



The Church and Community Working Together for Social Uplift

Strengthening the Church's Influence and Impact in the Community

MID-ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

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**IF YOUR CHURCH WENT
AWAY TOMORROW, WHAT
WOULD YOUR COMMUNITY
REALLY LOSE?**

There is NO debate about IF the church should work
with the community it is called to serve!





We can decide how to
GROW a church on our terms
but we **IMPACT** the
community on its terms.

FIRST THINGS FIRST—WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

- ▶ A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE SAME AREA (BLOCK, NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY, COUNTY)
- ▶ A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH THE SAME INTERESTS, RELIGION, RACE, ETC.
- ▶ A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH A COMMON CHARACTERIC OR INTEREST LIVING TOGETHER WITHIN A LARGER SOCIETY
- ▶ AN **INTERACTING** POPULATION OF VARIOUS KINDS OF INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMON LOCATION



DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY!

IS IT YOUR BLOCK, NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY, COUNTY?

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Understand the characteristics of a church that is influential and impactful.
- ▶ Learn to quickly map a community
- ▶ Identify ways to assess, negotiate and partner with existing and emerging resources in your community
- ▶ Identify the 2-3 things your church can do **WITH** the community **FOR** the community.

MY COMMUNITY IS...

- ▶ **Social-Economically Diverse** – 27% at or below poverty and 31% with a household income above \$250,000!
- ▶ **Racially diverse** – African American, Latino, Asian Pacific Islander and Caucasian
- ▶ **Linguistically diverse** – Over 50 languages spoken in a 40-block radius
- ▶ **Culturally diverse** by age, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation. 38 % are between the age of 25-45!
- ▶ **Spiritually diverse** – Christian, Jews, Muslim and More



PLACE IN THE CHAT:

**RIGHT NOW, WHAT ARE YOUR
COMMUNITY'S 2-3 MOST SIGNIFICANT
NEEDS?**

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

**WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE(S) IS YOUR CHURCH
PLAYING IN ADDRESSING THOSE NEEDS?**



THE INFLUENTIAL AND IMPACT CHURCH

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Shifts from “us and them” to “we” (Community is our congregation)
- ▶ Moves from “To/For” to “With”
- ▶ Operates ministry on the far-right end of the “Relief to Development” continuum
- ▶ Shifts from “cause” (one and done, emergency relief) to “community” based ministry that is focused on what is needed AND what the community hopes to become.
- ▶ Operates as “neighborhood leader” rather than “outside expert”
- ▶ Measures change in underlying conditions along with change in individual circumstances
- ▶ Integrates evangelism and service intentionally and consistently
- ▶ Is a part of the key civic groups
- ▶ Has a consistent visibility in key political meetings
- ▶ Sees the work as fueling a movement and revealing the Kingdom

The Relief to Development Impact Continuum

Immediate Relief

(Individuals and Families—Often single-touch)

Ongoing Support

(Individuals, Families, Organizations—Based on some schedule)

Community Building

(Engaging with others outside of the church to discern, plan and serve—Often based on work that starts outside of the church)

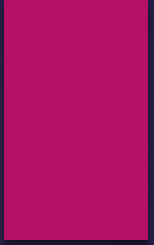
Community Development



**How do you know what
your community needs?**

MAPPING A COMMUNITY

- **Demographics** – who are the people?
- **Psychographics** – what do the people prefer, care about, want or need?

- 
- ▶ Race, Ethnicity, Gender
 - ▶ Family/Relationship Status
 - ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Home Ownership
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Internet Service Provider
 - ▶ Faith community Membership



ASK!

- Start with the houses on your block and work OUTWARD!
- Tap into data that already exists

PARTNERSHIP IS AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY

- ▶ Know what the community needs and who is already working.
- ▶ Know what your church can offer (ASSETS).
- ▶ Get a seat at the table OR set the table!
- ▶ Get to know the REAL community leaders.
- ▶ Develop partnerships with organizations where there is synergy (mission and values).
- ▶ Don't try to do everything!
- ▶ Never mind who gets the credit.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Child care (including before and after school)
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Education (closing the achievement gap)
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ ESL
- ▶ Health and Wellness (including Mental Health)
- ▶ Housing (temporary, transitional and permanent)
- ▶ Hunger/Food Vulnerability
- ▶ Human Trafficking
- ▶ Preventing recidivism
- ▶ Social Justice (Voter registration, Education, Mobilization, Health Policy)
- ▶ Substance abuse

PARTNERING

- ▶ Assess your (and your church's) biases and **DEAL WITH THEM!** Make sure you are operating in **LOVE** with the right **MOTIVE** as a partner (**impacting community**).
- ▶ The Pastor might represent the church at some tables but NOT MOST!
- ▶ Identify persons in your church who are passionate about a specific issue that your community is or needs to work on. Make that person your LEAD ADVOCATE and let them build your church's strategy.
YOUNG ADULTS want to DO ministry NOT just attend meetings. They are one of your greatest COMMUNITY ASSETS!
- ▶ Learn what is happening IN the community and **SHOW UP!** Don't get a reputation that you ONLY show up with the **SPOTLIGHT** is on YOU!
- ▶ Develop RELATIONSHIPS! Be authentic and empower others to do the same!

The Church **MUST** become a part of
COMMUNITY in order to effectively serve
and partner with the community!

THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF A CHURCH BUILDING

DOES NOT

DETERMINE THE DEPTH OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY!

ACTS 1-2

NOW WHAT?

- ▶ When you think of about the MOST significant needs in the community that your church serves, WHAT is church currently INTENTIONALLY invested? Who are your partners? What metrics are you using to track impact?
- ▶ When you think of the list of characteristics of an influential and impactful church, which represent your church's strengths? Which represent areas your church MOST needs to develop in?
- ▶ What steps can your church take now to better impact your community?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help me to see my community as my congregation and my congregation as my community! Deliver us from the mentality that we do “FOR” the community. Help us to partner WITH the community! Reveal Your plan for our church to be a part of our community and help us to find our place! Teach us when to sit at the table and when to set the table and invite others. Lead us to be better at engaging our community, even when it is uncomfortable. Stop us from judging others. Help us to LOVE with the love of Jesus. Shift our focus from ourselves to our community! Give us a vision and a plan for making our community stronger. Use us to reflect Your kingdom as we do this work. In Jesus’ name! Amen.

MATTHEW 28:19

