

Assessing Christian Education in the Local Church At the Beginning of a Consultation

As you begin contact with a congregation it is important that you help the local church get clarity about what they are asking you to do to help them. Here are a few questions to be pursued in order to get specific about expectations.

- ✿ The first questions are those you, as a consultant, might begin asking.
- ✿ The second set are those that the leader or contact person with whom you are talking might use to focus their concerns or issues.
- ✿ The third set of questions are those that a planning committee or Christian education board might use to really assess where they need the most help in the quickest time period.

These questions are also helpful to any committee as they begin thinking about their goals and plans for developing the ministry of education in the congregation.



A Few Brief Questions to Start the Assessment

Questions for Partners to Ask:

- ✿ What events or concerns prompted this contact and this conversation?
- ✿ What have been some of your successes over the past 2 or 3 years?
What are you good at?
- ✿ What do you hear people in your congregation asking for?
- ✿ Are there certain age levels or settings you are most concerned about?
- ✿ What are **you** asking help for? (Is this different than the requests of your committee or Board?)
- ✿ Are there dates or deadlines we need to meet?

Questions for the Congregational Leader (Contact) to Ask of Their Board or Church Members:

- ✿ Where do we need help?
- ✿ What more do we need to know before we can discuss this with a consultant?
- ✿ Are there dates or deadlines we need to meet?
- ✿ What resources do we already have?
What resources do we lack?
 - ✓ facility
 - ✓ finance
 - ✓ persons/leaders
 - ✓ materials/supplies
- ✿ What have Families been asking for?
What are the children asking . . .
What are the long time church members . . .
What are the leaders of the congregation . . .

Questions for Committees to Ask of the Congregation:

- ✿ What is our major problem, concern, or frustration?
- ✿ How is this important to our children or members?
- ✿ What do we think we need to talk about or do something about **first**?
- ✿ Who will help us to....
 - Define the issues?
 - Select the resources?
 - Do the actions?
 - Cheer us on?
 - Fund us?
- ✿ What is our biggest roadblock or hurdle to get over?
 - Lack of information.....
 - Lack of learners.....
 - Lack of energy or interest.....
 - Lack of resources or finances.....
 - Habits or traditions.....
- ✿ What needs our urgent attention?
- ✿ What can we put off until other issues are taken care of?

