

## MISSION STUDY OPTIONS

All options should include some review of basic church data such as membership trends, attendance records, Christian education programming, giving patterns, and financial health of the congregation. Online resources are available through the PCUSA at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/research/help-congregations/>

Other possibilities might include review of regional/town demographic statistics.

## OPTIONS

- I. **Focus Groups/Exit Interview**—can be led by interim/pnc or just pnc
  - a. Using existing structures(deacons, Sunday school classes, pw, etc.)
  - b. Comprehensive—opportunities for any/all to come at different times to a focus group
  - c. Representative Sample—identify constituent groups and obtain participation from them

Possible questions that have been used

What was one thing that you appreciated about each of your previous pastors? What was one leadership skill do you wish s/he either had or had more effectively?

What concerns you the most about X church right now?

What delights you the most about X church right now?

What is your perception of anything that is getting in the way of us accomplishing our goals within the church?

If you could have one thing happen at X church, what would it be?

What have I not asked you that you would want the PNC to hear/know about X church?

*Need to include other questions that will help answer MIF questions(below)*

## II. One Day Visioning Workshop

Church “history” Timeline---what life was like, what we remember, what we celebrate

Reflecting on Timeline—

What difference would it make if X church did not exist?

What changes/trends have you noticed about X church?

What has happened that you have liked? Would have liked to have happened differently?

If you were talking to a potential minister, how would you describe X church?

As a church, what are our strengths/assets?

As a church, what are our challenges?

What will we need from a new minister?  
What qualities and skills will we want/value in a new pastor?  
What are the expectations of tasks and responsibilities of this new pastor?

Mission---- \_\_\_\_\_ church is a church that \_\_\_\_\_

Hear/combine.....

How do they compare with existing mission statement?(if there is one)

Vision---

5 years---what is your family like? What is your community like? What is the world like? Consequently, what is/should the church be like? How will “we” get there?

10 years--- same questions

Revisit---pastoral characteristics, skills, and responsibilities from above???

### **III. Survey/Assessment**

- a. Congregation assessment
  - i. Consultants—(eg. Russell Crabtree---CAT(\$400); Conversations(\$95))
  - ii. Denominational resources—(eg. New Beginnings, others)
  - iii. Design your own instrument/survey
- b. Community assessment
  - i. Census data-available online
  - ii. Contracted—(eg. MissionInSite or others?)

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## **THE RESULT**

**MINISTRY INFORMATION FORM**---What will represent your congregation in the search process.....

WANT TO COMPLETE ANY ABOVE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HONESTLY AND ACCURATELY BASED UPON VIEWS/PERSPECTIVES OF THE CONGREGATION

1. What is the congregation’s or organization’s vision for ministry? Additionally describe how this vision is lived out.
2. How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency?
3. How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals?
4. Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and/or organization.
5. What specific tasks, assignments, and programs areas will this person have responsibility?
6. Leadership competencies of the Pastor(theological, communication, organizational leadership, interpersonal engagement)