



Let's Move! Deriving Goals from Purposes¹

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Overview and Objectives: Relating The Work of the Church to the Significant Purposes of the Church

A one-day planning workshop for board, committee chairman or consistory members of two or more churches. Emphasis is on making specific plans to accomplish goals related to significant purposes of the church.

Time Required: 4 to 5 hours plus breaks.

Objectives:

At the close of the conference, the board, committee or consistory members of each participating church will have examined the basic purposes of the church, 1) listing the purposes of the church as seen from the stance of each given sector of responsibility and 2) classifying the listed purposes in terms of most to least directly involving the sector of responsibility. 3) The participants will have written general goal statements showing how the sector could make a significant contribution to each of the purposes to which it is closely related. 4) They will have discussed and written several procedures for involving church members in the achievement of each of the goals.

The participants will have regrouped as separate church boards, committees or consistories to discuss the implications of all the sector plans in light of the local church's conditions and needs. 5) They will have decided to adopt, modify and adopt, or add to the goals and the procedures suggested by the various sectors. 6) They will have constructed a "Purposes, Goals, Plans" chart to take back to their individual churches.

Overview:

The activity is to take place in two separate phases: 1) participants are grouped according to the sector or area of responsibility that they represent, by virtue of delegation, appointment, position, or primary interests. (Sectors, for example, might be music, worship, education, community service, business management of the church) and 2) participants return to a small group consisting only of their own fellow-members of a particular local church.

The physical location of the workshop should be in a large bright room, where tables and loose seating can be arranged and rearranged to accommodate the various size work groups.

¹ Ted Ward. Let's Move! Deriving Goals from Purposes. A one-day planning workshop, 1990s.

Purchase a sufficient quantity of poster board and markers for each group (at least 3 sheets per group). Purchase 3-4 packages of 3 x 5 index cards. Provide scissors, masking tape, glue stick, and colored markers. Prepare sufficient sets of the following cards:

FELLOWSHIP: DEVELOP CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	WORSHIP
HELP THE POOR AND NEEDY	EVANGELISM
WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS	HELP CHRISTIANS GROW AND DISCOVER THEMSELVES THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Two Scripture-based pastoral exhortations are to be provided as foundations through which thinking and deliberations of the groups can be enhanced. The first of these occurs early, just before the sector groups engage in the discussion of the purposes of the church. The second occurs at the beginning of the deliberations about enabling procedures. This talk will emphasize the importance of *involvement of people* in the work of the church.

Each group of church board members is encouraged to take its chart into follow-up planning sessions in the local church. The hastily-written cards that will be pasted to the chart can be replaced or pasted over by more neatly prepared copies and perhaps should reflect a wider base of planning and involvement in the local church. Thus, this chart, started during the workshop and developed in the local church, can be displayed in the church as a reminder and encouragement.

DERIVING GOALS FROM PURPOSES

——Leader's Guide ——

Make sure that everyone participating is aware of the basic purposes of the workshop, particularly in terms of the need to deliberate on the setting of goals for the advancement of the work of the church in the year ahead. Also suggest that since the church is not simply a human institution that the ways we set about to do things in and for the church must be made subject to the basic purposes of the church. “Our task is to find out what God is doing and to ask how we can help.” (Ed Dayton) Pray to this end.

Divide the participants into groups according to their *sectors* of interest or assignment (e.g., music, worship, education, and so on).

Distribute the poster board and markers and have each group prepare a 3-column chart with the following headings:

- SIGNIFICANT PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH
- GOALS FOR THE YEAR
- ENABLING PROCEDURES: HOW PEOPLE CAN BE INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS.

Give the first pastoral exhortation—emphasis on the essentialness of the church in the world. Why did Christ establish his church? Why did he leave his disciples behind? Why are we here?

The groups (sectors) carry out the following three tasks and glue their cards onto their chart.

TASK 1: *Examine* and *discuss* the terms on the card set provided. These are some of the important purposes of the church. (There are two blank cards for use if you believe an important purpose or two have been left out). You might want to talk about how (and whether) your sector relates to each of the purposes.

TASK 2: Stack the cards in three stacks, representing 1) purposes to which your sector has a *significant* relationship. 2) purposes to which your sector has an *indirect* relationship; and 3) purposes to which your sector has only a very *slight* relationship. Talk through your differences of opinion and try to arrive at a group judgment. Paste the cards onto the first column.

TASK 3: For each of the purposes, using the index cards, write and place below one or two goal cards that would represent a significant contribution of your sector to the particular purpose of the church. Think in terms of goals that could be adopted for this year of operation in a local church. Paste the goal cards in the second column, directly across from the purpose cards to which they relate.

Give the second pastoral exhortation—emphasis on the importance of *people* in accomplishing the work of Christ in the world.

Groups (sectors) carry out the next two tasks, and glue their cards onto their chart:

TASK 4: For *each* of the goals, write and place below one or two enabling procedures that might be suggested so that a church could involve people in achieving the goal. Paste the enabling procedure cards directly across from the goal cards to which they relate.

TASK 5: Each participant should make a list of all the *goals* and all the enabling procedures developed here in the sector group. This list will be the basis of a report to the meeting of his or her church that will follow shortly.

Ask each *sector* group to display its chart on a wall using masking tape. Thus each church group that happens not to be represented on a given sector group will have access to input from that sector.

Conclude with a short session in which each team is asked to tell of its ideas about next steps to take in making the plans come alive in their local situation. A season of prayer should follow, asking for continued guidance.