

Community Mapping Exercise

Take a blank sheet of paper. Draw a cross in the center. The cross represents your congregation. Now, create a map around the cross, filling in the blank space with anything you can remember (streets, parks, schools, businesses, etc.)

This is an invitation to notice people and places that are easily (albeit unintentionally) forgotten due to familiarity. This is about seeing every person and place as an invitation to ask, “What is God up to here?”

A few things to think about as you create your map.

- No detail is too small. Add anything you know.

(Example: If you know the names of the family who lives in the house across the street from your church, add them. If you know the name of the owner of the coffee shop on the corner, add them. They are part of your congregation’s God-given context.)

- Try to avoid feeling ashamed about the blank spaces on the page. These are merely invitations to learn more!
- Work together with others. Everyone notices different things. We need each other to be the body of Christ.
- Keep this map and keep filling it in with new things you or others notice until our next training.
- As you look at your map (both today and in the future), consider these questions:

QUESTIONS FOR NOW:

1. What do you notice?
2. What do you wonder? What questions come?
3. Who/what do you already feel connected to?
4. Who/what are you not already connected to?

QUESTIONS FOR LATER:

1. Who/what might you want to learn more about?
2. Who might you listen to in these spaces?