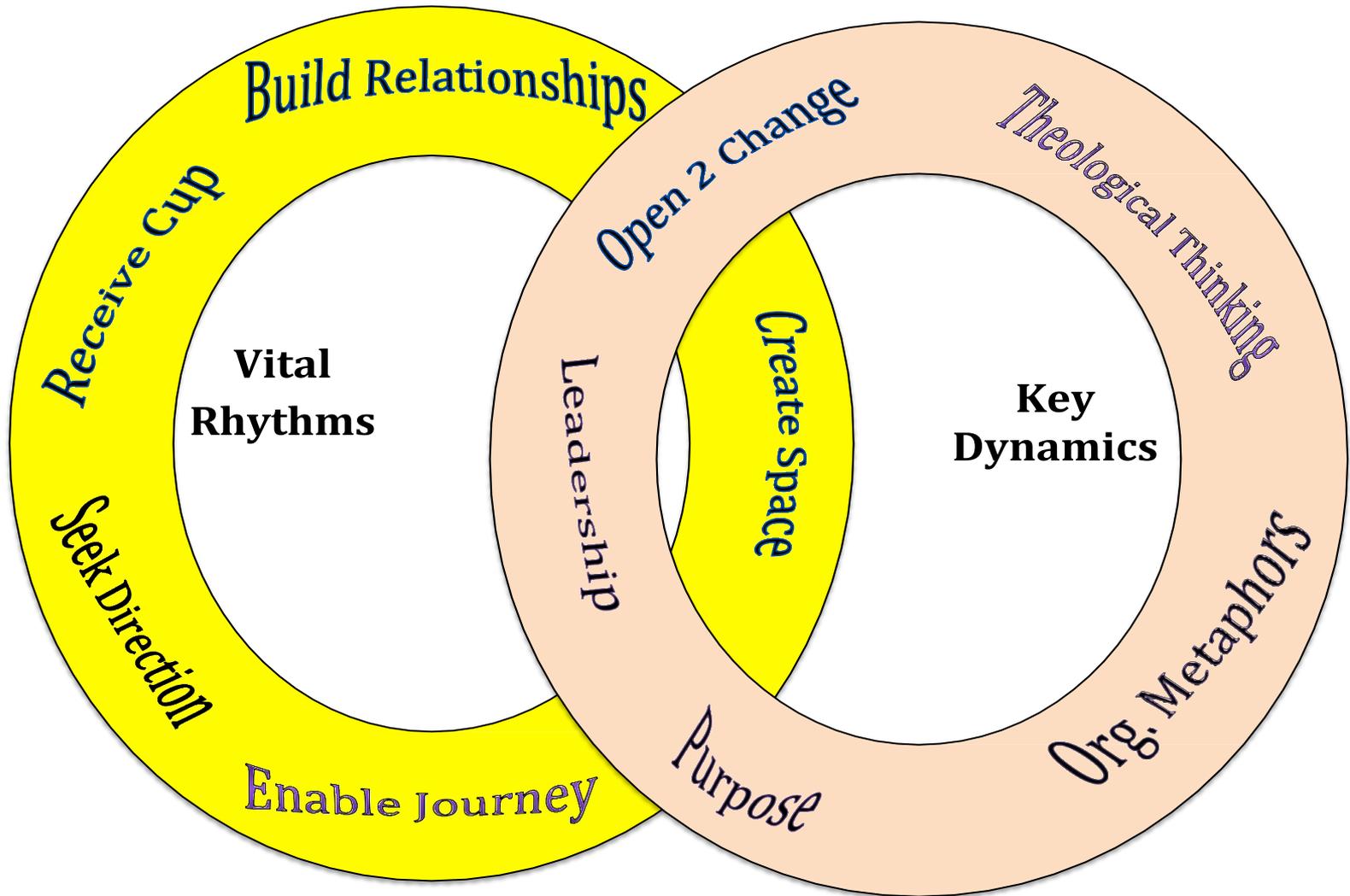


Goal

**Cultivate healthy communities of gathering, calling, forming, sending
Followers of Jesus**

Elements of Congregational Vitality

Congregational Vitality

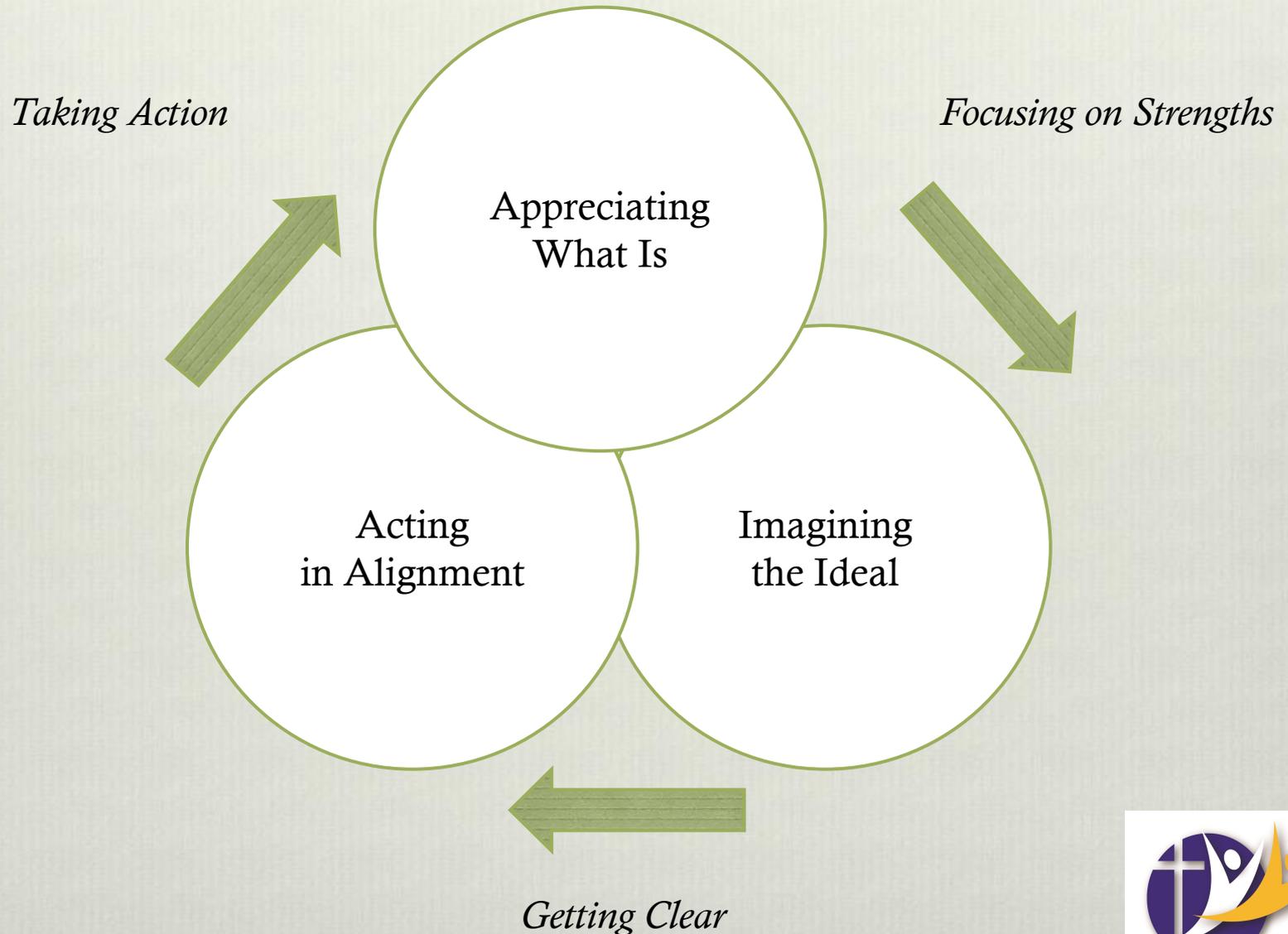


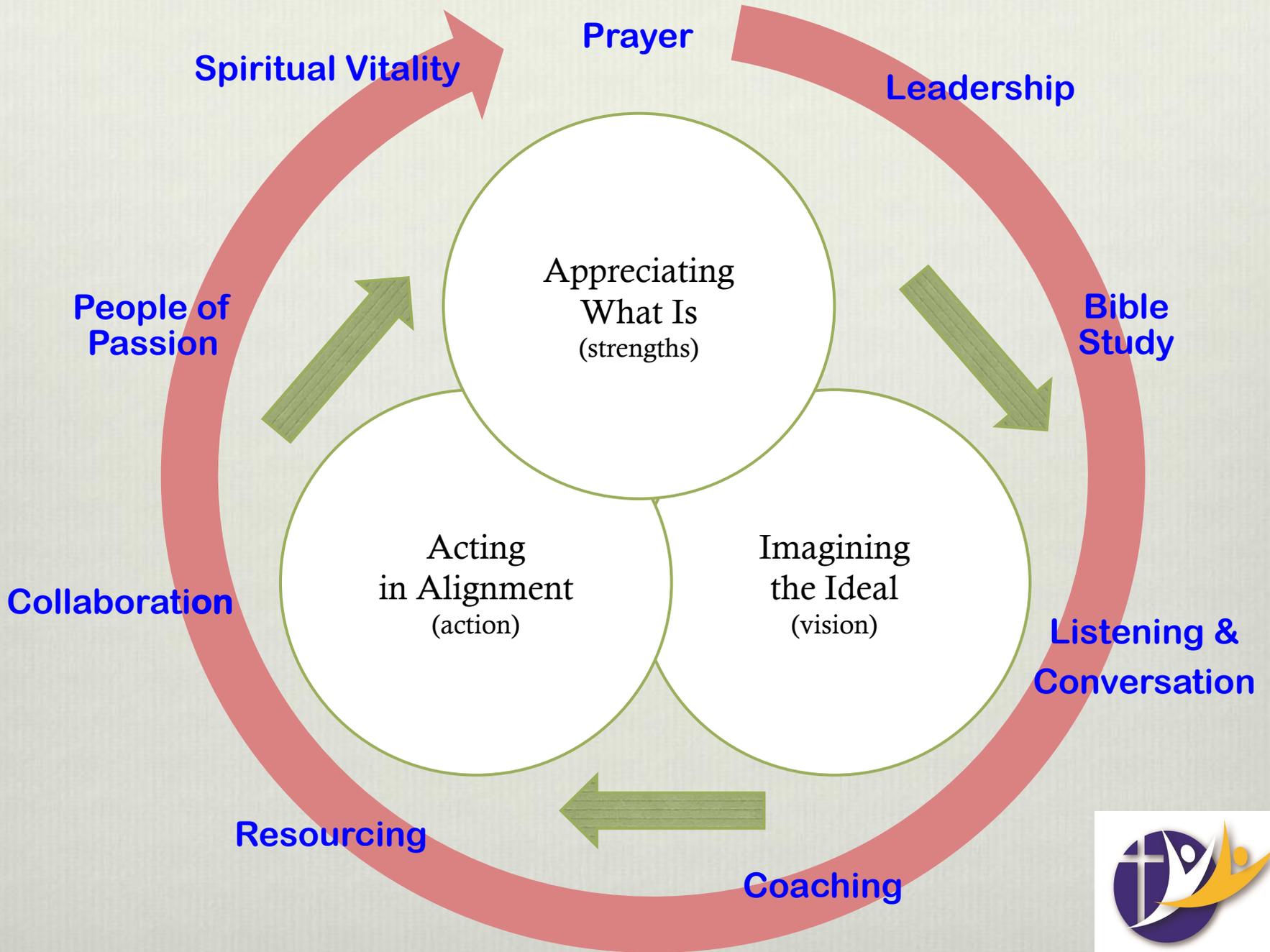
Characteristics of Vitality

- ❖ Vital ministries are centrally related to God's love and blessing. (1 Cor. 3.6).
- ❖ Vital congregations demonstrate an extraordinary sense of spiritual vitality and discipleship.
- ❖ Vital congregations are creatively intentional in outreach to new people and beyond.
- ❖ Vital congregations have a passionate and clear sense of identity.
- ❖ Vital churches are flexible.



Vital Ministry Journey Leading From Strengths





Benefits of VMJ

- ❖ Uniquely fit to districts, congregations and context
- ❖ Churches discover vision and purpose
- ❖ Motivates people through conversation and discovery
- ❖ Uncover hidden gifts and ideas of congregation
- ❖ Build deeper friendships in congregation
- ❖ Discipleship and spiritual vitality is at the heart of the VMJ
- ❖ Leadership support





“The process has evidently been carefully thought through and I especially appreciate the emphasis in inviting congregations to assess their readiness to participate. I've not seen so much care exercised over this aspect of a process before.”

Stuart Murray Williams

Author of “The Naked Anabaptist”

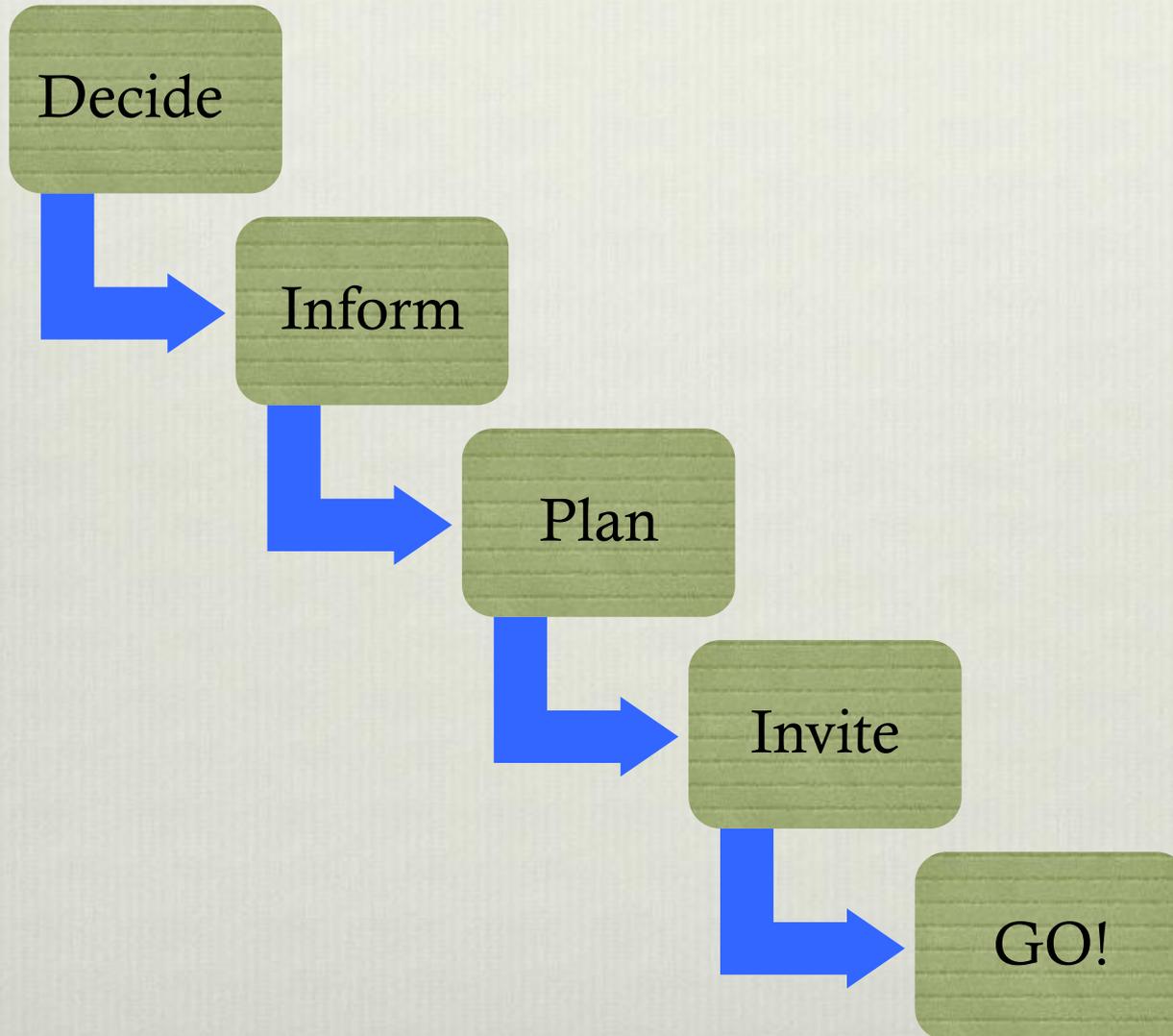
Consultant, The Anabaptist Network

Covenant of Communication

We covenant to:

- ❖ Use empathetic listening.
- ❖ Be sensitive to differences of communication styles.
- ❖ Take responsibility for what we say and feel, using “I” statements.
- ❖ Keep comments succinct so others can share with the group.
- ❖ Ponder what we hear before speaking.
- ❖ Examine our own assumptions and perceptions.
- ❖ Trust ambiguity because we are not here to debate who and what is right or wrong.
- ❖ Listen with an open, nonjudgmental mind to the words and ideas of the others.
- ❖ Respect and care for each other.
- ❖ Pray, study Scripture, and be a sign of God’s love, alone and together.
- ❖ Uphold these guidelines for the time we have together.

Getting Started





Vital Ministry Journey

Congregational Life Ministries

800-323-8039 ext. 303

<http://www.brethren.org/congregationallife/vmj>



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