

An Understanding for Members of the Strategic Planning Team

In This Process the Team will work together through a step-by-step process to better understand the church's current style and present posture, taking a fresh look at the community, and evaluating the church's ministry opportunities. Then, to develop action plans to become the church the Lord wants us to be and to more effectively reach the community.

Understandings:

- We will have a facilitator to help guide us through this process. He will not be coming in with a pre-packaged plan used by other churches. Instead, he will help us work through a process to identify our church's style, strengths, and opportunities for outreach and ministry in our community.
- Team members are asked to take into consideration that the facilitator has ministry experience in multiple churches, hours in seminary and other forms of training, and a shelf full of books on church health and growth. So, even though he won't be training us in the ministry system in place at his church, we will want to learn as much as we can from his experience.
- Team members are asked to understand that even though the team was selected to represent a broad spectrum of the entire church, you are not being asked to vote for the interests of "your segment" of the church. Seek to be understood but also seek to understand. We want to work as a team.
- We are "showing our work" to the congregation at large as we go along. We will not wait until the end of the process to give only the full report. We will report out what we've been learning as we go along. And, if we identify a way in which we can get a "quick win," we will make an immediate recommendation.
- You are asked to listen to the input of members. And more than anything, to listen for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Be a listener.
- Our most anointed service is on the cutting edges of our new growth. You are asked to learn as presentations are made. Be a learner.
- Strategic Planning means taking an honest look at our church and how we're doing. Sometimes, that can be painful. Be brave.
- As growth points are identified, we are sometimes tempted to look for someone on which to place the blame. Show mercy.
- Creativity is when hard work refuses to take failure for an answer. We may need to develop a new approach or two for ministry in our community. Be creative.
- Several times already, the leading of the Holy Spirit has been mentioned. Be prayerful.

Under the Strategies tab at Small Town Baptist .Net, there is an audio file which explains this process, found here:

[Overview of a Strategic Planning Process](https://smalltownbaptist.net/audio/strategic_planning_overview.mp3)

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