

Reflection:

Gifts of our Congregation

What do we do particularly well that we're proud of?

What excites us about this congregation?

What do we have that we think we could share?

Our Neighbors

What are our closest ELCA congregations, and how far away are they?

What things are we already doing with another congregation? Non-profits?

As we begin to think about cooperating...

What are we most excited about?

What are our concerns about cooperating?

Which congregation(s) should we think about cooperating with?

What are some ideas or ways we could begin to cooperate?

Homework: Getting to know you...

Basic info about our congregation

- ⊕ Congregation name
- ⊕ Year founded
- ⊕ Location
- ⊕ Mission statement

Worship

- ⊕ Worship times
- ⊕ We would characterize our worship style as:
 - Traditional
 - Contemporary
 - Blended
 - We change it up regularly
- ⊕ Which hymnal(s) do we use?
- ⊕ Do we have a projection system in the sanctuary?
- ⊕ What instruments do we use in worship?
- ⊕ What choir(s)/worship leadership do we have?
- ⊕ Special services? (Advent, Lent, Holy Week, Christmas & Easter, Thanksgiving, other)

Fellowship & Small Groups

- ⊕ Regular fellowship events (weekly, monthly, seasonally) / (when, theme, who's invited)
- ⊕ Small groups (e.g. WELCA, Men's group, youth group, quilters, etc.)

Homework: Getting to know you...

Faith Formation

- ⊕ Adult education/Bible Study offerings (when, where, topic(s), who leads)
- ⊕ Sunday school/Christian ed. for children and youth (when, curriculum, who leads, age/grades)
- ⊕ Confirmation instruction (when, curriculum, who leads, number of students)

Inreach & Outreach

- ⊕ Do we have any of the following?
 - Lay visitation team for shut ins
 - Lay visitation team for new visitors
 - Stephen ministers
 - Lay Eucharistic ministers
 - Lay preachers
- ⊕ What outreach ministries are we actively involved in in our community?
- ⊕ What outreach ministries do we contribute financially to?
- ⊕ Do we have a:
 - Preschool
 - Mother's Day Out
 - After school care
 - Adult respite care
 - Other significant ministry onsite operated by the congregation
- ⊕ These ministries (if we have them):
 - Contribute positively to the general budget of the congregation (if so, what percent)
 - Are subsidized by the congregational budget
 - Are revenue neutral

Homework: Getting to know you...

Facilities information

- ⊕ List buildings, general capacity, utilization
- ⊕ Any special features on our property (e.g. ball fields, labyrinth, prayer garden, cemetery, columbarium etc.)
- ⊕ What outside organizations use our facilities and how often are they used?
- ⊕ What do we charge for utilization of our facilities?

Equipment information

- ⊕ Major office equipment (copier, folding machine, etc.)
- ⊕ Projectors, sound systems, etc.
- ⊕ Yard equipment
- ⊕ Is there wifi in our facilities?

Staff information: (list how many hours/week)

- ⊕ Pastor(s)
- ⊕ Other lay professionals
- ⊕ Secretary/Parish coordinator/business manager
- ⊕ Janitor/Housekeeper
- ⊕ Other staff

Homework: Getting to know you...

Finances

- ⊕ Our annual budget is _____

- ⊕ Our allotment for pastoral compensation, benefits and reimbursable expenses is _____

- ⊕ Do we have any bequests?

- ⊕ Do we have an endowment fund? If so, how much is in it and what is it for?

Our Leaders/Governance

- ⊕ How many leaders serve on our council?

- ⊕ What are our active committees/ministry teams?

Our Neighbors

- ⊕ What are our closest ELCA congregations? How far away are they?

- ⊕ What things are we already doing with another congregation? Non-profits?

- ⊕ Other close ecumenical partner congregations? (PCUSA, ECUSA, UMC, UCC)

- ⊕ Other non-affiliated congregations that we have a relationship with

- ⊕ What are the local non-profits in our area?