



Invite • Welcome • Connect[®]

High Level Congregational Assessment

There are assumptions in these comprehensive assessment tools that your congregation is undertaking significant opportunities to teach and support lifelong Christian formation in its members. This **high-level** list is a starting place for you to evaluate your congregational evangelism, hospitality & belonging ministries. It is not intended to be either all inclusive or size specific.

INVITE...Evangelism

- Do your clergy, staff, and lay leaders teach, preach, and model **INVITE (personal invitation) & Evangelism**?
- What are you doing in an organized way to invite new people to visit your church? Do you provide any physical tools to your members to help them invite others?
- How do you prepare your congregation to be evangelists? Do you offer education/training/guides for sharing their faith journey/stories?
- What are the creative avenues your church offers to invite the local community to visit? Do you intentionally connect these activities with information about your church?
- How well do you know (and how much are you involved with) the community surrounding your church?
- What is your church/clergy/staff relationship with local civic/community groups?
- What do you offer in the way of communication, both outside & in-house? Have you cultivated a relationship with your local media?
- Is your website up-to-date, relevant, newcomer & mobile friendly? Are you using social media as an evangelism tool?

WELCOME...ministry of Hospitality

- Do your clergy, staff, and lay leaders teach, preach, and model a **theology of WELCOME & Hospitality**?
- Do the members of your congregation intentionally look for the stranger in their midst?
- Would you say your congregation is a “friendly community” or is it a “community of friends?”
- Can you identify the members of your congregation who have the gift of hospitality?

- Does your church have an organized comprehensive strategy/system for welcoming and following up with newcomers? If so, do the members of your vestry and leadership know the details of the system?
- How well is your welcoming system working? What needs to be added and/or changed?

CONNECT...ministry of Belonging

- Do your clergy, staff, and lay leaders teach, preach, and model **CONNECT, helping people discern their giftedness (vocation); then empowering, equipping, entrusting, and affirming them for ministry?**
- What is your process for connecting newcomers into ministry at your church? Do you have an intentional system of tracking and follow-up of every single newcomer?
- Given that the Deep Truth of CONNECT is the “Sacred Act of Listening”...do you offer any resources/classes for listening skills?
- Can you identify the members of your congregation who are “connectors” – those people who naturally have a gift for connecting others?
- Given that newcomer ministry needs to be a team effort, how do your staff and/or lay volunteers interface with newcomers?
- What are your pathways to belonging? Do you offer a clear membership pathway, teaching the importance of our Episcopal rites of initiation, e.g., baptism, confirmation, and reception?
- What is your process for empowering laity for ministry? Do you have a variety of resources/methods/classes to assist people in discerning their God-given giftedness for ministry?
- Do you have written descriptions of all lay ministries in your church? In what ways do you communicate ongoing up-to-date information about lay ministries to your newcomers and congregation?
- Do you have a system for the nurture and support of all lay ministries in your church?
- Do you have exit conversations with the people who leave your church?

CHURCH-SCHOOL

- Do your clergy, staff, and lay leadership understand and/or believe that your school could be your biggest mission field?
- Do you have an organized strategy to address this issue? If so, what is it?
- What are the ways you intentionally build and maintain healthy relationships between your church and school?

