



Identifying our Resources for Ministry

PASSIONS,
POSSIBILITIES,
PARTNERS

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. – Eph. 4-7

- **Passions** – what are our core values, understanding of mission, resources for doing ministry
- **Possibilities** – what are the needs we see in our community? Opportunities for connection?
- **Partners** – Who might partner with us in our work?

Three
possible
ways of
identifying
passions

Appreciative Inquiry

World Café

Asset Mapping

Appreciative Inquiry

- a transformational organizational change process that focuses on the strengths of a group.
- 4 phases: Initiate, Inquire, Imagine, Innovate
- Congregational conversations that focus on what is going well, rather than all that we lack.
- Not problem solving (at least in the traditional sense)



World Cafe

- The World Cafe is a method which makes use of an informal cafe setting for participants to explore an issue by discussing it in small table groups.
- The World Café is built on the assumption that ... People already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges; that the answers we need are available to us; and that we are **Wiser Together** than we are alone.
- Could use similar questions to Appreciative Inquiry but also could focus on specific challenges
- 7 principles: Set the context, create hospitable space, explore questions that matter, encourage everyone's contribution, connect diverse perspectives, listen together for patterns and insights, share collective discoveries.
- Group changes with every question

Asset Mapping

- Congregational asset mapping starts by looking at assets and then connecting those assets in new ways to imagine new and creative ministries.
- Our cup is not half-empty, it is half-full.
- When we map our assets, we find the grace between our gifts.



Three Phases of Asset Mapping



RECOGNIZE
YOUR ASSETS

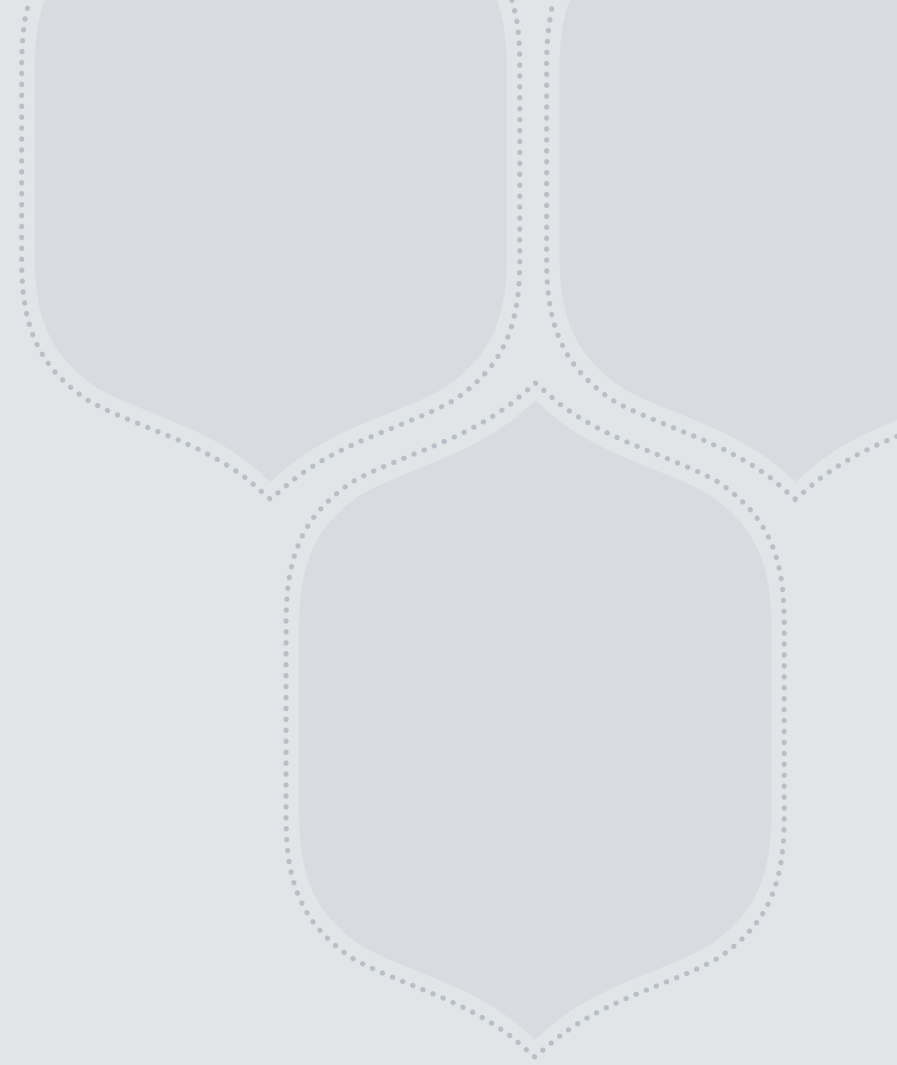


CONNECT THE
DOTS



VOTE WITH
YOUR FEET

Let's give it a try!



Step 1:
Recognize
your Assets

Write word or short answer on piece of paper, share with group and place in middle of table.

Be specific (example: not we have a big sanctuary, instead: we have a sanctuary that seats 250 people.)

Be creative: Most useful assets may be the weirdest or wildest

Go around the group allowing each one to add to the pile until everyone is out of ideas or time ends.

Thinking
about your
church: (10
min.)

Physical assets

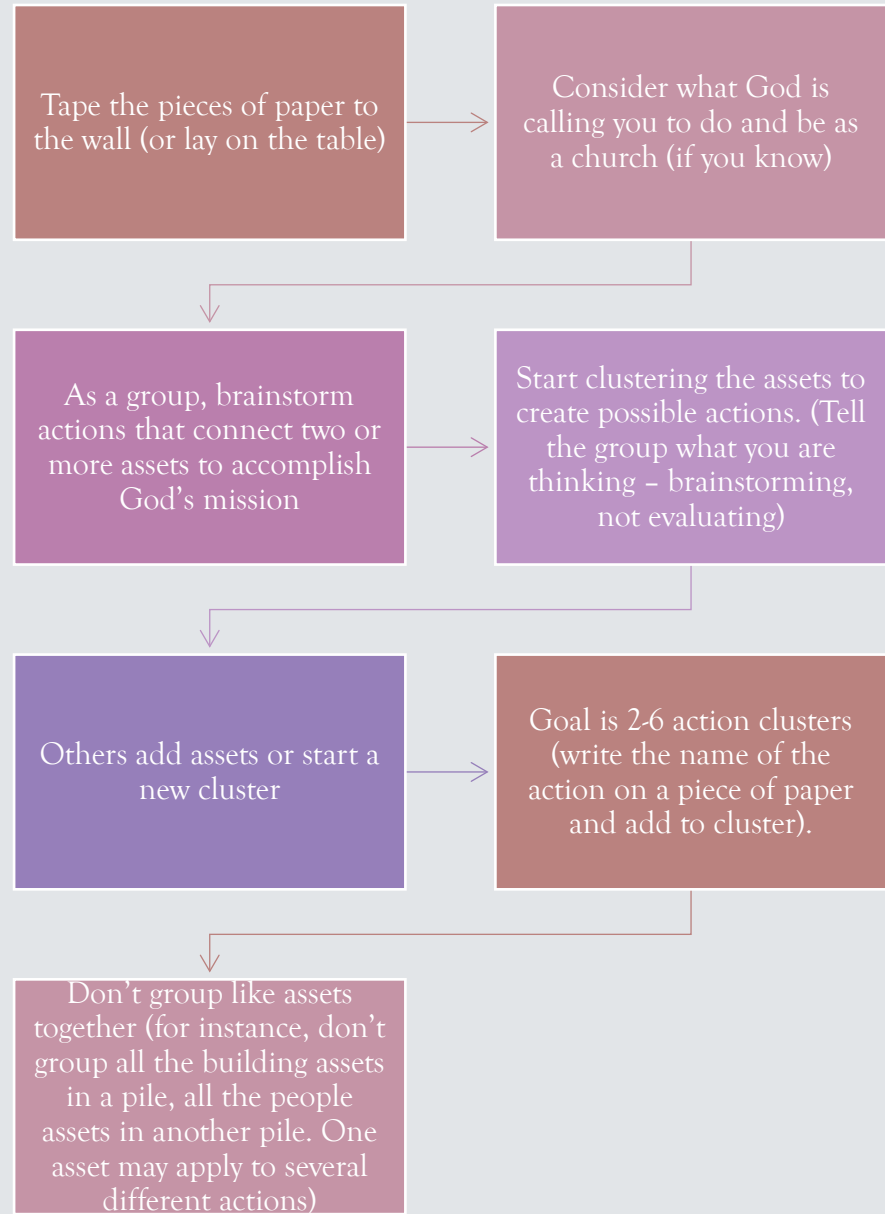
Financial assets

Gifts you have to share

Gifts others have to share

Partners: groups or people you connect with in the community (share space, use space, shared ministries)

Step 2: Connect the Dots



Think about actions like:

- Project
- Event
- Performance
- Campaign
- Protest
- Celebration
- Demonstration
- Making, growing, or fixing things



Step 3: Vote with your feet (or with dots)

- As a group, review each of the action plans
- Indicate which one you would be excited about supporting.
- Note that you now have a project and a team and an idea of the assets you have available to make it happen.
- And if there are ideas that have no one (or too few) people interested in bringing to fruition, don't despair. Consider it a project for another time or place.

Last Thoughts

Asset Mapping can work whether or not you have a specific problem to address

It can work before or after you identify the needs of your community

With some modifications, it could be used with younger age groups (although also could be a great intergenerational activity)

It invites wide participation