

Our Missional footprint

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Why would we (the clergy) want to fill in yet another statistical form? If this is your question then we have some good news for you. This is not a statistical report form. It is a tool for you to use in conjunction with the Bishop to do some self evaluation and help build an effective strategy to move your parish forward in its call to have an impact for Christ in the local community. Please use it in conjunction with your planning and budgeting process. We would appreciate feedback that would help us improve this tool.

Footprint: *the measure of the size, impact or effect that something has. (example: we took the decision to invest in new countries to grow our global footprint.)*

Missional Footprint: *The measure of the size and impact that a church has on its surrounding territory or broader mission calling. i.e. A single parish is certainly first responsible to impact the community where it is located but it also may be called by God to share in mission work to the ends of the earth.*

Several factors are important when considering the size and impact of mission work of a particular church. This survey tool will help you determine your baseline and help you as you make decisions going forward in Christ's mission.

1. Every member of a local Church is a missionary. Our baptismal promises demand it. Christ calls us to it. The Church should be training, equipping and deploying its people to do so.
2. The use of our Finances reveals what is important to us and is an indicator of our priorities.
3. Knowledge of our local surroundings is critical to what our mission will look like. Christ came to us; we must therefore go to the people we desire to minister to. While a portion of our mission work does take place within the four walls or our buildings, the new reality is that more – much more - should take place outside of our buildings.
4. The ministry of the Word and Prayer is foundational. The word of God will tell us in general what needs to be done, but it is only through prayer that we can discern exactly what we should be doing. There are many good things to do, but only a few "God" things.

Here are some definitions to help you and your Parish Council complete this form

Missional Hours - this is the total number of hours that people associated with your parish or the programs and projects of your parish have contributed toward your missional footprint.

Please note that this does not include the hours and effort that is put into maintaining the building or the weekly worship services. Do not count time greeting, folding bulletins, counting the offering, leading or attending the weekly bible study or prayer meeting. The only exception would be a Special Sunday targeted at honouring or bringing in community groups as that is missional in nature.

What we are looking to capture is the actual missional output of the church that is impacting the community needs around us. This will include items like: serving at the food bank or soup kitchen, making up and delivering Christmas baskets, visiting and leading services in nursing homes, hosting a community group for the sake of building community where there is none. Doing a project in conjunction with a school or community centre. Delivering meals on wheels... This includes hours in missional work done by paid staff as well as volunteers. (Cleric and Lay). Many members give generously of their time and talents in the community. Doing so, they act as ambassadors for Christ.

Outwardly focused mission work- programs and projects - These are the regular or special programs or events that the church takes leadership in, or participates in, that are not focused on the church building or membership. See list above.

Matthew 25 Check-in This is a good way to self evaluate the things that we do as a church. Clearly Jesus is looking for how we do these things to the least of his people. We want to be found doing these things, without even knowing that we are doing them. Are we able to sort the things that we do or give funds to into these 6 categories? What do we learn from this?

Matthew 28 Check-in - There is a second mandate that is given to us and that is one of proclamation. We must also be found to be declaring, proclaiming, teaching, baptizing and developing others to do these same things. It is not enough just to do the things on a list. How do we rate on this?

Mission Funding -% that goes to directly or indirectly to mission work. –

As much as we would want to be doing all of this ourselves, often we lack the time or the talent. We do have an opportunity to join our resources with others to complete the task. eg. PWRDF, World Vision, Food Bank, Compassion or any other designated project.

Knowing your Community - If we are going to be found doing the right things, as opposed to doing the good things, we need to do some leg work. The first job of the landed missionary will be to learn about the community. Many of us have lived where we live for many years but do we really know the needs of our community? Research and observation will be critical to developing a good plan. There may be resources available to you or you may have to develop your own.

Missional training Programs - inspire, convince, train - Once we know the need then we must train for it. This can be something simple like learning how to knit newborn hats for

pediatric units or make quilts for chemotherapy patients. It could be delivering groceries or teaching someone how to use an iPad. It all depends on the needs. Effective mission work will always begin by meeting the needs of the people in the community.

Community Leaders - The best missionaries work with other people, groups and movements to achieve the same goals. How well are you and your congregation members connected to others who are called to be leaders in your community. There are many different type of leaders that we should develop relationships with.

Strategic Listening Prayer- Undergirding all of this is something that gives us a very high probability of getting it right, much of the time. We have an opportunity to listen to God. There are many kinds of listening prayer. There are events as well as private devotion. If we are to be good missionaries, then this is critical. Examples of these are Prayer Walks, On-Site Prayer, Praying over Maps. The focus of this kind of prayer is learning to hear what the Lord is saying to us, rather than articulating a list of our needs to Him.

The Questions for Parish Days

1). Total missional hours outside of church Maintenance activities _____

- This includes hours by Clergy and Laypeople, paid and unpaid.
- Getting this figure will, obviously, be very difficult because it will mean explaining what counts or what doesn't to every member of the congregation and then asking them to complete some sort of form. You may not be the kind of person who finds numbers useful or easy to calculate. People may not cooperate. We do encourage you to give it your best, whether it is in narrative form or in actual numbers. What we hope to establish here is for your own use. Finding this benchmark can give you a place to begin and something to celebrate.

2) The number of people that are regularly engaged with outward focused mission work _____ and what percentage is this of our congregation? _____ Another way to approach this is to begin to collect stories of clear missional work that is going on, to tell these stories and celebrate them as an inspiration to others. What are the events that bring life to the community?

3). How often are mission projects and programs given significant time i.e. someone comes and talks for 5 minutes or so, from the front of the church.
 ___ seldom ___ 4 times/year ___ monthly ___ weekly ___ multiple times weekly

4). List your mission engagement under the headings of Matthew 25, interpret this as you see fit. Find some stories that illustrate these 6 basic things that Jesus commanded the Church to do. How do we as the church

- Feed the hungry (longer term needs) _____
- Give water to the thirsty (shorter term (crisis) needs) _____
- Clothe the naked (stuff other than food) _____
- Welcome the stranger _____
- Visit the prisoners _____
- Care for the sick _____

What non-church initiated volunteer opportunities are being exercised by member of the Church?

- Meals on Wheels _____
- In from the Cold _____
- _____
- _____

5). How do we, as a church, present the gospel in ways that would allow a person to respond in faith and repentance? This could be a list of ways or it could be narrative. It could be programs or it could be process. It is our answer to the command given us in Matthew 28.

Discipleship for new members: (baptismal prep, confirmation classes, new member class...)

Small group ministry:

Ongoing discipleship for long term members: (bible Study, Parenting course, Marriage)

6). What percentage and amount of your congregation’s total giving was given to other groups to achieve missional impact _____, _____ (do not include apportionment).

7). What are the three greatest needs in the community around you?

How do we know this? Example: Youth programming, in a meeting with the recreation director of the local municipal government he shared that his biggest concern was the lack of programing for young people. ("Don't know" is an acceptable answer, guessing is not.)

- _____
- _____
- _____

8) If you answered #7 “Don’t Know”, how might you go about understanding the culture and society that you are surrounded with to find out what the real needs are in your community.

9) What training programs are, or might be, utilized to develop people for the work of mission.

- _____
- _____
- _____

10). Meetings you have had with other community leaders to build bridges, or, if you have had none, what are the meetings that you would like to have.

- _____
- _____
- _____

11) Intentional listening prayer events held last year to help determine needs and areas of mission for our parish. Examples: Prayer Walk, Morning Devotional that includes journaling, Special Lenten or Advent program around community needs. Also record the outcomes. i.e. What did God say?

- _____
- _____
- _____

12) How have you celebrated the ways in which you are already enacting Matthew 25 and 28?

Commissioning Services: _____ Celebration Sunday: _____
(where work done in/out of church is applauded)

Other: _____

The questions for the Statistical Returns

Describe the program or event that has the deepest impact in the civic community you live in.

Describe the program or event that most clearly communicates the basics of the Christian faith.

What are two things you plan to do or redo next year that will continue the work of Jesus in your community/area.

What is your Mission Action Plan?

Develop a Plan which incorporates the answers to the Matthew 25 and 28 check-ins above.

Having done this, what things do we need to put into place to follow what we sense God leading us into?

Date:	Person in Charge:	What resources will they need:
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What are we going to do with this information? We are going to find ways to encourage and support your plan.

Please have this back by: _____ so we can work with you.