



MISSION
EDGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CHURCH EVALUATION



CANADIAN BAPTISTS
of ATLANTIC CANADA

WHAT IS A MISSION-EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHURCH?

A Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church is a church displaying the Good News of Jesus in both word and deed in its local community in on-going, relevant and contextual ways for their locality. They are also seeking to reach into neighbourhoods and networks all over the world through demonstrating and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.



HOW DO WE BECOME A MISSION-EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHURCH?

Begin by working through this assessment in your church to gauge how you are currently doing on the Six Essential Aspects of a MENC (Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church).

Invite both leadership (e.g. staff, deacons, elders) and a representative cross-section of your church to fill-out the assessment survey and results sheet. After the assessment create a Mission-Edge team to determine what aspects need improvement and commit to an action plan for becoming a stronger Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church.



SIX ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF A
Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church

1

EMBRACING HOSPITALITY

- *We regularly share (time, meals, possessions and resources) together as the family of God.*
- *We regularly practice welcoming the stranger (someone outside our usual circles) as individuals and corporately.*
- *Our church community is a safe place for anyone to find belonging and explore following Jesus.*

2

EQUIPPING ONE ANOTHER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN WORD

- *We regularly equip our church family to know how to naturally and effectively share the Good News today.*
- *We are committed to encouraging one another in sharing the Good News with our friends, co-workers, neighbours and those in our networks.*

3

HELPING ONE ANOTHER SHARE THE GOSPEL IN DEED

- *We can name the areas where corporately as a church we are seeking to be an incarnational presence to our local community.*
- *We can name the areas where corporately we are seeking to be a blessing to our global community.*
- *We are committed to helping one another as individuals and families be the incarnational presence of Jesus in our neighbourhoods and networks, locally and globally.*
- *We corporately have chosen local events and places where we will seek to be present.*
- *We encourage individuals to connect in their local community, living the life of Jesus incarnationally, as they go.*

4

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND AND PARTNER WITH OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- *We learn about our neighbours.*
- *We, through corporate discernment, have a local and unique mission (at least one) that is owned by us, as a church family.*
- *We corporately have discerned a global community or cause where we are seeking to be partners in mission.*
- *We seek to learn from and join with others who could be effective, healthy partners in our mission.*

5

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND CULTURE

- *We corporately study how the Bible and Jesus intersects and speaks to culture in our day.*
- *We seek to understand culture, rather than hide from culture.*
- *We equip one another to know how to engage culture with Jesus' grace and truth.*

6

GATHERING IN CHRIST TO GROW AND SCATTERING INTO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS AROUND THE WORLD

- *We gather in worship and seek to be transformed by the Spirit, who compels us to share the Gospel in word and deed.*
- *Our gathering is not the end point, but the centering point, for then scattering back into the world (while incarnating Jesus).*
- *This ongoing process of gathering together and then scattering leads to growth in our church, both in spiritual depth and in numbers.*

ASSESSMENT SURVEY - MOVING TOWARDS BECOMING A MISSION-EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHURCH

This assessment is designed for church leaders (e.g. Deacons/Elders or a Mission-Edge Leadership team) to give to a cross-section of their congregation (including those considered on the “edge” of the church family) to fill-out. The church leaders can then collect and work through the results, coming up with an action plan for becoming a stronger Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church (MENC.) Suggestions for action are in the next section.

Rate your church (as of today) on each of the following. Use the Reflection Questions to help you rate each section (e.g. a, b, c...) under each heading. At the end you’ll be guided to add up your totals. Here is an example using question 1, a.

E.g. Using the Reflection Questions, I would rate my church on a. (“We regularly share (time, meals, possessions and resources) together at the family of God) by making a mark on the scale at the number that reflects our current reality. I’ve marked 6 as the number reflecting my church is currently just slightly above average on this as I can name some things we do in answering the questions but there are holes in this and we are not extraordinary at it. I/you don’t need to physically write out answers to the reflection questions, they are just for you to think about as you assign a number on the scale to each section (a, b, c etc.)

EXAMPLE

1. EMBRACING HOSPITALITY

a. We regularly share (time, meals, possessions and resources) together as the family of God. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



NON-EXISTENT/NO IDEA

AVERAGE

EXTRODINARY

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Does our church family share meals, rides, small group time, possessions and parties together?*
- Does our church family share in serving one another? (e.g. providing meals, helping each other connect with new neighbours in our area, helping stack wood, helping with chores, helping with childcare...)*
- Does our church family share materially with those in need within our own church family?*

1. EMBRACING HOSPITALITY

a. We regularly share (time, meals, possessions and resources) together as the family of God. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Does our church family share meals, rides, small group time, possessions and parties together?*
- *Does our church family share in serving one another? (e.g. providing meals, helping each other connect with new neighbours in our area, helping stack wood, helping with chores, helping with childcare...)*
- *Does our church family share materially with those in need within our own church family?*

b. We regularly practice welcoming the stranger (someone outside our usual circles) as individuals and corporately. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Are individuals from our church family having strangers (someone outside their usual circle) into their home and extending them hospitality at least once a month?*
- *Do our worship services keep the stranger in mind, seeking to use clear language and practices that explain and invite in the outsider?*



EMBRACING HOSPITALITY *cont.*

c. Our church community is a safe place for anyone to find belonging and explore following Jesus. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Does our church allow people to belong before they believe?*
- *Where are the places within our church community people currently do belong while they are still exploring Jesus?*
- *Does the life and leadership of our congregation include ethnic, gender and socioeconomic diversity?*
- *Does our congregational family and leadership include generational diversity and intergenerational connectedness?*
- *Does our church reflect the diversity present within our wider community?*

2. EQUIPPING ONE ANOTHER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN WORD

a. We regularly equip our church family to know how to naturally and effectively share the Good News today. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Does our church have a plan to train people in sharing the Good News?*
- *Does our church gather regularly to equip Christians in sharing the Good News?*
- *Is sharing the Good News modelled in our preaching?*
- *What words and phrases does our church use to talk about Jesus, the Gospel and evangelism?*
- *Is this language understandable and connecting with people today? Is it clear that the Gospel is received by grace and is not earned by performance, works or following rules?*

EQUIPPING ONE ANOTHER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN WORD *cont.*

b. We are committed to encouraging one another in sharing the Good News with our friends, co-workers, neighbours and those in our networks. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Does our church encourage and celebrate people sharing the Good News within their networks?*
- *Does our church frame evangelism within the context of authentic relationships?*

3. HELPING ONE ANOTHER SHARE THE GOSPEL IN DEED

a. We can name the areas where corporately as a church we are seeking to be an incarnational presence to our local community. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Are there areas where our church is corporately seeking to be the incarnational presence of Jesus in our community?*
- *Why has our church chosen those areas?*
- *Who owns the responsibility to bless our local community in those areas? a small group of individuals in the church? leaders? a certain ministry? a large group of people from our church?*
- *Does our church have a plan on how to discern next steps in what it looks like to bless our local community?*
- *Does our church have local partnerships we are investing in as a church family?*

b. We can name the areas where corporately we are seeking to be a blessing to our global community. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Are there areas where our church is corporately seeking to be a blessing and a partner in our global community?*
- *Why has our church chosen those areas?*
- *Who owns the responsibility to partner with our global community in those areas? a small group of individuals in the church? leaders? a certain ministry? a large group of people from our church?*
- *Does our church have a plan on how to discern next steps in what it looks like to partner with our global community?*

c. We are committed to helping one another as individuals and families to be the incarnational presence of Jesus in our neighbourhoods and networks, locally and globally. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Does each church member have a name of a person, group of people or location, where they are seeking to be a blessing, for the sake of Christ?*
- *Are there stories arising from individuals and families being a blessing in their neighbourhoods and networks?*

HELPING ONE ANOTHER SHARE THE GOSPEL IN DEED *cont.*

d. We corporately have chosen local events and places where we will seek to be present. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

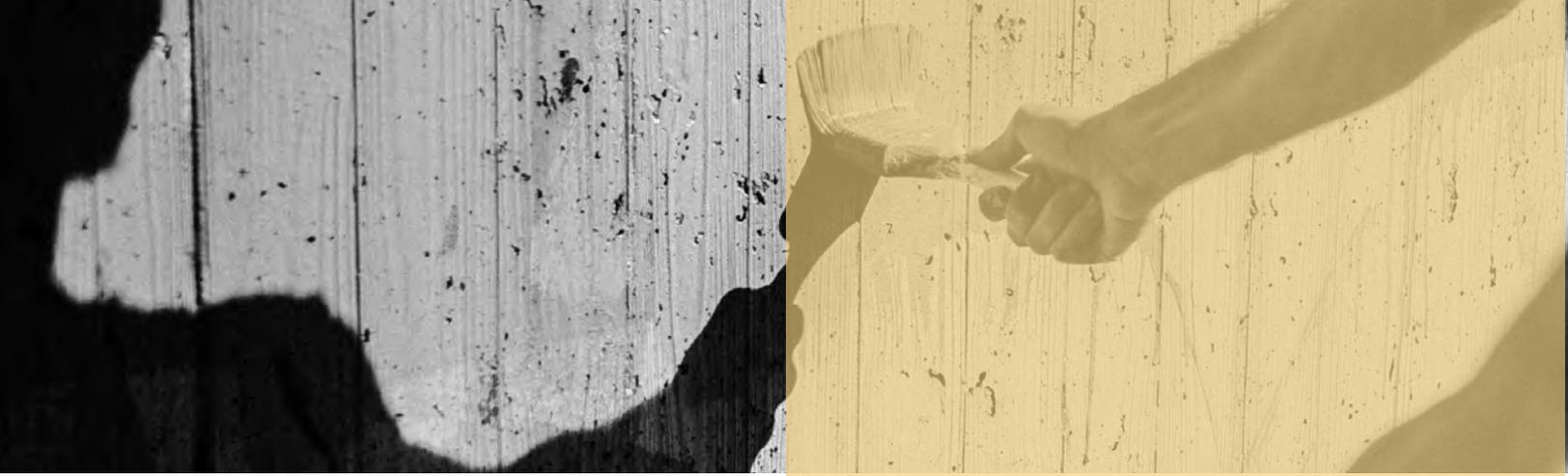
- *Can we name the local events/places where our church seeks to be present?*
- *Is our church seeking to be a blessing at these local events/places?*
- *Do you think these are the right local events/places for our church to be seeking to be a blessing and to build relationships and connections?*

e. We encourage individuals to connect in their local community, living the life of Jesus incarnationally, as they go. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *How many times a week are dedicated congregants expected to be at our church or involved in a church related activity? Does that allow time to connect in the community?*
- *Are congregants already connected in our wider community? Where?*
- *Are congregants living out Jesus in those contexts?*



4. SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND AND PARTNER WITH OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

a. We learn about our neighbours. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Has our church worked through all of the 12 Neighbourhood Assessment Workbook exercises (<http://cbacyf.ca/naw>)?*
- *Is our church seeking to better understand our neighbours and neighbourhoods?*
- *Can I (and others in our church) name the areas of need and the areas of strength within our wider community?*

b. We, through corporate discernment have a (at least one) local and unique mission that is owned by us, as a church family. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Can every church member articulate our local, unique mission?*
- *Who in our congregation is most passionate about our local, unique mission? Is the mission owned by and engaging people who attend our church (and not just owned by the church leadership)?*

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND AND PARTNER WITH OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY *cont.*

c. We corporately have discerned a global community or cause where we are seeking to be partners in mission. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Is our church corporately seeking to be involved in God's global mission? Where?*
- Is our church corporately seeking to be a part of righting some of the wrongs in our world? Where?*

d. We seek to learn from and join with others who could be effective, healthy partners in our mission. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Has our church built strategic partnerships with others churches, community partners or global partners? Where?*
- Is our church seeking to learn from others to help in our mission? From who?*



5. SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND CULTURE

a. We corporately study how the Bible and Jesus intersects and speaks to culture in our day. Using the question below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Does our church examine culturally relevant issues from a Biblical and grace-filled perspective? Which issues has our church examined?

b. We seek to understand culture, rather than hide from culture. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Is our church staying in touch with culture? If so, how?
- Does our church seem aware of how the culture is shaping our faith?
- Does our church see the opportunities in culture, or does our church feel threatened by the culture?
- Does our church engage culture without bending to culture? What is our church's current posture towards culture?

c. We equip one another to know how to engage culture with Jesus' grace and truth. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What issues/topics would followers of Jesus within our congregation say they feel ready to engage with Jesus' grace and truth?
- What issues/topics would followers of Jesus within our congregation say they feel ill equipped to engage with Jesus' grace and truth?

6. GATHERING IN CHRIST TO GROW AND SCATTERING INTO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS AROUND THE WORLD

a. *We gather in worship and seek to be transformed by the Spirit, who compels us to share the Gospel in word and deed. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *How often do regular attenders attend our worship services?*
- *Do people regularly encounter the living God in our worship services?*
- *What evidence do I see that congregants are being transformed by the Gospel?*
- *What evidence do I see that peoples' transformation in Christ is overflowing into their daily lives?*

b. *Our gathering is not the end point, but the centering point, for then scattering back into the world (while incarnating Jesus). Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *What evidence do I see that our gathered ministry is creating people who are passionate and equipped to share the Gospel in word and deed?*
- *Do congregants in our church view themselves as missionaries in the places they live, work, study and play?*
- *Do congregants in our church understand their gifts, role and contribution to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?*

c. *This ongoing process of gathering and scattering leads to growth in our church, both in spiritual depth and in numbers. Using the questions below rate your church (as of right now) on this...*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *Do new people come to our services and how many of them make our church home?*
- *Do regular attenders invite people to our church and to our ministries?*
- *Are our regular attenders growing in spiritual depth, evidenced by the character of Christ displayed in their life and how their lives are increasingly lining up with the ways of Jesus? (e.g. generous with their money, thoughtful in their speech, making decisions inviting Christ's perspective, giving up sinful behaviours etc.)*

RESULTS SHEET



WHAT WAS YOUR SCORE?

Six Essential Aspects of a Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church	RATING (1 to 10)	Overall score for each aspect	Overall % for each aspect
1. Embracing hospitality	-	Add 1a, 1b and 1c	
a. We regularly share (time, meals, possessions and resources) together as the family of God.		_____ / 30	___ / 30 x 100
b. We regularly practice welcoming the stranger (someone outside our usual circles) as individuals and corporately.			= _____%
c. Our church community is a safe place for anyone to find belonging and explore following Jesus.			
2. Equipping one another to share the Gospel in WORD	-	Add 2a and 2b	
a. We regularly equip our church family to know how to naturally and effectively share the Good News today.		_____ / 20	___ / 20 x 100
b. We are committed to encouraging one another in sharing the Good News with our friends, co-workers, neighbours and those in our networks.			= _____%
3. Helping one another share the Gospel in DEED	-	Add 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d and 3e	
a. We can name the areas where corporately as a church we are seeking to be an incarnational presence to our local community.			

b. We can name the areas where corporately we are seeking to be a blessing to our global community.		____ / 50	____ / 50 x 100 = _____ %
c. We are committed to helping one another as individuals and families to be the incarnational presence of Jesus in our neighbourhoods and networks, locally and globally.			
d. We corporately have chosen local events and places where we will seek to be present.			
e. We encourage individuals to connect in their local community, living the life of Jesus incarnationally, as they go.			
4. Seeking to understand and partner with our local and global COMMUNITY	-		
a. We learn about our neighbours.		____ / 40	____ / 40 x 100 = _____ %
b. We, through corporate discernment, have a local and unique mission (at least one) that is owned by us, as a church family.			
c. We corporately have discerned a global community or cause where we are seeking to be partners in mission.			
d. We seek to learn from and join with others who could be effective, healthy partners in our mission.			
5. Seeking to understand CULTURE	-	Add 5a, 5b and 5c	
a. We corporately study how the Bible and Jesus intersects and speaks to culture in our day.		____ / 30	____ / 30 x 100

<p>b. We seek to understand culture, rather than hide from culture.</p>			<p>= _____%</p>
<p>c. We equip one another to know how to engage culture with Jesus' grace and truth.</p>			
<p>6. GATHERING in Christ to grow and SCATTERING into our neighbourhoods around the world</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Add 6a, 6b and 6c</p>	
<p>a. We gather in worship and seek to be transformed by the Spirit, who compels us to share the Gospel in word and deed.</p>		<p>____ / 30</p>	<p>____ / 30 x 100 = _____%</p>
<p>b. Our gathering is not the end point, but the centring point, for then scattering back the world incarnating Jesus.</p>			
<p>c. This ongoing process of gathering and scattering leads to growth in our church, both in spiritual depth and in numbers.</p>			

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood, showing numerous houses with gabled roofs and lush green trees. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. A large, light-colored circle is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text "ACTION PLAN" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in two lines: "ACTION" on top and "PLAN" below it.

ACTION PLAN

AS YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM LOOKS AT THE RESULTS FROM THE ASSESSMENT, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING.

1. *What do you have to celebrate from the assessment?*
2. *Which of the six essentials is the area in need of greatest improvement?*
3. *Looking at the sub-sections why does it appear you are weak in that area?*
4. *Which of the six essentials does your team recognize you should work on first?*
5. *Using the suggestions below, and your own ideas and resources, come up with your own action plan for becoming a stronger Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church.*

OUR CHURCH WILL COMMIT TO GROWING IN THE AREA OF

(fill-in with one of the six essentials)

IN ORDER TO START BECOMING A STRONGER
MISSION-EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHURCH.



IN ORDER TO DO THIS, WE WILL...

1. Over the next **two months** we will learn about...
2. Over the next **three months** we will experiment by...
3. Over the next **six months** we will learn about...
4. Over the next **eight months** we will take action in this area by...
5. **One year** from now the difference we picture seeing in this area is...
6. **One year** from now we will reassess our progress by (including the specific measurements we will use)...
7. After one year, on _____ (date), we will make a new action plan and consider a new area of focus, striving towards strength in all six essential aspects of being a Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church.

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Below are some ideas for improving in each of the Six Essential aspects of a Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church



EMBRACING HOSPITALITY

- *Create a “Who’s Coming to Dinner” match-up for after-church services, giving an opportunity for people to extend hospitality to one another.*
- *Encourage church members to give away two meals a week. One meal to be shared with someone else in the church family and one meal to be shared with connections in their wider community.*
- *Create a “Helping Hand” Board in the church or online where people can post items they are seeking to borrow, services they need, rides needed or other ways they could use a helping hand. Folks can also post free help they are willing to offer those connected to the church.*
- *Create a benevolent fund to be used by those who could use some extra help. If you already have a benevolent fund, re-examine if it is being used to its best potential.*
- *Encourage church members to create gatherings for those outside their usual Christian circles - BBQs for neighbours, bonfire in their community, sliding party for neighbourhood kids, walking club etc.*
- *Examine your worship services from the perspective of an outsider or have an outsider give you feedback on what practices and language made sense and what did not.*
- *Examine your web presence from the perspective of an outsider or have an outsider give you feedback on their impressions of your web presence.*

- *Make a list of the common language and common examples used from the stage in your church. Examine this list to see how relatable it would be for an outsider in your community or people from various demographics and pockets of society.*
- *Examine the questions - What hindrances seem to be keeping people from feeling they belong in your community even before they believe? What would address these hindrances?*
- *What roles in your church community are open to people while they are still exploring faith? Are there other opportunities that could be open to them, including serving opportunities, while they are still exploring faith?*
- *Could your church work to have a percentage of ethnic, socioeconomic, age and gender (male and female) diversity represented in leadership and on stage in services?*
- *What project could seniors do that would serve kids and youth in your community?*
- *What project could kids and youth do that would serve seniors in your community?*
- *Try an intergenerational games night.*
- *Learn more about the generation(s) that are missing from your congregation.*
- *Do something tangible to bless the generation that is missing from your congregation, out in the community. (e.g. if you have few kids do something to bless a kids community centre, the school kids from your community would go to etc.)*
- *Do a sermon series or small group series on hospitality. Make sure it calls for action.*
- *Encourage people to slow down enough to engage people throughout their day and show others moments of hospitality, warmth and welcome.*
- *Encourage those who bake, to bake double and give away the extra to someone in their network.*
- *Create Welcome Baskets to take to new people that move into your area.*

EQUIPPING ONE ANOTHER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN WORD

- Try Alpha (alphacanada.org), Christianity Explored (christianityexplored.org), 3Story (3story.org) or another resource as a place to invite people to explore the faith and as a means of helping members learn how to share the Gospel in word.
- Have a training session on sharing the Gospel naturally with friends, colleagues and fellow students. Include lots of role playing and practice.
- Make sure sermons regularly include explaining what it means to become a follower of Jesus and how to become a follower of Jesus.
- When listening to services make a list of the language used to talk about Jesus, the Gospel and evangelism. Examine the list to see how understandable it would be to a completely unchurched person. Create another list of words you could use that would better explain the faith and be understandable to the unchurched.
- Make a list of the connections and relationships those in your church family have outside of the Christian community. Pray for these connections and relationships to be places where Jesus becomes known.
- Create a space or time where congregants can share how they are trying (whether they feel it has been successful or not) to talk about their faith and Jesus. Debrief these experiences together.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER SHARE THE GOSPEL IN DEED

- *Choose a local community place (e.g. non-profit, business, school, food bank, farm, community centre etc.) where your church family will intentionally be the incarnational presence of Jesus. Brainstorm what this could look like.*
- *Discover where church members have existing connections into pockets of society and brainstorm with these church members how they can intentionally be the incarnational presence of Jesus in those places. (e.g. teenagers who are already at the skatepark, adults in the tech world, parents on the PTA at the local school, seniors at cribbage night...)*
- *Begin building a partnership (e.g. churches, community partners or global partners) that could help in achieving your mission.*
- *Create a “work project” list for needs in your wider community (Note, this is not work projects for the church property) and dedicate a weekend or two towards the church family completing the work projects.*
- *Give away a tithe (or more) from the church to a local community project.*
- *Give away a tithe (or more) from the church to a global cause that is righting some of the wrongs in our world.*
- *Create opportunities for those in the church family to serve alongside other non-profits in your area.*
- *Out of the needs you have identified in the community identify one to address together as a church family.*
- *Create space and time (virtually or in-person) for the church family to share stories of how they are seeking to be God’s incarnational presence in their neighbourhoods and networks.*
- *Choose local events (e.g. parade, marathon, holidays etc.) where your church will seek to be a presence. Discern the best way to be present.*
- *Choose local places (e.g. coffee shop, school, gym, library, park, dog-park, community garden, fire hall, legion etc.) where your church will seek to be a presence. Discern the best way to be present.*
- *Examine how much time church members/adherents are expected to be engage in activities at your church or with other church members. Examine if this leaves enough time for them to engage in connecting in their community.*
- *Join in helping heal some of the brokenness in our world. Join a cause. E.g. cbmin.org/your-story/find-a-cause*
- *Develop a global partnership www.cbmin.org/your-story/go-and-learn*

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND AND PARTNER WITH OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- Complete all 12 of the *Neighbourhood Assessment Workbook* exercises (cbacyf.ca/naw)

- o Biblical background
- o Prayer Walk
- o Learn about your neighbours (Statistics Canada)
- o Existing Connections
- o Bright Spots in the Community
- o Bright Spots in Your Church
- o Needs
- o Personal Connections
- o Blessing
- o Conversation with a Non-Christian
- o Barriers
- o Discernment

- List what you know about your community.
- What community area of need could your church become a partner? Learn about this more.
- What community area of strength could your church champion more? Learn about this.
- Identify the marginalized in your community. What would it look like to learn more from them, come alongside them and join them in magnifying their voice and helping their concerns?
- Form a team at the church to lead a discernment process to determine your church's local and unique mission that is owned by the church family.
- Plan creative, new, on-going ways to communicate and connect your church family to your local and unique mission.
- Form a team at the church to discern your church's involvement in God's global mission and joining in righting some of the wrongs in our world. Canadian Baptist Ministries is our partner in embracing a broken world through word and deed; cbmin.org
- Learn about the passions people in your congregation already have for your local community.
- Learn about the passions people in your congregation already have for our global community.
- Learn about the passions people in your congregation already have for righting some of the wrongs in our world.
- Make a list of experts in the community (local or further afield) your church could learn from to strength your mission.
- List potential partners (e.g. churches, community partners or global partners) that could likely help in achieving your mission. Explore these partnerships.

SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND CULTURE

- *Complete a study to help you understand the relationship between faith and culture (e.g. A primer on this topic will be released from the MacRae Centre: macraecentre.ca)*
- *Make a list of cultural issues your church could examine from a Biblical and grace-filled perspective. Determine which of these issues you should examine first. Consider inviting in someone who is more of an expert on the topic to help you begin to understand the issue.*
- *Look at the news headlines. Determine which would be a good topic to tackle with the church family in a sermon, Bible study or small group - to think together about it from a Biblical and grace-filled perspective.*
- *Learn about the youngest generation in your community - Generation Z. (e.g. See barna.com/who-is-gen-z)*
- *Examine your church's current posture towards culture. (e.g. How much does your church feel threatened by culture and how much does the church see the opportunities in culture?) Determine if your posture towards culture needs to change.*
- *Seek to learn about an aspect of culture present in your community that your church knows little about. (e.g. social media culture, Aboriginal culture, University culture, ATV culture, theatre community....)*
- *Pick one culturally relevant topic and equip your congregation on how to engage that topic with Jesus' grace and truth.*

GATHERING IN CHRIST TO GROW AND SCATTERING INTO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS AROUND THE WORLD

- *Research ways other churches are engaging people well in worship today.*
- *Experiment with new forms of liturgy, worship, service-flow, prayer, music, preaching etc. in your service.*
- *Try splitting up the sermon into smaller sections and invite people to discuss/apply what is being shared between each section of the sermon.*
- *Introduce a “talk back” time where people can ask their questions about the sermon, faith and applying what they are hearing.*
- *Be clear on whether your service is a place to introduce people to the faith, equip people to go back into the world to share the Gospel or a combination of the two. Once that is decided make sure you are clearly accomplishing that (those) purpose(s).*
- *Communicate the expectation that members will be inviting people to church or to ministry programs. Role-play how to do this well.*
- *Conduct a gifts test of those in your congregation. Use the results to discuss how peoples’ gifts can contribute to the Great Commission.*
- *Have an equipping event that trains people on how to be missionaries in our culture today in Canada.*
- *Ask people what would make them prioritize being a more regular part of your gatherings.*

THANK YOU

*for taking action towards becoming a
Mission-Edge Neighbourhood Church.*



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