

A PATH TO REIMAGINE CHURCH

A Strengths Based, Positive Approach to
Congregational Change

A Prayer for Discernment

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*O Holy One, thank you for coming to us
anew this day. Prepare our hearts and
reawaken our love for you as we discern
your call within us. May we join with you in
making level the path for all people.*

Amen.

Daily Prayer for All Seasons

Strengths Based, Positive Approach to Reimagining Church

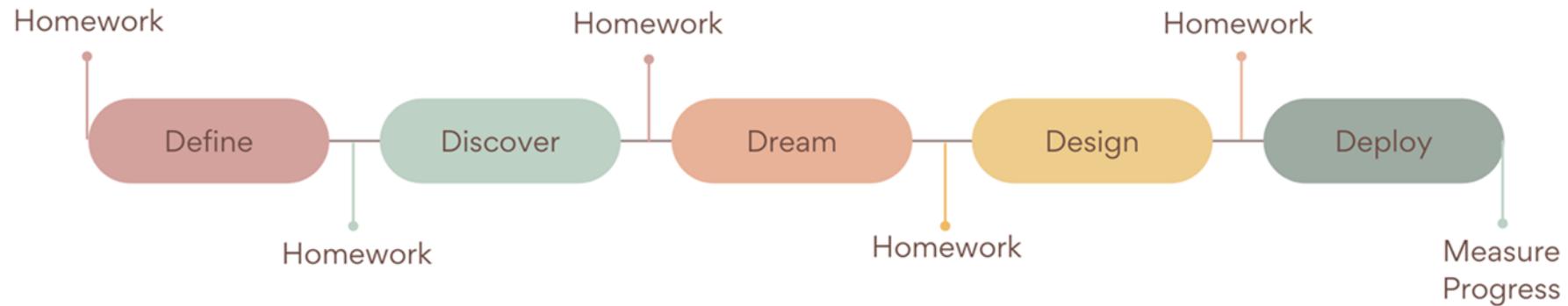
Strengths
natural
abilities
gifts
Qualities
Core talents

The Reimagining Process



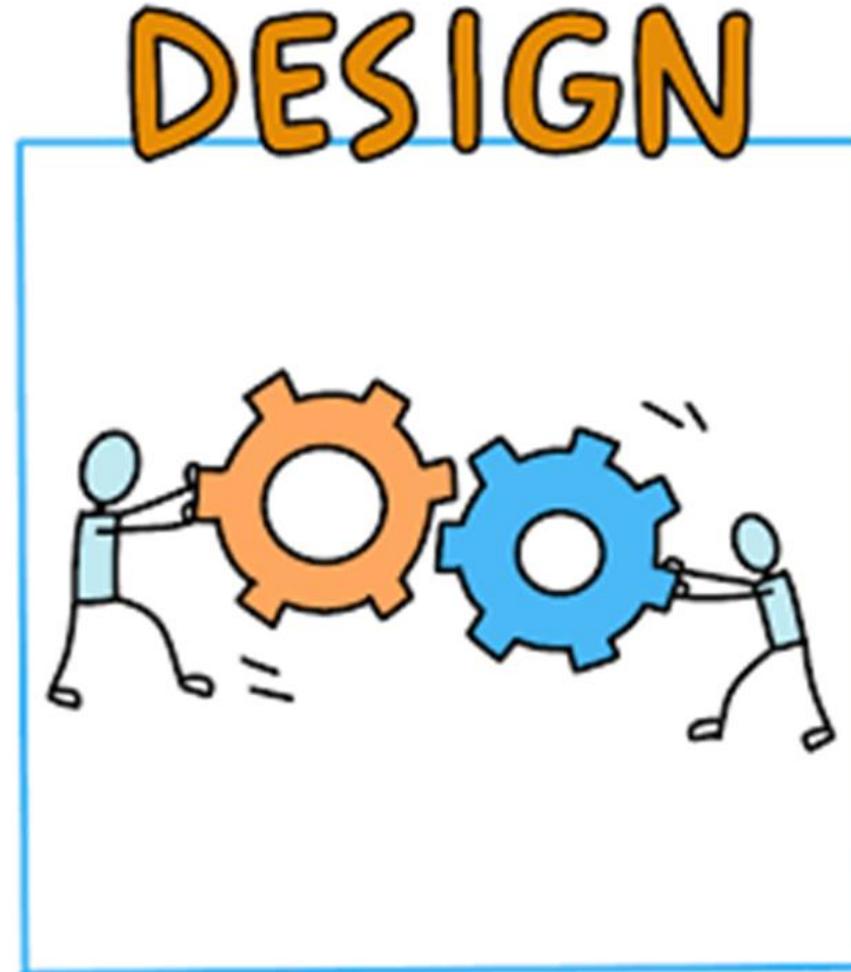
6-Month Timeline

Introduction Session followed by a
Monthly Focus on a Process Step



Step 4: Design

Create greatest possible impact with assets and strengths



Group Lectio Divina

Listening for what God might be saying to St. George's

Three Questions

We will read the passage three times



First reading of the passage:

Listen-As you hear the passage think about how the reading is speaking to St. George's. As you listen discover a word or phrase from the passage that attracts you.

Second reading of the passage:

Ponder-As you hear the passage again ask how the word or phrase you chose speaks to and connects to life here at St. George's.





Third reading of the passage:

Pray-As the passage is read a third time ask how is God speaking to St. George's in relationship to the reading. What is it that St. George's is being invited to do?

Luke 11:1-13

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Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

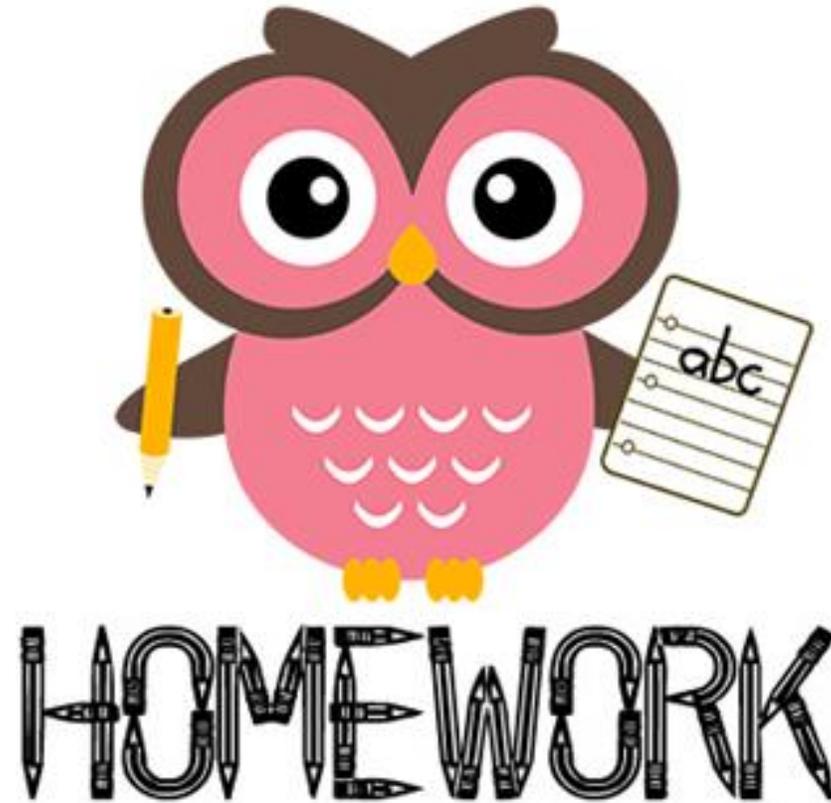
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Homework Check

- Using the future images in the dream phase, and the gifts and resources identified in the discovery phase as inspiration, write an affirmative statement that describes the idealized future as if it has already happened.



Goals of the Day

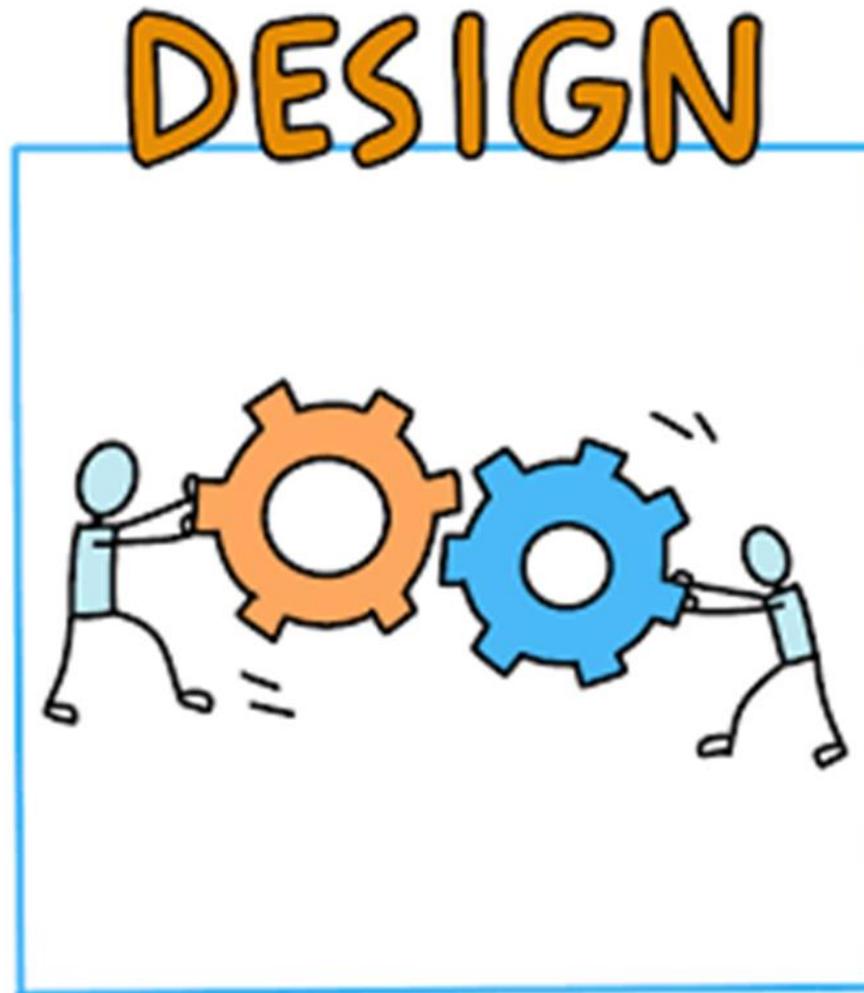
- Determine what can be done given who you are and what you have to offer given the strengths and resources of the congregation and the dreams for the future.
- Co-construct a new or refashioned community through assembling the practical elements of a plan.
- Remember the design phase is the key to sustaining positive change and responding to the congregation's most positive past and highest potential.

Key Questions

- Where is the opportunity to make the most difference in your congregation and in the wider community?
- Do you believe you are stretching yourself following the actions you have chosen?
- What are the next steps to make your plan actionable?
- Who needs to do what and when?

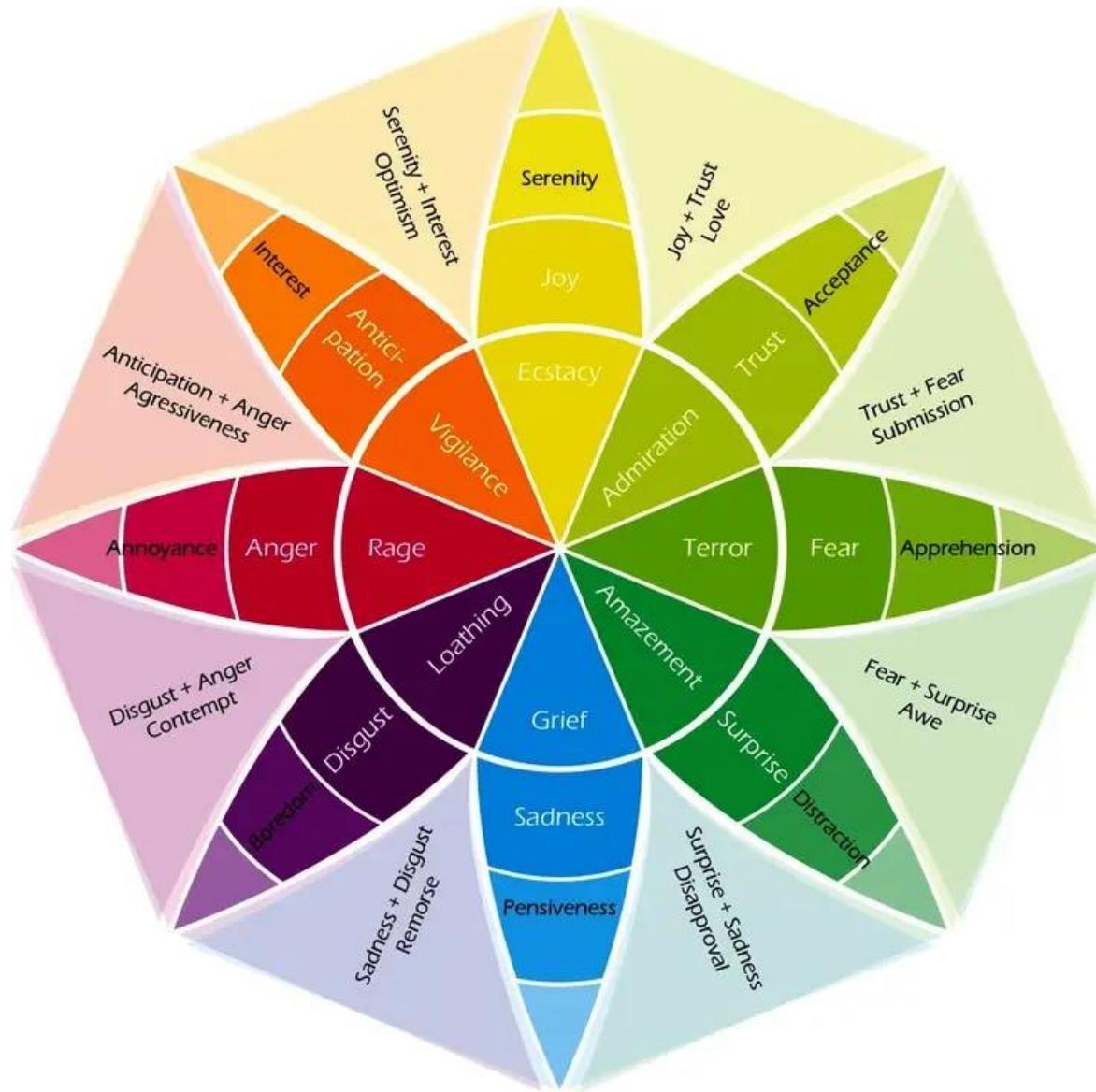
Step 4: Design

Create greatest possible impact with assets and strengths



Six Asset-Focused Actions

1. **Affirm:** Affirm people's existing gifts (assets) and attribute results to people's own actions.
2. **Include:** Include all persons, and value all contributions and gifts.
3. **Integrate:** Integrate multi-sectoral activities.
4. **Facilitate:** Facilitate people's discovery, decision-making and action.
5. **Connect:** Connect people to people, and people to institutions; build bonds, bridges and links.
6. **Demonstrate:** Model personally and institutionally the asset-focused philosophy we preach.



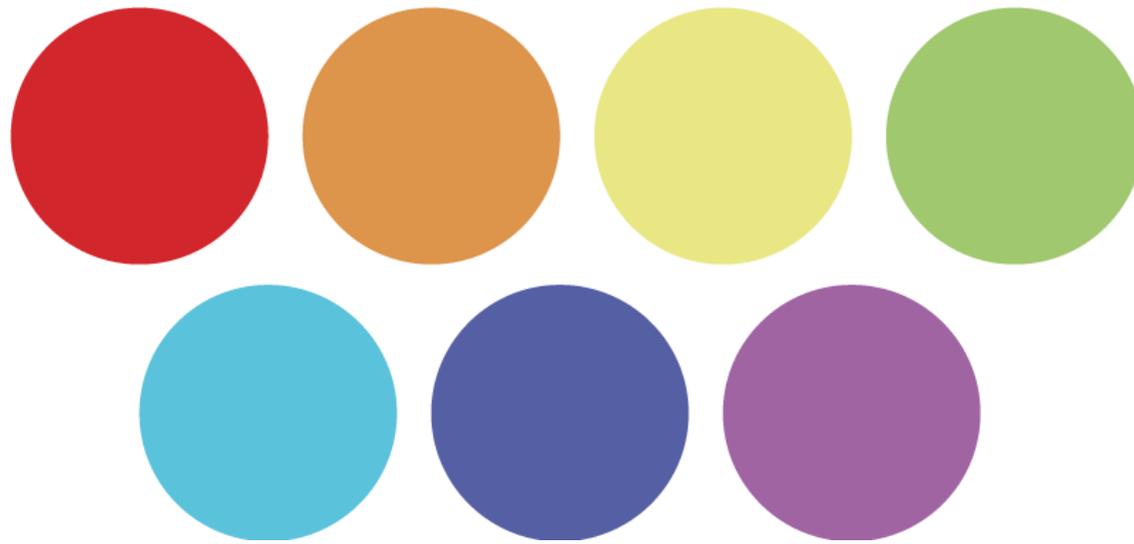
Ideas for The Future of St. George's, Texas City

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- ❖ Rent Facilities
- ❖ Start a Home Church
- ❖ Close Church and Rent More Affordable Space
- ❖ Close Church and Partner with Nearby Episcopal Church
- ❖ Start a Sunday School for Children
- ❖ Rent Garden Space
- ❖ Maintain the Status Quo



Gracious and Loving God, be with us as we sit in silence, listening for your voice to guide us in mission and ministry. Help us to feel grace, humility, passion, and purpose as we discern your call to us in this time and place. Amen.



Observe the ideas and visions for the future. Each person will receive two round dot stickers. You are invited to use the stickers to mark which ideas you feel St. George's should engage in first. You can use the stickers on two separate goals or use them both on the same goal.

Review the stickers and identify the top three ideas.



How are you being invited to act?

Action Steps

What needs to be done to move forward with the action plan?

Who needs to do what and when?

TAKE ACTION

Prayer of Thanksgiving!

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*



The Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

