

Assessing Your Ministry in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

The purpose of this assessment is to help create meaningful dialogue among your team in five essential areas of partnership. Our hope is as your team walks through this process you will prayerfully consider what God may be speaking to you as you engage in mutual and significant partner relationships — what might He want you to start and what might He want you to stop.

We recommend having each member fill in the assessment on their own first and then discussing the questions in the scoring section in a team environment. (If your team is larger than six people, break into groups of four to six).

Please read each statement carefully and choose your response by circling the appropriate number on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = needs work and 5 = doing well). Then total each category at the bottom in the Total box.

Identify Your Unique Calling and Strategy

	Needs Work	2	3	4	Doing Well
1. Our strategy is a combination of our church's unique calling, an awareness of current global realities, and critical calling placed upon our partner(s) (vs. a strategy with limited input from outside sources).	1	2	3	4	5
2. We have clarity on our church's unique call and strategy and are confident that it is the right direction for our church (vs. reacting on needs alone).	1	2	3	4	5
3. Our senior leadership and congregation fully embrace our unique calling and strategy.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Rather than figuring it all out ourselves, we search for and connect with partners who are making an impact in their community.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Our strategy was formalized after visits and conversations with our partner(s) in their field.	1	2	3	4	5
6. The strategy that has been created measures success in terms we have agreed upon as partners.	1	2	3	4	5

Total:

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

Mobilize Your People

	Needs Work			Doing Well	
1. The participation of people who serve our partner(s) is based on <i>mutually agreed upon</i> , appropriate ways to engage.	1	2	3	4	5
2. After the strategy has been mutually-agreed upon, we have developed an intentional mobilization plan for our church, which includes having qualified and experienced people facilitating the process of engaging the congregation cross-culturally.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Every ministry of our church (i.e., student ministries, small groups, arts teams) is engaged in fulfilling their role in global mission.	1	2	3	4	5
4. We offer clear ways for how people can participate in our global initiatives, and our congregation is aware of how they can personally get involved.	1	2	3	4	5
5. We are intentional to train and orient people who serve cross-culturally (vs. relying on the experience to teach them).	1	2	3	4	5
6. We facilitate continuity in partnership relationships so people return to the same place over time to deepen relationships (vs. one time serving opportunities).	1	2	3	4	5

Total:

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

Identify and Develop Strong Partnerships

	Needs Work			Doing Well	
	1	2	3	4	5
1. We intentionally seek potential partners who will be mutually challenging, enriching, and inspiring (vs. partners only seeking to receive).	1	2	3	4	5
2. Partnership connection occurs on various levels within our church from senior leadership to members (vs. only mission leaders interacting with partners).	1	2	3	4	5
3. We've had challenges but because we've created an atmosphere of trust and respect with our partner(s), roadblocks and concerns can be addressed in a safe environment (vs. operating under the assumption that all is well or relying on impersonal reporting structures).	1	2	3	4	5
4. We have mutually defined and established indicators for how we will keep each other accountable (vs. unclear or independently defined indicators).	1	2	3	4	5
5. We invest in relational time apart from "work" or ministry-related interactions (vs. task-oriented relationship only).	1	2	3	4	5
6. We make changes and decisions about the agreed upon plan in dialogue as partners (vs. making changes or decisions alone).	1	2	3	4	5

Total:

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

Foster Sustainable Transformation

	Needs Work			Doing Well	
1. We see transformation in both the community of our partners and our church (vs. focusing all transformation on one side of the partnership).	1	2	3	4	5
2. We support indigenous, visionary leaders who are already engaged in long-term initiatives in their community (vs. driving our own independent initiatives or new initiatives with limited indigenous leadership).	1	2	3	4	5
3. As partners, we understand and take into account the unique local factors that can inadvertently affect initiatives and projects or the development of them, such as electricity outages, lack of raw materials, or local inflation (vs. being unaware of local context realities).	1	2	3	4	5
4. As partners we mutually agree upon the indicators that will measure sustainability (vs. independently established indicators).	1	2	3	4	5
5. We are able to distinguish the differences between situations where short-term relief is appropriate and where opportunities for long-term sustainable development are possible, and we seek sustainable processes when appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5
6. We look not only at the quantifiable indicators for sustainable transformation, but also for intangible indications (such as changes in attitudes, hope replacing despair, an awareness of the riches within all communities).	1	2	3	4	5

Total:

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

Wisely Steward Resources

	Needs Work			Doing Well	
1. We have worked with our partners to develop agreed-upon and mutual accountability measures regarding financial donations without over-scrutinizing or excessive control.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Investment decisions are determined collaboratively as partners.	1	2	3	4	5
3. We have created mutually-agreed upon metrics and indicators that can provide us with a qualitative and quantitative picture of the effectiveness of our efforts in accomplishing the shared mission, and we review them at least once a year (vs. we are not able to communicate to our congregation what has happened with our investment).	1	2	3	4	5
4. Our giving doesn't obligate the recipient to us and our criteria but fosters a healthy interdependency which frees the partner to use the resources in ways we've mutually agreed has the most impact.	1	2	3	4	5
5. We prioritize strategic investments that lead to long-term financial sustainability over funding the ongoing operational costs of a ministry for a long period of time.	1	2	3	4	5
6. We make contributions to initiatives where there may be a considerable risk factor, based on our sense of God's leading and trust in the partner. We have peace about the balance of our contributions between lower- and higher-risk partnership opportunities.	1	2	3	4	5

Total:

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

Scoring

As a team, walk through the following questions and discuss next steps for your team. (If your team is larger than six people, break into groups of four to six).

- In which category did you score the highest?
- Why is this an area of success?
- In which category did you score the lowest?
- Why is this an area of greatest challenge?
- Do you have capacity to develop this area, or do you need outside help?
- What is the next step you need to take in this area to improve?
- What role does your partner(s) play in your taking this next step?

Assessing Your Ministry

in Five Critical Areas of Partnership

What are some action steps you can document as a result of this assessment?
Below are some questions to consider.

- Do you need to stop doing something in a particular area?
- Do you need to start doing something in a particular area?
- Do you need to schedule any planning meetings?
- Is there communication that needs to occur with your team or the church?
- Do you need to have a conversation with a partner?
- Does your church leadership need to be envisioned?

Action Steps

What	Who	By When