

“Twelve Steps Toward Innovative Ministry” Process Worksheet

Be precise, clear, and specific as you describe this in the simplest way possible.

1. What are three nagging “problems” that come to mind in your ministry context.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Select one of the three and specifically describe the presenting symptoms of the issue.

3. Clearly define what you think is the root cause of this issue. Break it down into more than one cause, if relevant.

4. Sharpen the assessment by getting feedback from two trusted colleagues. Suspend judgment and your first response solutions.
 - a.
 - b.

5. Identify how this issue relates to the mission of your ministry.

6. Have a creative brainstorming session. List the most exciting creative ideas, but suspend judgment, holding off dismissing creative ideas too hastily or adopting the first good idea without letting multiple good ideas emerge.

7. "Harness" the creative ideas by roughly sketching out (narrative) the two that best combine innovation and realism. Evaluate with two trusted colleagues.
 - a.
 - b.
8. Select the most important and achievable innovative idea and cast your vision for it in a single sentence.
9. Write three simple goals (anticipated outcomes) of implementing the innovative idea.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
10. Identify a rough implementation timeline and responsibility list.
11. Complete a firm and realistic budget, including comments about the budgetary implications. Make sure the rationale justifies the cost (even though you don't do a formal ROI). If you are using third source funding, indicate the firm commitment, not simply an anticipation of who might support.
12. Provide details for how you will implement the idea, evaluate, and refine for a second and improved run.