

Tool #50: Counting the Cost, Looking for Treasure

Any church considering a significant new ministry investment must weigh the cost of the desired project against the potential benefits of its completion (Luke 14:28) —and the risks incurred by not investing (Matt. 25:24-28). Every venture in community ministry carries a price tag, but also represents a harvest.

For your church's proposed ministry venture, consider both the risks and the opportunities for the community, volunteers, church members in general, church facilities, and the church's overall mission. What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain? As a ministry team, brainstorm responses to the following:

Risks to the community

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Risks to ministry volunteers:

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Risks to church members:

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Risks to church facilities:

- Physical
- Financial
- Usage patterns
- Other

Risks to the church's mission:

- Outcomes
- Capacity
- Leadership
- Support
- Expectations
- Theology
- Reputation
- Partners
- Other

Opportunities for the community

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Opportunities for ministry volunteers:

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Opportunities for church members:

- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional / attitudinal
- Relational
- Spiritual
- Other

Opportunities for church facilities:

- Physical
- Financial
- Usage patterns
- Other

Opportunities for the church's mission:

- Outcomes
- Capacity
- Leadership
- Support
- Expectations
- Theology
- Reputation
- Partners
- Other