



Cultivate Mission

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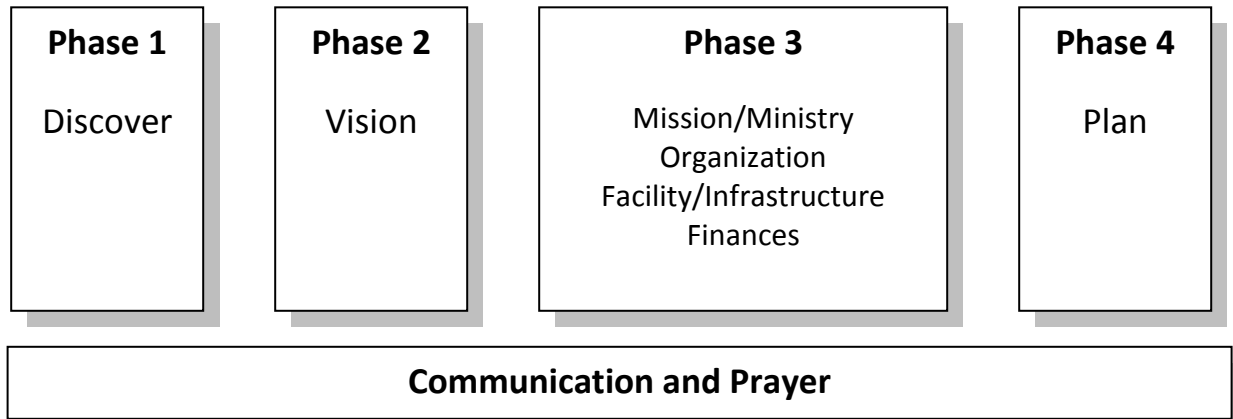


DISCOVERY PLANNING PROCESS

“What planning do we need at this time?”

First we would need to assess the current situation of the congregation, and discern together what process would best meet your congregation’s needs. The following describes a common process flow, but each situation is different. The goal would be to tailor process to where your church discerns the focus and energy needs to be placed at this point.

Description of Process¹



Phase 1: DISCOVER

Goals:

- To assess the congregation’s situation and community context.
- To increase the congregation’s capacity for communication and spiritual discernment.

The congregation will be taken through an audit, using SWOC (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges) for analyzing the congregation and its community. The congregation will look at demographic

¹ This process was developed by Dr. Craig Van Gelder, Luther Seminary, Professor of Congregational Mission.

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information and stories from its community. The congregation will examine the adaptive challenges facing them at this time, toward making choices of where God is calling them to learn new skills.

The congregation will be asked to reflect throughout on these theological questions:

- What is God doing in our congregation and our community?
- What does God want to do?

Phase 2: VISION

Goal:

- To attain clarity and cohesion regarding the congregation's purpose.

The creativity and reflection of Phase 1 will culminate in an extended retreat to distill the learning into a coherent statement of vision and purpose as a congregation.

- What is our vision as a congregation in this time and place?

Phase 3: MISSION/MINISTRY

Goal:

- Explore options for mission/ministry and examine possible resources/barriers/changes necessary.

The congregation will lay the foundation for a ministry plan, through exploring and choosing ministry, evaluating the changes that would need to take place in their current organization, infrastructure, facilities and finances for this ministry to take place. The key questions of this stage are:

- In light of our vision and context, what kinds of ministry is God calling us to?
- How would we organize ourselves in order support this ministry(s)?
- What kind of infrastructure and facilities are needed?
- How would we fund it?

Phase 4: PLAN

Goal:

- To put mission/ministry ideas into workable plan with goals and time table.

The congregation will put legs on these ideas, come to decision and work out goals with a time table for implementing the mission/ministry decided upon.

- What idea(s) will we zero in on and how will we make it happen?
- How will we make the changes needed for this new mission/ministry?

