

IV. COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

OBJECTIVE:

The purpose of this mapping exercise is to help church leaders reflect with critical appreciation all their church does for its own members and for all of those who live around them (**APPRECIATE**), reorient some of the congregation practices –especially those that are weak or seem to duplicate services in their geographic area- (**EVALUATE**), explore the potential for partnerships with other congregations or non-profits in doing ministry together (**CONNECT**).

RATIONALE:

- Most congregations continue to think of themselves as institutions whose call is to serve, especially those in most need. This is a fantastic very honorable sense of vocation. However, the membership composition of most congregations and the context in which these congregations operate are rapidly changing. The political environment of “generating social change through individual connection” has changed and a new system of shared power (networked effort) is proven to be more effective and long lasting.
- The Community Asset Mapping is a tool based on the principles of Community Organizing, and here we present one of the basic tenets of this type of organizing:
 - Every single person/institution has capacities, abilities and gifts. Living a good life depends on whether those capacities can be used, abilities expressed and gifts given. If they are, the person/institution will be valued, feel powerful and well-connected to the person/institutions around them. And the community around the person/institution will be more powerful because of the contribution the person/institution is making.
 - That is why strong communities are basically places where the capacities of local residents are identified, valued and used. Weak communities are places that fail, for whatever reason, to mobilize the skills, capacities and talents of their residents or members.
 - While the raw material for community-building is the capacity of its individual members, some communities have failed to understand this. One of the reasons this basic resource is undeveloped in weak communities is because the community has come to focus largely on the deficiencies rather than the capacities of its members. This deficiency focus is usually described as a concern about the needs of local members. And these needs are understood to be the problems, shortcomings, maladies and dilemmas of people.

RESOURCES NEEDED AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN:

- Use the three forms provided, and add sheets as needed.
- Filling out the Individual capacity Inventory Form:
 - The form contains two sections: one for individual church members, and the second section for particular individuals in the larger community we could engage in a relationship for the well being of our larger community, i.e. the chief of police, local politician, the artist (s), the local philanthropist,...

- Collect as much personal information as possible so that the person can be contacted at the appropriate time.
- List all the skill you identify in those specific individuals.
- Identify the community work they do.
- Do this persons have any entrepreneurial skills or interest in developing them?
- Filling out the Congregational Capacity Inventory Form:
 - List the name of the program your congregation offers and the person in charge of such program.
 - Include the contact information used if someone is interest in being part of this program.
 - State the purpose of the program and briefly evaluate whether or not the program is fulfilling its purpose.
 - Evaluate the reach of the program by the number of people attending the program. It would be very good to note whether or not there are people from outside of the congregation attending this program.
 - Entrepreneurial capacity of the programs refers to the viability to either duplicate the program in a different context, or connect the church program with another program offered in a different setting. For instance, youth group, would be feasible to have a regional youth ministry? Could it be ecumenical? What would be the benefits/distresses of having an “expanded and integrated” youth ministry?
- Filling out the Community Capacity Inventory Form:
 - Follow the directions given in the Congregational Capacity Inventory Form, with the exception of the last column.
 - In the last column wonder about the congregational benefits of networking with other institutions that serve the larger community. What is the benefit of working together? What kind of work we could do together?
- It is very recommendable that this Task Group also pins in a map all the local institutions serving the local community, including other churches and what they offer 9if it is possible to get such information from them).

ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS:

- Remember that core element that links the community capacity is the individual relationship. It is important to get to know persons and the persons managing institution if we would like to develop

DEBRIEFING THE MIND MAPPING

- In the area of the capacities and assets of individuals:
 - Is our church properly using the capacities of its individual members to further the message of the Gospel in our location?
 - Are the persons in leadership, those who chair/manage programs in our congregation in the best place according to their personal gifts?

- How many church members dedicate their time and talent to services outside of the church? Is this practice important to us?
- Do our programs in the church promote individual capacity(ies) to further the Gospel message in the world?
- In the area of the capacities and assets of our congregation:
 - How many programs our church offers to its members?
 - How many programs are designed to reach out/serve members of the larger community?
 - Is our congregation known in the larger community? How?
 - Is it important for us, and for the larger community, to develop a deep “missional mindset”?
 - Of all that we do, which programs are dated and should be removed with appreciation celebrating their past successes?
 - Of all that we do, which programs are succeeding (why? How?), and should be recognized with appreciation celebrating their present successes?
 - Is there anything that our church is not doing, and we recommend a possibility for future action?
- In the area of the capacities and assets of local community institutions:
 - Do we collaborate with any of the listed institutions?
 - What we do together?
 - Where are the deficiencies?
 - Does our church have a direct interaction with any of the programs, institutions, etc. serving our larger community? And how strong is this relationship?
 - Which institutions we should/should not do community ministry with and why?
 - List all your recommendations
- In the area of community needs:
 - Are all social needs in our community being responded to?
 - Are there any other areas of need? Why are there important?
 - List all your recommendations

INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY INVENTORY FORM

For church members - Name	Contact Info	Skills Information	Community Engagement	Entrepreneurial Expertise or Interest
For non-church members - Name	Contact Info	Skills Information	Community Engagement	Entrepreneurial Expertise or Interest

CONGREGATIONAL CAPACITY INVENTORY FORM

List the Name of the program and the person in Charge	Contact Info	Purpose of the program	Community Engagement –how many people are involved in this program?	Entrepreneurial Capacity - Can this program be networked with outside of the church resources?

COMMUNITY CAPACITY INVENTORY FORM

List the Name of the program and the person in Charge	Contact Info	Purpose of the program - Offer a brief description	Community Engagement –how many people are involved in this program? How many does it serve?	Entrepreneurial Capacity – Could our church network with this program? Benefits?