

An eight-step process for

MISSION PLANNING

1. DECIDE ON A PROCESS

Plan a series of meetings of your Church Council/Circuit Leadership Team and congregation/s. Spread them out over the coming weeks so that people have time to pray, reflect and consider.

2. DO A COMMUNITY AUDIT

Find out as much as you can about the people who live near your church/es. What are their joys and struggles? What is God saying to you through your community?

3. CONDUCT A CHURCH REVIEW

What does your church or circuit have to offer? Consider gifts, skills and passions, staffing, time and capacity, money and property. What is God saying to you through the resources you have been given?

4. DREAM TOGETHER

Spend some time listening to each other's hopes and dreams. What do you want your church and community to be like in the future? What is God saying to you through each other?

5. CHOOSE PRIORITIES

Decide which dreams are for now and set the others aside for later. Two or three priorities per year is plenty. Give yourselves permission to stop doing some good things so that you can do better things.

6. IDENTIFY ACTIONS

Decide what you will need to do, who will do it and when. Putting names and dates against actions makes it much more likely things will get done.

7. CONSIDER THE FRUIT

What difference do you want to make because of the actions you identified at step 6? What might fruitfulness look like?

8. SET A DATE FOR A REVIEW

Your mission plan is now complete – but decide when you will come back to it. Referring to it again and again is what makes a mission plan more than a piece of paper.