

Parish Options Worksheet #2

*You have worked with the basic seven options. Three of those options have subcategories. If you selected one or more of those options this worksheet will help you continue your assessment.*

- 1. An option that allows us to live a full Christian life as a smaller parish -pages 1- 2
- 4. An option in which we work at growing our membership -pages 3 - 5
- 7. An option in which we work to increase Financial Giving/Income -page 6

**1. An option that allows us to live a full Christian life as a smaller parish**

**A. Cut costs: staff size/time; program**

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

**B. Cluster Ministry – A cluster involves at least three congregations sharing some significant resources and usually staffed by a clergy team. Each participating congregation would usually maintain its autonomy.**

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

**C. Yoke with another parish - One priest serves as pastor to two churches.**

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

D. Local Ordination

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

#### 4. An option in which we work at growing our membership

##### A. Revitalize, renew, develop

Being a healthy, faithful and attractive congregation is a base for all growth strategies. This is the ministry of nurturing a parish culture in which people mature in Christ; the building of a community in which women, men and children are renewed in their baptismal identity and purpose and sent, in Christ, into families, the workplace and civic life.

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

##### B. Incorporation of new members

Growth is advanced if the congregation gives attention to the incorporation process by assessing its overall effectiveness, gathering information to help understand what is happening to new people, and monitoring implementation. We would seek to improve how we invite, greet, orient and incorporate people.

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

##### C. Lapsed Ministry

People drift away for all sorts of reasons, e.g. troubles in their life (divorce, loss of job, etc.), depression, disagreements with parish leaders or members, distress about the policies of the denomination, a change in how they see themselves and their needs, etc. There is a good chance of restoring them to the congregation's life if you reach out quickly and skillfully.

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

#### D. Reach new populations

Another method of increasing the membership of a congregation is to focus your attention on a segment of the population that is not currently represented in the parish (or may be present in small numbers). The methods include creating a parallel congregation, establishing an extended congregation, working at being a diverse parish, creating a "friends" category of relationship.

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

#### E. Defining and marketing the parish

The process of defining ourselves as a parish can have dramatic results. For example, when a church that has seen itself as primarily a "neighborhood church" redefines itself as a "regional church" it both changes the population group it will be actively inviting into its community and it forces a reconsideration of the worship patterns, programming and style of community life. Not only is there a larger group to draw from; there is also a need for us to look at how we may need to change as a parish if we are to be an attractive possibility for that larger group. Defining the congregation is a statement of how we see ourselves; how we understand our identity and purpose as a congregation in relation to the external environment. That self-understanding must be grounded in the realities of our life as a congregation. For example, if we hope to increase in size, there needs to be evidence that there is a population base we can draw from, that we are ready to learn how

to grow, and that we are willing to change our life as a community to invite and adapt to the new members.

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish's life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

*7. An option in which we work to increase Financial Giving/Income*

a. By increased pledging

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish’s life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

b. By Increased endowment

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish’s life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

c. By some form of joint venture

1) This is a realistic option for us given our assessment of the parish’s life

Very unrealistic				Very Realistic
1	2	3	4	5

2) This is an option I would like us to explore in depth

Not at all				Very Much
1	2	3	4	5

Comments: