

Analysis to Action

The "As Is" worksheet indicates your readiness for local outreach, and the "To Be" worksheet outlines your church goals in four complementary areas. The "Gap Analysis" helps you think about what stands in the way. Considering all this information, you can plan the initial actions your church should take to begin connecting others to Jesus.

Tips and Aids for Action Planning

This is not a strategic plan! An action plan outlines your first steps in local outreach to help move you to your goals. Therefore, focus on ACTION (not meetings, deliberations, votes, committee formation, and so forth).

All actions should tie ultimately to "Connecting Others to Jesus." For some suggestions on actions, see the end of this worksheet. As you consider actions, use the following criteria:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different than what we're doing now | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent and pretty immediate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster or support real relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Other-centered and needs-based |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address goal attainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Largely outside the walls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not a program or add-on | <input type="checkbox"/> Address major obstacles or challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tie to an aspect of B-L-E-S-S | <input type="checkbox"/> Help connect others to Jesus |

For iGo People

Task or Action	Who Does	By When

For Leaders

Task or Action	Who Does	By When

For Culture Change

Task or Action	Who Does	By When

For Reachback and Support

Task or Action	Who Does	By When

Other Actions

Task or Action	Who Does	By When

Ideas and Suggestions for Actions

iGo

- ☐ Identify core missional folks – those already with a missional heart, already in relationships with non-Christians
- ☐ Gather existing iGo people at least monthly, in a missional community type format, for sharing, encouragement, prayer
- ☐ Identify real people that we already interact with who need to connect to Jesus
- ☐ Guide and move the relationships of iGo folks with others to deeper levels of relationship, i.e., to Engage, Serve, Share
- ☐ Invite, disciple, and recruit other members to become iGo people, raising the proportion of adult members who are iGo people to 3%, then 5%, then 8%, then 10%
- ☐ iGo members share their experiences or stories publicly, in bulletins, in newsletters, on the website, in Bible classes, or during worship services
- ☐ APPs exist (Accountability Progress Partners) and are available for iGo people
- ☐ APPS are matched to iGo folks

iGo and “weGo”

- ☐ Publish community service and/or relationship building opportunities in bulletin, newsletter, posters in narthex, or during worship
- ☐ Partner with others who are already doing grace-filled, Christ-centered service in the neighborhoods or in the community
- ☐ Identify and invite church neighbors or community residents to meet with church members to discuss their needs, and preferably do this off campus
- ☐ Discuss with these folks how to form partnerships to address their concerns or needs
- ☐ Identify charities or community needs that particularly mesh with the congregation's character, tradition, or heart
- ☐ Test an idea: before going all in, pilot a community effort that does good for someone else and also connects them to Jesus, then capture lessons learned
- ☐ Focus individuals and groups on building relationships between servants and the served for an area that's been identified by the congregation as an area for community impact; FYI, high school and college youth especially want to make a difference – involve them!

- ☐ Church groups “play more away games”, that is, they function outside the church walls, in and among their neighbors, building relationships
- ☐ The church, under God’s grace, effects positive change in a neighborhood, or for a community need, and is known in the community for it
- ☐ Community impact, and relationships with outsiders, is tied to the help, hope, and love that Jesus provides, i.e., congregation efforts make the link to connect people to Jesus

Leaders

- ☐ Called leaders, notably clergy, develop relationships with non-Christians (the B-L-E-S-S idea) to lead by example in the local missional efforts
- ☐ Called staff use some work time and money and go help someone who’s not a member (preferably who’s not a Christian), then report on results and disciple others
- ☐ Elected, appointed, and de facto leaders also lead by example as iGo people
- ☐ Leaders share their stories and experiences with the congregation
- ☐ Guide the church in reforming goals, activities, efforts, resources toward outside the walls, outside the membership, in order to connect others with Jesus
- ☐ Designate a “champion”, the person to serve as the most visible spokesperson and catalyst for culture change (typically the senior pastor, head elder, or elected head)
- ☐ Create the “burning platform” – the clear and compelling call to action for inarguable reasons (drawn from Scripture, drawn from faith)
- ☐ Challenge members to do simple acts of kindness and service, to begin practicing a more loving heart for others
- ☐ Clergy design sermon series and Bible studies to emphasize grace, mercy, love for others, and sharing your faith
- ☐ Form partnerships with other organizations to do good to others and connect them to Jesus; partnerships include the opportunity to grow relationships with the lost (not just food drives, clothing drives, fundraisers for shelters, etc.)
- ☐ Clergy spend one or more days per month outside the office and in the community, in order to B-L-E-S-S the least, the last, and the lost; share stories with the congregation
- ☐ Procure a coach or progress partner to help keep efforts moving forward
- ☐ For a child care center or school, apply any relevant actions here to the staff, students, and parents – this is a prime mission field

Culture

- ☐ Increase member appreciation for what Jesus has done for them by using sermons, studies, and periods of guided reflection – this boosts joy, gratitude, and response
- ☐ Improve member ability to understand and articulate the redemptive mission of Jesus, and the invitation to each of us to partner with Him in this endeavor
- ☐ Establish a class or time where members can increase their comfort and confidence in relating their faith or faith story. Discuss and practice any and all of the following:
 - What God's story is
 - What God has done for me
 - My personal faith story
 - What Jesus means to me
 - Why I have hope, my reason for hope
 - Why I have peace and joy despite struggles and failings
- ☐ Insert regular prayer into worship services for iGo people and for local outreach, for neighbor needs, and so on
- ☐ Organize prayer walking efforts, rotating through neighborhoods or even in community areas that are in dire straits
- ☐ Establish regular announcements of outreach opportunities: bulletin, newsletter, website, posters, mailings
- ☐ Sponsor nontraditional "church", taking church to neighborhoods or community (e.g., services and meet-ups in homes, coffee shops, parks, mall food courts, and so forth)
- ☐ Create a weekly worship service into one that a non-Lutheran, non-Christian, Jesus seeker could appreciate
- ☐ Establish a mentoring/discipling effort for select members, for spiritual growth and exercise of faith, with a thrust of love and witness
- ☐ Establish efforts to lovingly and tirelessly go after lost sheep; elders or equivalent members exercise great concern for those people who have lapsed or left the church
- ☐ Group by group, challenge the programs, ministries, clubs, and groups to demonstrate a local outreach effort as part of their existence (e.g., Bible classes, men's groups, women's groups, seniors, youth, crafts, LWML, music, sports teams, etc.)
- ☐ And if there's new faith created by the Holy Spirit in some lost soul, have a "newborn Christian" system in place to provide the nurturing that a spiritual babe will need
- ☐ Instead of a foreign country or faraway state, organize a LOCAL mission trip for youth or adults, forming relationships with those in need and then sustaining these relationships

Reachback and Support

- ☐ Understand the congregation's level of vitality, traditions, ministries and programs, financial commitments, lay leaders, history and forecast – the As Is state
- ☐ Identify challenges and areas of resistance by staff and members to local outreach
- ☐ Review congregation mission statement, divine call(s), governance structure, and other foundations for openings to outreach as well as obstacles to it
- ☐ Make the church family more relational with its own members (e.g., higher touch by elders, Stephen ministers, in-home visits, congregation socials, more small groups)
- ☐ Confirm your existing (or nonexistent) relationship with the surrounding neighborhood and the community
- ☐ Comprehend where might be the fertile ground for sowing Gospel seeds:
 - WHO (de-churched, pre-churched, unchurched, non-Gospel churchd)
 - WHERE (specific parts of the community? opportunities for natural relationships?)
 - WHY (specific issues neighbors and community are facing, like drugs, sex industry, gangs, unemployment, homelessness, single parent families, jails, crime, etc.)
- ☐ Enlist a prayer team or group of prayer warriors to regularly lift up (by name) iGo members, the neighbors they are interacting with, those interested in being iGo people, and local outreach efforts in general
- ☐ Identify members' skills and gifts (from crafts and skilled trades, to education) that could be used to serve others, especially those outside the church
- ☐ Establish a roster of volunteers who are ready-willing-able to employ their skills and gifts (*for free*) in support of a person in need, i.e., love in action
- ☐ Shift resources – time, talent, treasure – to local outreach (i.e., budget some money for this, set aside time as well, especially by groups)
- ☐ Adopt sound management principles to steward the congregation's resources wisely
 - Time management that sets aside prime time for the priority of local outreach
 - 1st fruits: money and talents given back to the Lord for loving others as ourselves
 - Accountability – tracking of progress and feedback loops to outreach workers
- ☐ Prepare plans to shift some time-talent-treasure to local outreach (e.g., sunset or deemphasize some current efforts in favor of doing more outside the walls)
- ☐ Conduct equipping workshops for members to inform, empower, and energize them to be iGo people or to actively support iGo people