



BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY



ROADMAP





BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY ROADMAP EXPLAINED

This document and its accompanying resources serve as your compass, guiding you on a personalized and/or group-orientated journey to make a holy, healthy, and positive impact on your community. Tailored for flexibility, it can be used as a step-by-step guide or creatively, as an idea generator to craft your unique roadmap for community blessing. Let's unite on this meaningful journey together, acknowledging the variations in contexts, communities, and capabilities while fostering a shared commitment to make a difference in blessing our community, bringing people to Jesus, and becoming Christlike disciples.

This roadmap was born from conversations that have been heard throughout the region.

- Where do I start in Blessing Our Community?
- Are there resources to help guide us in Blessing Our Community?
- How do we continue forming deep community relationships through a ministry that is already Blessing Our Community?

This roadmap is a response to these questions!

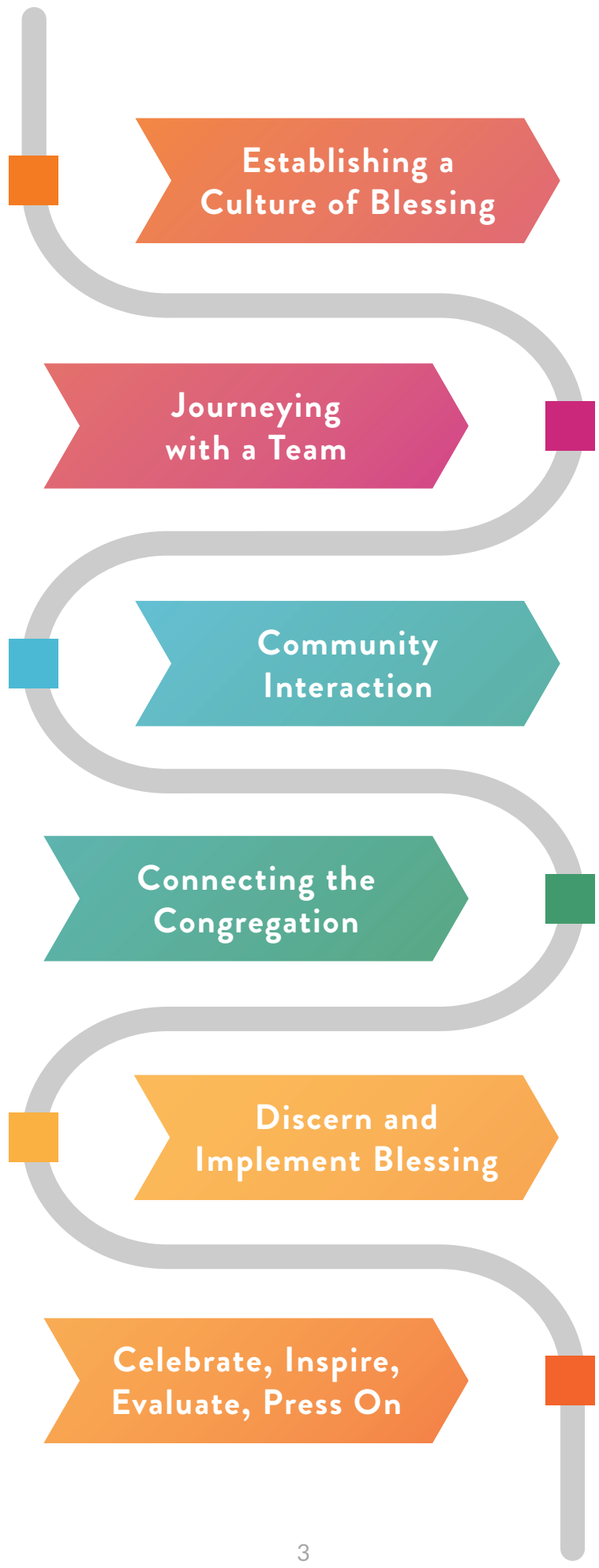
Following this roadmap is not a quick fix for increasing church attendance. While transformation *into* Christlike disciples is a goal, it's a process that takes spending time *with* people. Through our obedience to learn and to foster a culture of blessing, we will see the Holy Spirit transform and restore lives.

This roadmap isn't meant to be confined by time or treated as a mere checklist; it's intended to launch you into a journey toward cultivating a culture of blessing. Picture it as an adventure—an expedition filled with unknowns, unpredictability, and risks, **yet** offering opportunities for discovery, spiritual growth, and blessing. By embracing the challenges of this adventure, we anticipate the potential for significant transformation in individuals, communities, and congregations. Are you willing to let this roadmap guide your path as you endeavor to bless your community? We sincerely hope you will step out with humility and boldness to shine as a beacon of hope and love in your neighborhood and beyond.

The following pages outline the roadmap and its three stages: **FORMATION**, **DISCOVERY**, and **ACTIVATION**. Within each stage, there are two primary moves, each accompanied by a brief description, desired outcomes, and resources to help achieve the outcomes.

FORMATION

ACTIVATION



DISCOVERY

Establishing a Culture of Blessing

Journeying with a Team

Community Interaction

Connecting the Congregation

Discern and Implement Blessing

Celebrate, Inspire, Evaluate, Press On

MOVE 1: ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF BLESSING

Embarking on Blessing Our Community demands a solid foundation. While the instinct is to swiftly engage and run to the finish line, we must first build a solid foundation that requires deliberate time for prayer, focused learning, and intentional listening, all of which are emphasized in this MOVE to help you establish a robust posture.

Outcomes:

- 1) Recognize God's blessing is for ALL people.
- 2) Acknowledge that God is inviting all believers to participate in the mission of God.
- 3) Foster an understanding of Jesus' compassionate methods of blessing.
- 4) Begin to notice your community and your neighborhoods as a mission field.
- 5) Be challenged by the Holy Spirit to prioritize turning our hearts outward towards our communities, to those who don't yet know Jesus.
- 6) Begin to sense God's invitation to you to participate in bringing restoration to your neighbors.

Resources:

- Begin with prayer and fasting. Download the *Mobilized for Blessing Our Community Prayer Journal*, which includes 50 daily devotionals.
- Read and reflect on materials from the recommended reading list and podcast. Start with *You Found Me* by Rick Richardson.
- Watch the videos to familiarize yourself with the regional focus of Blessing Our Community.
- Watch the introduction video for the Blessing Our Community Training Series and watch Training Video 1: Becoming a Missional Church by Grant Zweigle.

RESOURCE LINK:



MOVE 2: JOURNEYING WITH A TEAM

This journey has just started! And as you continue to pray, fast, and listen to the Holy Spirit in the midst of reading scripture, we will continue onto the next MOVE, which is to start *journeying together with a team*. This MOVE will encourage you to form a team and equip you with the practical next steps in the Blessing Our Community initiative.

Outcomes:

- 1) Identify a team that is prepared to spend time and labor in following the remaining MOVEs through to the end.
- 2) Model a posture of blessing as a team and as individuals.

Resources:

- Continue engaging with the resource list in MOVE 1.
- Watch Training Video 2: Leading a Blessing Our Community Team by Kristi Senica.
- Watch Training Video 3: Building a Plan by Wendel Brown.
- Download the Community and Congregation Assessment Leader's Guide and form ideas for gathering a team.

RESOURCE LINK:



MOVE 1: COMMUNITY INTERACTION

We now enter the discovery stage, where substantial work awaits in engaging both your community and congregation. The first MOVE of this stage, the community assessment, serves as the first of two foundational steps for crafting targeted initiatives that align with the church's mission and values.

Outcomes:

- 1) Discover the ways that the Spirit is already moving in your community by thoroughly examining it.
- 2) Learn about the felt needs of your neighbors by intentionally interviewing and surveying them.
- 3) Cultivate spiritual growth in your personal life through your perception of, interactions with, and demonstration of love toward your neighbors and community.
- 4) Enhance your understanding of the importance of spreading hope and the gospel of Jesus by actively engaging in compassionate service with others.
- 5) Intentionally venture beyond the confines of the church walls to attentively listen to the voices of your neighbors, community members, and leaders.

Resources:

- Continue to engage with the Blessing Our Community Resource List.
- Watch Training Video 4: Discovering Community Needs and Church Capability.
- Perform the community assessment with your team found in the Community and Congregation Assessment Leader's Guide.
- Read and reflect on "The 5 Circle – Steps of Cross-Cultural Servanthood" found in the Community and Congregation Assessment Leader's Guide.

RESOURCE LINK:



MOVE 2: CONNECTING THE CONGREGATION

This MOVE marks the second part of the discovery stage: the congregational assessment. Serving as another foundational element, this step contributes to the development of targeted initiatives that align closely with the church's mission and values.

Outcomes:

- 1) Discover the ways that the Spirit is already moving in your congregation by thoroughly examining it.
- 2) Identify the gifts, passions, and stories of yourself and those in your congregation.
- 3) Reflect on and discover the strengths of your church in blessing the community, drawing from lessons of the past, opportunities of the present, and aspirations for the future.
- 4) Celebrate the history while acknowledging the need to move forward with hope in Blessing our Community.
- 5) Start to grasp the pulse of your congregation as you take actionable steps toward Blessing our Community.

Resources:

- Perform the congregation assessment with your team found in the Community and Congregation Assessment Leader's Guide.

RESOURCE LINK:



MOVE 1: DISCERN AND IMPLEMENT BLESSING

This pivotal MOVE involves analyzing the comprehensive data collected since the onset of the process. It includes reviewing insights from the community and congregation assessments, reflections from prayer and fasting sessions, insights from listening to the Holy Spirit, observations from reading materials and devotions, team discussions, and scriptural reflections. The goal is to collectively and thoughtfully discern and discuss with your team all the key findings, identifying commonalities, ideas, and emerging patterns related to how your team is being guided to go and be a blessing in the community.

Outcomes:

- 1) Converse with your team on the findings.
- 2) Summarize the findings and data.
- 3) Craft and solidify possibility statements.
- 4) Decide how you will move forward!
- 5) Go! Be a blessing in your community!

Resources:

- Continue working through the Community and Congregation Assessment Leader's Guide.
- Watch Training Video 5: Go, Be a Blessing by Dale Schaeffer.
- Apply for a Blessing Our Community Grant.

RESOURCE LINK:



MOVE 2: CELEBRATE, INSPIRE, EVALUATE, PRESS ON

You are probably in the midst of Blessing your Community right now! But the process does not stop here. There needs to be a time every so often to debrief with one another on what God is doing. He walks with us each and every step along the way and He surely is at work this very moment!

In this final MOVE, we want to offer four practical types of reflection that will help further strengthen a desire to continue being a blessing in your community. These steps of reflection are CELEBRATE, INSPIRE, EVALUATE, and PRESS ON.

Outcomes:

- 1) Recognize and celebrate what God has done. Praise God!
- 2) Inspire each other by having ICNU conversations.
- 3) Evaluate together as a team what you have done to be a blessing. Determine if any shifts need to be made to make a greater impact.
- 4) Use your evaluation to press on! Continue GOING OUT and blessing your community.

Resources:

- Listen and reflect on Training Video 6: Celebrate, Inspire, Evaluate, and Press On by Sam Senica.
- Read Luke 9 and 10.

RESOURCE LINK:

