

## ***Tool #20: Survey of Community Ministry Interests***

This tool provides an overview of the congregation's interest and experiences related to community ministry. One suggestion is to hand out the forms during the offering portion of a worship service and allow time for people to fill them out and hand them in. This is also a good opportunity to refresh the congregation on the biblical calling and vision of holistic mission and to provide an update on the church's journey of ministry development. Recruit one or several persons in advance to organize the information after the forms are collected.

This survey can be used early in the ministry development process, as part of the process of discerning a particular direction for ministry. It is important to clarify for members that at this time you are not actively recruiting volunteers but establishing a baseline of interest. (Take care not to raise false expectations for eager members who might be disappointed if they don't get a follow-up call the next week!) But be open to how the Lord may use the survey as a catalyst to connect individuals with ministry opportunities on their own initiative.

This survey can also be adapted as a ministry planning tool. Once you have narrowed down the field of possibilities to several ministry projects, you can add questions that ask for feedback on the various proposals. You can also ask for a more detailed inventory of skills and availability related to a particular ministry program (for example, home repair or tutoring).

## Survey of Community Ministry Interests

**Note to the congregation:** Our church is exploring new ways of sharing God's love in word and deed with our local area. We want to learn more about your interests and experiences in outreach. We appreciate you taking time to answer these questions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What aspects of community outreach are most important to you? *(Check all that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Make a difference in people's lives	<input type="checkbox"/> Engage in ministry together as a family
<input type="checkbox"/> Show compassion to people in need	<input type="checkbox"/> Use my gifts, skills and time in ways that matter
<input type="checkbox"/> Share the Gospel with people	<input type="checkbox"/> Get to know people in the church and community
<input type="checkbox"/> Work for justice in our community and world	<input type="checkbox"/> Express and deepen my faith through service
<input type="checkbox"/> Give thanks for what God has done for me	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
  
2. What might hold you back from participating in an outreach ministry? *(Check all that apply)*

<input type="checkbox"/> I'm too busy	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't think I'm gifted or called in this area
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm already involved with other church ministries and activities	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't know what to do
<input type="checkbox"/> This isn't important to me	<input type="checkbox"/> I had a bad experience in the past
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
  
3. What current or past experiences have you had as a community ministry volunteer (for example, tutoring, visiting a nursing home, or serving meals at a homeless shelter)? What nonprofits or ministries have you been involved with? Share what made this a positive or negative experience.
  
4. What skills, training, hobbies or experiences do you have that you could share in local service? *(Example: skills in graphic design; training in real estate; gardening; camp counseling experience)*
  
5. Is there a local concern or area of ministry that you feel passionate about, or a kind of volunteer activity you feel particularly drawn toward doing?
  
6. What questions might you have about *why* or *how* we can engage in local outreach ministry?
  
7. Would you like someone to follow up with you about your current ministry involvement or about specific ministry opportunities as they develop?  
 Yes    No

*Thank you for sharing this information. Please continue to pray how we can all best use our gifts in service to God's Kingdom (1 Peter 4:10). If you have questions or comments about this survey, please contact:*

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