

THE PARTNERSHIP PLANNING PROCESS

WHAT'S OUR MISSION? WHAT ARE OUR MINISTRY AIMS? What do you say in your mission statement, self-studies, and strategic planning materials, or on your website and social media accounts? If you don't have those items, what would you include if you were creating them?

WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO CHANGE?
Engage in some early reflection.

IS IT TIME? What are the signs telling us?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? WHAT SHOULD IT DO? Explore scriptural foundations regarding the Church and its purpose.

HOW CAN WE BE PROACTIVE? Seek help from circuit visitors and other district personnel.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN OUR MINISTRY AGREEMENT? Where can each partner be flexible? How can we work together to build on our respective strengths for the good of the Church? Have we thought about both mission and structure agreements?

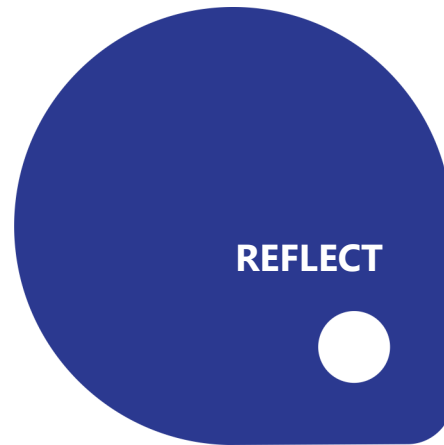
WHAT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE DO WE NEED?
(Legal; financial; Synod/district)

IF A MINISTRY IS ENDING, how can we best manage that process?

HOW WILL WE CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF OUR PARTNERSHIP? Special worship service? Public announcements? Fellowship event?

HOW WILL WE CELEBRATE AND EVALUATE THE PARTNERSHIP GOING FORWARD?

WHAT ARE OUR EXPECTATIONS?

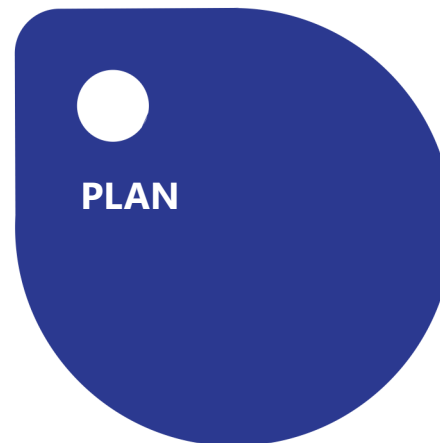
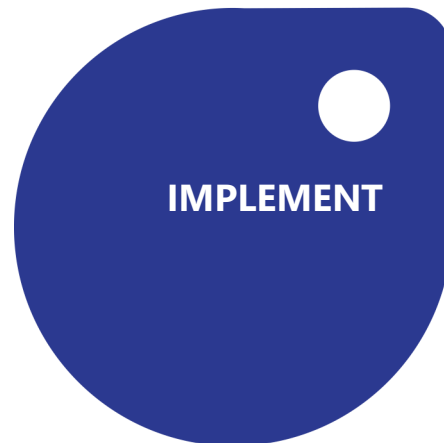


WHO ARE WE? Conduct a self-evaluation (E.g., *re:Vitality; Asset Mapping*). Tip: Appoint a task force to evaluate the assessment, then present a summary report to the congregation.

WHAT'S OUR MISSION FIELD? What's happening in our town? What does our mission field look like (neighbors/resources)? Demographics?

WHO ARE OUR POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS? With whom might we work well? How can we get to know each other? Could we do something together, like a VBS?

DO WE WANT TO MOVE FORWARD? If YES, move on to the next step. If no, are there other options/solutions available (e.g., bivocational pastor; closing the doors?)



WITH WHOM ARE WE PARTNERING?

WHAT MODELS ARE AVAILABLE? What might work best for us? (Tip: Review the Partnership Models document on The Partnership Project website.) What modifications could we make?

IF WE'RE STARTING IN THIS PHASE, WHERE MIGHT WE NEED TO CIRCLE BACK? What questions are unanswered?

HOW WILL WE MANAGE THE PLANNING PROCESS? (Tip: Establish a task force.) How many meetings? Discussion topics? Who should be involved? When do the interested parties meet jointly? Separately? What's our estimated timeline?

WHAT'S OUR COMMUNICATION PLAN? Who needs to know what, when, and by what means? What needs to change in our public communication about our ministry?

WHAT EXPECTATIONS MIGHT NEED TO BE ADJUSTED?