

Questions for Leaders to Ask Continually Throughout the Planning Process

There are some basic planning questions that can continually help leaders diagnose their situation and be appropriate in their leadership. There are no right answers to these questions. However, a willingness to ask the questions is an important way a leader prepares to engage others:

1. What holy conversation about the congregation's future do I believe we need to have at this moment in history?
2. When I consider the full planning process, what part is most important and appropriate for us to work on at this moment?
3. What strategies can I develop and use to invite people into this conversation in a structured, open, and positive way?
4. What tools or information will we need in order to have this healthy, holy conversation?

Questions for Leaders to Keep in Mind When Planning to Plan

A part of the task of the leader is to reflect continually on the progress of the planning team in order to identify the most helpful next steps. Below are a number of general questions to be used by the leader following each planning meeting:

1. What just happened in the last meeting?
2. With whom do I need to test my perceptions about what happened?
3. Where are we in the planning conversation?
4. How do I need to suggest that we adjust our conversation path or time line because of where we are at this moment?
5. What resources will we need to take the next step?
6. Who should we be telling about what we are learning and how will we tell them?

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