

EVALUATION

Evaluation is necessary to mission planning. Evaluation is done during planning and while a plan is in place.

Evaluation in Preparation for Planning:

1. Gather congregational statistics and information (trend report, history, current worship attendance and membership data).
2. Initiate One to One conversations in the congregation and community as part of the planning. Small group conversations may also be used.
3. Gather demographic information for the community and future trend information.
4. Use a tool such as SOAR or SWAT to gather information, opinions, feelings.

Evaluation Within a Mission Plan:

1. Set SMART Goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Evaluated) when possible.
2. Repeat the use of tools such as SOAR and SWAT to evaluate progress.
3. Set a timeline for review of the Mission Plan – annually with a longer timeline for mission statements and long range vision.
4. Mark calendars with dates to complete evaluations/reviews.

Evaluation tools are available from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office for individual congregations and multi-point parishes.

A Mission Plan is never finished. It is reviewed and renewed, changed and/or affirmed. God's mission won't be finished until God decides.

Basic Review Questions

1. Mission Statement:
 - a. Is it known by most of the members? ____Yes ____No
 - b. How is it used?

2. Vision:
 - a. Is it known by most of the members? ____Yes ____No
 - b. How is it used:
 - i. to communicate the mission and ministry of the congregation?
 - ii. in decision making (by council, committees, WELCA, etc.)?
 - iii. to foster relationships in the community?

3. Leadership Development:
 - a. How many of the core ministry functions are led primarily by lay leaders?
 - b. How does this compare with last year?

4. Communication:
 - a. What has been effective? Ineffective?
 - b. What changes might be made?

5. Goals. List each and review each using the following:
 - a. What steps were taken?
 - b. What outcomes happened?
 - c. What remains to be completed in this area? What exceeded expectations?

6. Community Engagement:
 - a. How has the congregation developed a relationship and a presence in the community?
 - b. How many contacts has the congregation had with non-member local residents in the last year?
 - c. How are new relationships established with non-Christians?
 - d. Is there any difference now compared to last year with what the surrounding community would describe as lost if this congregation stopped doing a community ministry?

7. Interconnectedness:
 - a. How has the congregation connected to the conference, synod and churchwide expressions? Who participates?
 - b. How is the congregation relating ecumenical churches in the community?

8. Mission Support/Financial Stewardship:
 - a. What was the offering for the operating budget last year?
 - b. What is the current offering for the operating budget?
 - c. Have mission support goals to synod and churchwide been met? If not, why?

9. Celebration:
 - a. What has been celebrated?
 - b. What remains to be celebrated?