

CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT
FOR FIVE YEAR MINISTERIAL EMPHASIS PLAN

Note: *This document was created by a congregation to help in a spiritual discernment process as they planned for their future congregational life and ministry emphasis. A copy of the form is to be completed by each church member, so far as possible. Then, a discernment group of leaders will use the information to develop the next five-year ministerial emphasis plan.*

1. Today's Date _____

2. Gender Male Female

3. Age Child Teen 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90's

4. Occupation _____

5. Educational Level

Some College College Degree Graduate Degree Trade School Other

6. Marital Status

Single Married Divorced Widowed

7. How long have you been active in this congregation?

__ Months __ Years

8. Are you a member of this congregation? Yes No

If no, can you imagine a time you might become a member? Yes No

9. On average, about how many times did you attend worship at this congregation during the past year?

None About once a month About one to two times a month Less than six times
 About two to three times a month Four times a month or more

10. How much time do you spend during an average month in this congregations' life - including worship, study groups, meetings, committee work, travel, preparation, etc.?

Less than 1 hour 1 to 5 hours 11 to 15 hours 6 to 10 hours
 11 to 19 hours Over 20 hours

11. Please list the ministries, committees, teams and groups, including Sunday School, in this congregation in which you are now active:

12. What leadership positions or offices do you currently hold in this congregation?

13. Name five things you find positive about our church.

14. Name five things you would like to see changed about our church, if possible:

15. Ministerial Emphasis

While considering our congregational needs, review the following ministerial emphases and rank them according to what you consider would be most important for our ministry energy and spiritual focus, as well as less important.

Select **no more than 6 items** as your #1 priority (marking a #1 in the blank before the item)

Rank the remaining activities with a # 2, 3, 4 or 5 – according to your preference (*of these, 2 is higher and 5 is lowest priority*).

Please also note in which of the ministries you are willing to personally provide leadership, or help with, in order to bring to fruition.

____ **A. Corporate Worship**

Planning & leading worship; working with the congregation to develop a rich worship life.

I can help with this.

____ **B. Proclamation of the Word**

Effective preaching, articulating personal faith.

I can help with this.

____ **C. Creativity and Resourcefulness**

Planning and Leading Programs

I can help with this.

____ **D. Spiritual Development of Members**

Helping persons develop their spiritual lives; encouraging persons to relate their faith to their daily lives.

I can help with this.

____ **E. Congregational Home Visitation**

Making personal calls on people in their homes.

I can help with this.

____ **F. Hospital and Emergency Visitation**

Making pastoral calls in hospitals, care facilities and ministering to persons in crises situations.

I can help with this.

____ **G. Congregational Fellowship**

Building a sense of community and strengthening relationships within the community.

I can help with this.

_____ **H. Pastoral Care**

Maintaining confidentiality; being compassionate & sensitive to other's needs; helping persons develop emotional maturity and security.

I can help with this.

_____ **I. Evangelism**

Bringing new members into the congregation; developing commitment to evangelism in others.

I can help with this.

_____ **1. Planning Congregational Life**

Long range planning and goal setting; helping leaders work together in solving problems; working with committees and officers; working effectively with teams.

I can help with this.

_____ **K. Involvement in Mission Beyond the Local Congregation**

Understanding and interpreting the mission of the church from a Global Perspective; encouraging support of Christian Church outreach.

I can help with this.

_____ **L. Educational Program**

Identifying educational needs of persons; developing programs to meet those needs; helping to set educational goals for the congregations; working with youth, children and adults.

I can help with this.

_____ **M. Teaching**

Strong commitment to teaching ministry; interpreting and teaching the Scriptures, theological concepts, church history, etc.; providing instruction for church leaders, members, etc.

I can help with this.

_____ **N. Mission in the local community**

Helping persons understand and act upon social and justice issues; becoming informed and involved in the community; organizing persons for community informed action.

I can help with this.

_____ **O. Ecumenical and Interfaith Activities**

Active personal participation in ecumenical relationships; encouraging the congregation to participate in ecumenical relationships; encouraging united Christian witness in the community.

I can help with this.

_____ **P. Congregational Communication**

Encouraging two-way communication in the congregation; sharing information; encouraging shared problem-solving in the congregation.

I can help with this.

_____ **Q. Administrative Leadership**

Accepting responsibility for leadership; encouraging shared leadership; helping persons develop their leadership abilities; encouraging others to assume and carry out leadership.

I can help with this.

____ **R. Stewardship and Commitment Program**

Developing stewardship education programs; encouraging regular stewardship growth; challenging the congregation to commitment to the church's work.

I can help with this.

____ **S. Evaluation of Program and Staff**

Planning and carrying out processes to evaluate programs; establishing procedures to evaluate staff performance in accordance with goals and objectives

I can help with this.

____ **T. Responsibilities & Relationships with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);**

Area, Region and General. Being involved in the life of the church beyond the congregation; strong personal commitment to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

I can help with this.