

Completed the COS? Now What?
(Discerning Ministry Opportunities – April 2015)

Intro: *the following outline may be used by a COS team to help identify priorities and recommendations.*

A. Examining the Community Opportunity Scan results

(Sources of information: demographics summary, interview summaries, other local research or reports)

1. What are some of the key phrases, words or themes that stand out in the information gathered?

B. Reflections on the COS process

1. What excited you, surprised you or intrigued you during the COS process?
2. Where did you see interest and/or willingness to partner, to offer their time or skills towards building community?
3. What were people's attitudes as they responded?

C. Interpreting the Results

Based on what you have discussed in the above sections, and in light of the gifts and passion of your group*, identify some opportunities for ministry in which you can be involved. Dream, be creative, and take some risks.

Consider:

- Key partners to continue the conversations with (build relationships)
- How you can help mobilize some of the assets discovered in the community
- Things or situations that are not fair or are unjust (barriers that people face)
- What a holistic approach as a community (to address systemic concerns)

D. Decisions and Fine Tuning

How does one translate the ideas into action for your church? What ideas or opportunities seem to fit your church (see note below)?

1. What partnerships can be developed?
 - a. Timeline – short term and long term?
 - b. Budget – what are the opportunities?
 - c. Who will take the lead? Number of people needed, availability?
2. What existing programs can be modified and how?
 - a. Timeline – short term and long term?
 - b. Budget – what are the opportunities?
 - c. Who will take the lead? Number of people needed, availability?
3. Are there new initiatives to pursue?
 - a. Timeline – short term and long term?
 - b. Budget – what are the opportunities?
 - c. Who will take the lead? Number of people needed, availability?

*You may choose to survey your group/church community for its interests, current involvements and its strengths in order to align them with opportunities in the community (consider doing a Congregational Asset Map).