



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Planning

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21

Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind. Proverbs 21:5 The Message

A wise man thinks ahead, a fool doesn't. Proverbs 13:16

Your system is perfectly designed to produce the result you are getting
Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, 308.

Strategic thinking and behaviour are hallmarks of godly leaders. The Bible is filled with examples of leaders going to great lengths to devise strategic responses to their circumstances, involving God in the process through prayer, fasting and consulting with spiritual scholars and prophets. George Barna, *Second Coming* 95

Why Should A Church Plan?

Because we are stewards
Because we are dealing with limited resources
Because of the competing agendas we face
Because it forces churches to deal with issues

Strategic Planning

1 – Discovery Phase

What is our ministry context?

What are the strengths, needs, opportunities and challenges of our present ministry?

How are we doing at fulfilling our mission?

Some churches find a planning team useful (be careful in regard to how the team is put together). Include different age groups, length of time in the church. This group reviews data collected and gives input and insight concerning the data. Reports based on analysis of data should be prepared and distributed before any meeting.

2 – Pre-visioning Phase

What is God's plan for our future?

What does He want us to look like and be like in the future?

3 – Visioning Phase

What is God's clear and compelling picture of our future?

Establishes where the church is headed

4 – Planning Phase

How will we get there?

How will we know if we are on track?

What strategies are necessary to accomplish our objectives and meet our standards?

During the planning phase, the church defines intermediate targets for where it is going (objectives) and how it will know when it gets there.

Every church ministry or committee/team needs to develop a clear picture of what part it plays in fulfilling the mission and vision of the church.

They need to be aware of how they will know if they are fulfilling their part of the vision.

Develop Objectives:

Working with key leaders and teams.

Generalized statements indicating a desired target or goal at some future date.

Statements indicating a desired or preferred future.

Statements indicating what you intend to accomplish over the next one or two years.

Develop Steps for Accomplishing Action

Think ahead of what will be required in the new reality

Leadership style

Staffing

Structure

Facilities

5 – Resourcing Phase

What are the resources we need in order to carry out our plans, meet our objectives and fulfil our vision?

How are we going to acquire these resources?

Three key resources

Prayer

Volunteer Involvement

Finances (Coming unit, How To Increase Giving In Your Church)

Allocating the necessary resources (time, dollars and people) in the most strategic areas is particularly important if you want to see positive results.

6 – Implementation/Evaluation Phase

How well are we accomplishing what we set out to do?

What changes do we need to make to continue on course and to fulfil our mission and vision?

It's important for the church to stop and evaluate progress at regular intervals.

Questions:

How would you characterize the planning efforts of your church over the last few years? What has led to the environment you have?

What hinders effective planning in your congregation?

How much planning happens in your board meeting?

Do your leaders know the part they play in achieving the vision of the church?

What steps can you take this week to move toward more effective planning?

Useful Resource

Henry Klopp, *The Ministry Playbook*, Baker Books, 2002