

People

Who did you meet along your mapping assignment? Briefly describe the people in this neighborhood ... age, gender, ethnicity and what they were doing as you watched them.

Question: How did people respond to you as you met them on the street? Do any of them know about your congregation? What was their input if any?

Do any of your church members live in the neighborhood? Who?

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Exploring the Neighborhood

As you walk your neighborhood, focus on your senses: smell, feel listen, look, even taste and as you experience it, meet the people. Gather as many impressions as you can - you will have time to process the full experience later. Receive what the community has to offer. Point out observations, feelings to your partner. But keep your focus outward rather than absorbed in conversation with one another.

As you encounter people, greet them as might be appropriate... if they are open, ask them about themselves and their community. Let them know that you are from your congregation, asking them if they have heard of it, know where it is, know anything about it? Shake hands and thank them.

Take notes of these specific observations:

The People...

The Institutions, Businesses and Associations...

The Open Spaces, Parks, Nature Areas, Empty Lots ...

How the structures, people and community are in relation with one another...

+++ After you have walked your route, return to the church building with your observations. A worksheet will be available to help you report your experience

Community Mapping - Feedback Worksheet

Housing

Describe the housing (single family, apartments, condo etc.): style, condition, value, number of occupants etc.

Question: What does the housing of this neighborhood tell you about the daily issues and concerns of its occupants? How are these questions addressed in the worship, education and advocacy life of the congregation?

Composition of the Neighborhood

Transportation

List means of transportation in neighborhood, flow of traffic at times of the day

Question: What means of transportation do people use to come to the church building? How can we be more hospitable as they arrive? Can we promote multiple means of transportation to our ministry center(s)? How?

Businesses

List and indicate location of retail shops, malls, restaurants, motels. Note languages on signs and newspapers, type of food in restaurants, new businesses, vacancies etc.

Question: Who works in or owns any of these businesses? Do members of congregation? Who? What relationship does this congregation have with any of these businesses? Are there relationships worth exploring? Which ones?

Associations

List and locate churches, clubs, community centers, non-profit centers etc.

Question: Who participates in these programs? Do any of our members? Who? What relationship does the congregation have with these associations? What relationships could we explore further?

Institutions/Organizations

List hospitals, schools, government buildings, civic centers, pre-schools, parks, nature trails, gardens etc.

Question: Who works here? Do any of the congregation's members? What is the relationship between this congregation and these institutions? Are there relationships worth exploring? Which ones?