

Small Parish Forum 2018

Engaging Our Parish's Future



The Parish Planning Workshop!





Mission

Vision

Values

What is a MISSION STATEMENT

- “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.” —George Harrison
- mission statement is your opportunity to define your parish goals, ethics, culture, and norms for decision-making.
- its reason for existing; a written declaration of a parishes core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time.
- Answers question what do we do? What make us different?

Mission Statement QUESTIONS

- Ask:
- Why do we exist?
- How do we understand ourselves?
- What does God want us to do?
- Who do we serve?

How to use your mission statement

Share it with members of parish.

Post it around the Church.

Display it at meetings.

Distribute it to members.

Print it on your letterhead, weekly/monthly bulletins.

Develop a mission statement

- You are a parish located in a suburb of a large city. Currently membership is 70 with an average attendance of 55. The parish has been in existence for 20 years and has seen a loss of members who have moved, and or died. You have a community college approximately 4 miles away from your parish.
- There have been a number of new housing develops that have been built in the past 7 years.
- The women's guild has traditionally held a flea market/bake sale once a year but has not done so for the past two years.
- Your current priest has been assigned to the parish 4 years ago.

What is a VISION?

- Address future.
- Inspirational and Motivational.
- How do you effect change?
- What do we aim to be?

Vision a sensible and appealing picture of the future

- Imaginable
- Desirable
- Feasible
- Focused
- Flexible
- Communicable (< 5 Min)

Vision Questions?

- What does the Lord want us to be?
- Where does he want us to go?
- Where are we now in reference to the call of Christ?
- Where are we going?
- Who do we want to serve?

Develop a Vision Statement

- Use your mission statement and develop a vision statement that will take you to the next level.

VALUES

- **ARE CHERISHED PRINCIPLES THAT DIRECT EFFORTS TO REALIZE THE VISION AND PROTECT FROM STRAYING FROM THE RIGHT PATH**
- "consistent, passionate, scriptural, distinctive convictions that determine our priorities, influence our decisions, drive our ministry and are demonstrated by our behavior."

VALUES

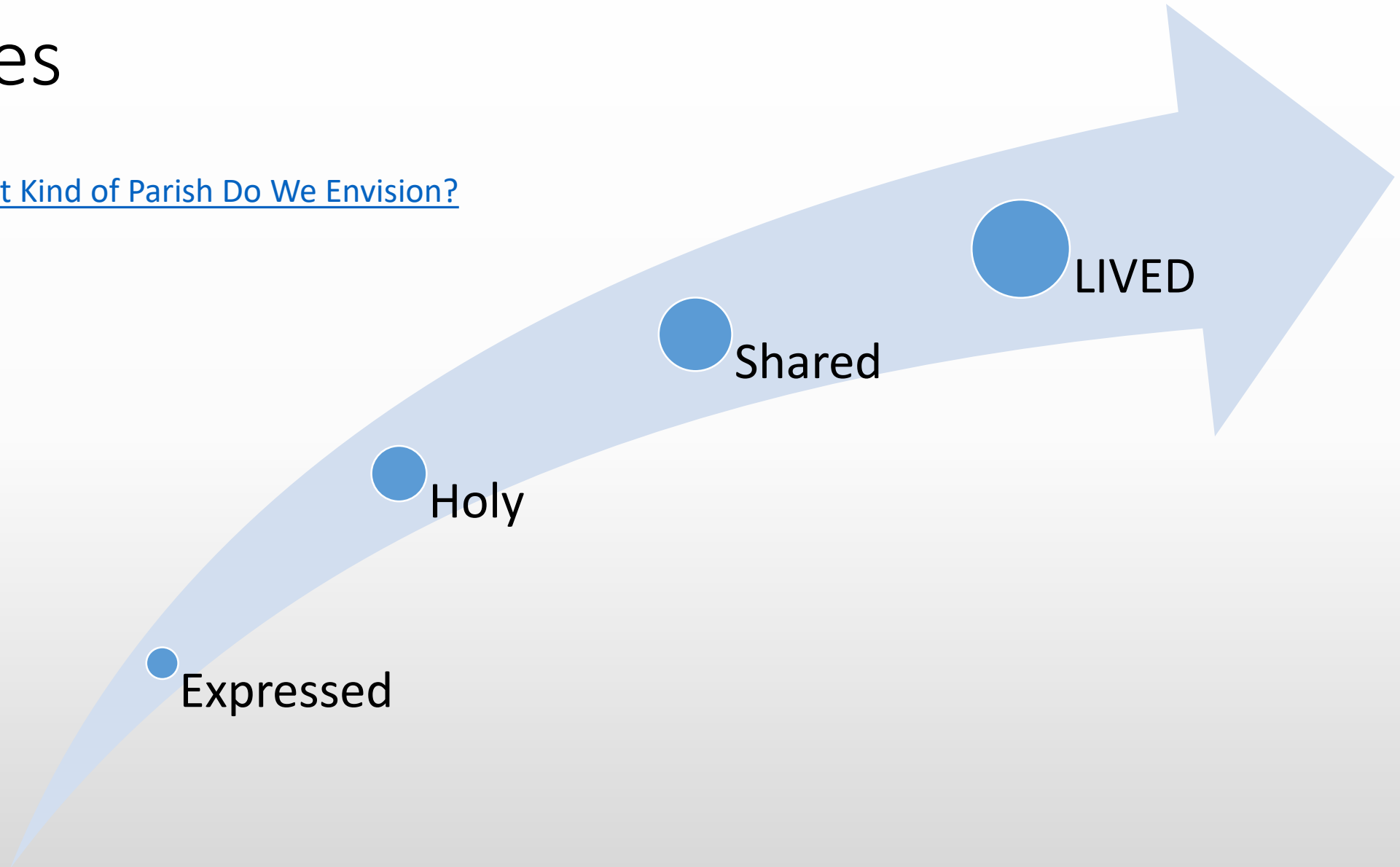
- What are the values that you hold as a community?
- Are they rooted in the Gospel? Church Teachings?
- Do they build up the community?
- Can visitors see them in action?
- Where and when do you talk about them?
- Are they shared with all or just the Parish Council?
- How are they reflected in activities of the parish? (Worship, Education, Outreach)

SELF-EVALUATION

- The process of developing a mission statement, vision and to understand your values takes deep self reflection.
- You need to do this in an open, honest and risk aversion environment.
- It requires trust
- Truth in love
- Requires full parish participation
- Prayer and fasting

Values

See article [What Kind of Parish Do We Envision?](#)



Questions for Discovering Parish Values

- To what are we committed? As persons/individuals? As a parish?
- What is God calling me/us to do here? In this place at this time?
- Is Mastering the Gospel, knowing God, and bringing others to him a priority of our parish?
- What are things like when they are at their best here?
 - How do we evaluate that? What criteria do we use?
- How do we spend our time in this parish? (review your past parish calendars –add up time by category)
- What behaviors, methods, procedures, policies would be exhibited by an Orthodox Church that has stated ____ as a core value?
- What are we "against"? What behaviors would you/we simply not tolerate in this parish?
- What ideas have we rejected in the past? Why...
- Consider two decisions that your parish has made recently.
 - What was the basis of those decisions? What does that action reveal about our values
- What is the purpose/ mission of our parish? (Who are we? What do we do? Why do we do it? Who do we do it for?)
 - Given that purpose what should such a parish community value?
- What values are expressed by today's (any day's) epistle and gospel?

Vision Toolbox

- Force Field
 - Create a list of driving forces – what is driving us, as a parish, to a new life in Christ?
- Newspaper Article
 - Your local newspaper (remember those?) is offering a series of profiles of local churches. Write a hypothetical newspaper article about how you would like your parish to be in x (3, 5,10) years.
- Sabbatical Scenario
 - You are going to move away for 3 years then return on an extended ‘sabbatical’. Describe how you would like your parish to look/feel/be like in 3 years.
- Stop/Start/Continue
 - Make a list of practices or behaviors you would like your parish to stop doing, start doing and continue doing.
 - [See article here](#)

How Parish Visions Are Shaped?

