

Accelerate Your Church

Out of the Box ... and Beyond

Before We Begin (Chapter 1 and Appendix 1)

Define, refine, and celebrate God's vision for the congregation. The clearer the vision, the more effective strategic planning will be. If the vision is unclear, refer to Appendix 1 and invest time and energy to the spiritual formation process that listens for God's vision.

Preparation (Chapter 3)

Christian leaders must prepare themselves spiritually before they can act effectively.

Step 1: Who We Are

Our Mission
Our Behavior
Our Convictions

Step 2: Our Changing Mission Field

Primary Mission Field
Demographic Realities and Trends
Lifestyle Segments and Ministry Applications
Socio-Psychographic Details and Spiritual Needs

Step 3: Program Options and Opportunities

List Creative Ideas
Ongoing Programs for Possible Continuation

Leadership	Organization
Hospitality	Property/Technology
Worship	Stewardship
Education	Communication
Outreach	Staff Development
Other	

Prioritization (Chapter 4)

The First Cut

For each ongoing program or creative idea answer the following questions:

Step 4: Why?

Evaluate if the ongoing program or creative idea aligns with the mission of the church, and reveals the core values and beliefs of the church.

Step 5: Who?

Name at least two specific people who are ready to take authority and responsibility for the design, implementation, and evaluation of the program or creative idea.

Name at least two publics who will immediately and directly benefit from the ongoing program or creative idea.

Step 6: To What End?

Specify exactly what personal or social change should result from the program or creative idea, and define how leaders will be able to measure success at the end of the year.

Anticipated measurable results are of three kinds:

- Statistical or numerical change;
- Signs, significations, or stories that confirm change;
- Feedback from alliances or networks revealing perceived change.

The Final Working List

Only those programs and ideas with clear understandings for *why* and *who* and *to what end* should be included. Be sure to review the expectations and needs of the publics who are the targets for the mission.

Step 7: When?

Time is the most precious commodity people possess.

- When will the program begin?
- What will be the schedule?
- When will it be evaluated?
- When will it close?

Step 8: How?

Relevance is the most important factor in strategic planning.

- What are the training needs? What is the plan for continuing education of leaders?
- What are the technology needs? What kinds of tools will be required?
- What expertise may be required? (Certifications, ordinations, specialized skills)?

Step 9: Where?

Accessibility in space or cyberspace is the most important factor in tactical implementation.

- What is the best environment to accomplish mission?
- Is the site readily accessible (visible and convenient) for the intended public?
- Does the environment encourage deepening, quality relationships?

Step 10: How Much?

There are seven “cost centers” through which leaders pay the price of discipleship.

Address them in the following order:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Cost in Changing Tradition | Stress involved in changing any local, denominational, or cultural habit or "sacred cow". |
| 2. Cost in Changing Attitudes | Stress involved in changing prejudices, moods, assumptions about people, institutions, or programs. |
| 3. Cost in Changing Leadership | Stress involved in hiring, training, evaluating, redeploying, or firing staff and volunteer leaders. |
| 5. Cost in Changing Property | Stress involved in building, removing, renovating; or acquiring property or relocating sites of ministry. |
| 6. Cost in Changing Technology | Stress involved in acquiring, discontinuing, reusing, or upgrading equipment, tools, instruments, etc. |
| 7. Cost in Financial Investment | Stress involved in redistributing financial resources or fundraising. |

Perspiration (Chapter 5)

Step 11: Summarize and Prioritize

Complete the chart for every creative idea and program. Rate each program on a scale of 1 – 10 for acceleration and impact.

Principles of Strategic Planning for Churches

Zoom - Principle of Acceleration	Prioritize any tactic the will multiply participation in worship, spiritual growth & stewardship.
Punch - Principle of Impact	Prioritize any tactic that will bring dramatic personal and social change to the mission field.
Push - Principle of the First Cut	Never waste energy if you do not know <i>exactly</i> why you do it, who will lead it, or what should result.
Pay - Principle of Seven Cost Centers	Anticipate the stress of real costs of discipleship ... addressing the financial cost last.
Zap - Principle of Timely Termination	Stop doing ineffective tactics, regardless of who might be upset or whose agenda might be altered.

Prioritization Template

Program or Creative Idea			
Connects with Top Ten Major Leveraging Strategies			
Steps 4-6	Steps 7-9	Step 10	Implementation Issues
The Point	The Tactics	Major Cost Centers (High, Medium, Low)	Coming Stress Points
Why:	When? Begin? Schedule? Evaluation? Closure?	Tradition:	Personal Growth:
		Attitude:	
	How? Training? Technology? Expertise?	Leadership:	Accountability:
		Organization:	
Who:	Where? Environment? Accessibility? Relationships?	Property:	Mission Sensitivity:
		Technology:	
Anticipated Results:		Finance:	Lifestyle Adjustments:
Acceleration:		Impact:	Total Score:
Delegation: Leader(s) to take authority & responsibility for implementation			Termination?

Step 12: Initiate and Terminate

Clearly define programs to be initiated or terminated.

- Prioritize at least two creative ideas that will be **fast forwarded** in the coming year;
- Identify at least two ongoing programs that will be **closed** in the coming year.

Delegate Authority and Responsibility Team Mandate

Name of Ministry

Team Leaders:

Mission Alignment:

Boundaries of Trust:

Core Values

Bedrock Beliefs

Policies of the Congregation

Policies of the Denomination

Anticipated Measurable Results (Outcomes)

Leadership Development Results:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Program Effectiveness Results:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Executive Limitations

Regarding Safety and Confidentiality...

Regarding timing ...

Regarding location ...

Regarding training ...

Regarding cost ...



Relevant Resources

www.ThrivingChurch.com
tgbandy@aol.com

Office: 519-823-2596

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Relevant Books by Tom Bandy:

Abingdon Press	<i>Kicking Habits</i>	<i>Coming Clean</i>
	<i>Roadrunner</i>	<i>Fragile Hope</i>
	<i>Mission Mover</i>	<i>Why Should I Believe You?</i>
	<i>Coaching Change</i>	<i>Christian Chaos</i>
	<i>Moving Off the Map</i>	<i>Growing Spiritual Redwoods</i>
	<i>The Uncommon Lectionary</i>	<i>95 Questions Shaping the Future of Your Church</i>
www.MissionInsite.com	<i>Accelerate Your Church</i>	<i>Mission Impact: Ministry Applications for Lifestyle Portraits</i>
BandyBooks (Amazon):	<i>Christian Mentoring</i>	<i>Global Positioning for the Soul</i>
		<i>Really Relevant (and) Always Faithful</i>
Chalice Press	<i>Spirited Leadership</i>	<i>Christian OptiMystics</i>
	<i>Talisman</i>	<i>Jesus the Christ</i>

Consultations:

Congregational Mission Assessment

A complete analysis of congregational strengths and weaknesses, obstacles and opportunities
 Key resource: *95 Questions that Shape the Future of Your Church* (Abingdon Press)

Vision Discernment

A guided spiritual formation process to build trust and discern God's purpose for your church
 Key resource: *Moving Off the Map* (Abingdon Press).

Strategic Planning

An intensive leadership retreat that helps churches prioritize creative ideas, ongoing programs, and limited resources. Key resource: *Accelerate Your Church: 12 Steps to Get Out of the Box ... and Beyond* (www.MissionInsite.com).

Demographic Analysis

Research and interpretation of demographic, lifestyle segment, and psychographic trends for church development, church planting, and outreach. Key resource: *Mission Impact* (www.MissionInsite.com).

Coaching/Mentoring

Personal coaching is usually scheduled in blocks of six months, and requires *skype* internet technology that is a simple, free program that allows free dialogue, no time limits, around the world. Coaching involves a one-hour *skype* conversation per month, with additional resources and dialogue via email between sessions. We concentrate on shaping attitude, integrity, competencies, and teamwork ... and focus on spiritual life, problem solving, and stress management.

Conferences:

Seminars for pastors or congregational teams are developed for all topics of evangelism, church transformation, church planting, multi-site expansion, and leadership development. See our websites for the current schedule, or customize a seminar to address your congregational mission needs.