

MAP BUILDING

The Congregation and its Surrounding Mission Field

1. Use the best and largest map available. Black and white with limited color will make it easier to record and read.
A display map may be obtained from a local or county office, chamber of commerce, regional planning office or book/map store.
2. Determine as accurately as possible the primary area served by the congregation.
Take into consideration all other churches including ELCA congregations, barriers such as rivers, ravines, lakes, railroads, highways, etc.
Locate natural transit routes and natural barriers to transit.
3. Outline with highlighter the primary service area (the congregation's mission field).
For small cities this may be the entire city and some surrounding areas. In rural areas this might include a township or entire county.
 - a. Consider the question, "From what area around our building site is it reasonable to expect that persons will come to participate in the congregation's life and ministry?" Or, "From our building site, where could the congregation extend or satellite a ministry to?"
 - b. Identify major industrial, commercial, and recreational areas by shading the map with colored pencils or highlighters. Indicate where people work, shop and spend leisure time.
 - c. Identify areas of housing. Indicate if there are areas of undeveloped land available for future housing development.
 - d. Locate all public and parochial schools and colleges.
 - e. Locate and mark municipal buildings, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, and other institutions that are significant in the community.
 - f. Locate natural places where people gather (community centers, public libraries, malls, coffee shops).
4. Identify niche populations represented in your community. (Is there a particular immigrant population? Are there halfway houses? Is the community primarily single person families, young families, retired people, etc.?)