

SWOT- A Tool for Discernment

STRENGTHS

As you consider your community and the worship services and liturgical practices you embrace, what are your strengths? What do you do well? What do people remark on and note as gifts that your church has and uses well? How does your organization function effectively? How does it bring glory to God? How does it affirm the gifts of God's people? What unique resources do you have at this time that others don't have?

WEAKNESSES

After recognizing and celebrating your strengths, spend a little time considering the weaknesses of your church or organization's worship services and liturgical practices. Some probably came to mind as you discussed your strengths, since they are often two sides of the same coin. In what areas of ministry do you too often falter? What types of activities do you find it hard to sustain? For what areas of potential ministry do you seem to lack the appropriate gifts? What sorts of potential directions give rise to resistance quickly? How do your people deal with change?

OPPORTUNITIES

Extending your reflection into the community and environment around you, ask: What opportunities for ministry exist near you that you have not pursued? What possible matches can you see between the gifts God has given you and the needs that exist within and around you? What population might you address more? What trends might you take advantage of? What resources and connections could you tap into? Where do you see energy building for new ideas and activities?

THREATS

Realistic assessment requires recognizing threats that may prevent a new initiative from succeeding. What challenges and obstacles might you face? What attitudes or trends might endanger new ideas or initiatives? What economic or demographic trends affect you negatively now, or might in the future? Where might you expect resistance to new initiatives?