

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

You are about to embark on an exciting time for your congregation, namely; the Call Process. An important phase in that process is understanding your congregation.

The following steps are designed to help you in this process. Doing as much of this as possible will be of great service to you and the church.

Should you have any questions, please contact Rev. Gregory Stenzel at The AALC ([gstenzel@taalc.org](mailto:gstenzel@taalc.org)).

### PART ONE: the Context of the Congregation – an Ecological Perspective

- 1) Provide a map that identifies the boundaries of the communities served by the congregation: (a) the congregation's historical neighborhood; (b) the congregation's service area for ministry and/or the area where members live (use zip codes for location analysis of members if pin map is not available). Briefly explain and interpret the meaning and implications of these communities.
- 2) Develop a population trend chart/map/commentary broken down by ethnicity within the census tracts of both the neighborhood and primary service area of the congregation for 1970, 1980, and 1990; and a briefly interpret the meaning and implications of this data.
- 3) Develop a demographic profile of the census tracts of both the neighborhood and primary service area of the congregation using the 1990 census as your base-line (updated if available); and briefly interpret the meaning and implications of this data.
- 4) Interview at least three leaders in the community (i.e. school official, politician, human service provider, business owner, policeman, etc.) who are not members of the congregation on their perceptions of the community and the congregation. Present a summary of the interview and briefly interpret their meaning and implications for the congregation's ministry.
- 5) Assessment of transportation patterns of Average Daily Units (ADU's) on main thoroughfares close to the location of the congregation, along with parking capacity and flows into and out of the church property; and briefly interpret the meaning and implications of his data.
- 6) Identify the primary denominational group in the county, along with an estimate of the unchurched population; briefly interpret the meaning and implications for the congregation's ministry.
- 7) Identify the primary target population groups in the neighborhood and community area presently being served by the congregation, and also identify the potential target groups that

might be served by the congregation; and briefly interpret the meaning and implications of this data.

## PART TWO: The Understanding of the Congregation in its Context

- 1) Develop a table or chart (pie or bar graph) of the gains and losses over the past 10 years (be sure to work with totals and percentages of the ten years for the chart/graph); and briefly interpret the meaning and implications of this data relative to the congregation's growth/decline and health.
- 2) Using congregational histories, supplemented by oral comments, develop a brief "interpretive" summary of the history and key events/passages of life/crises in the congregation noting especially the different styles of pastors and their primary influence in shaping the identity and ministry of the congregation.
- 3) Identify the "functional" values that seem to presently shape the congregation's present identity and ministry; and provide a brief critique of the strengths and limits of these values. If the church has a printed mission and/or vision statement, list these and assess both their adequacy and their effectiveness in terms of current implementation.
- 4) Identify and critique at least three of the primary symbols, rituals, metaphors which shape the congregation's self-understanding for ministry.
- 5) Review the congregation's building and its use of space, and provide a brief critique of how the use of space either enhances and/or hinders the congregation's ministry.
- 6) Identify and evaluate the primary model of leadership which the congregation expects from its ordained pastoral ministry.
- 7) How is the congregation "staffed"? How many full-time and part-time employees in what positions? Why do they staff these positions?
- 8) What is the Congregation's annual budget? How does this break down in terms of debt load, staffing, outreach, missions and benevolence. Interpret. How do they reflect the missional priorities they talk about? How have these changed in the past decade? Why?
- 9) Finally, at some length summarize your findings and interpret this congregation in terms of its self-understanding in regard to its life and ministry in relation to its community/context. Bring your discussion to a focus in answering the question: "To what extent does this congregation appear to fit and function as a missional church within its context?"