

# Community Interview Questionnaire

(adapted from a Wisconsin Conference survey developed by Don Mendenhall)

**EXERCISE ONE.** Each team (of one to two people) is to interview up to five community leaders. Ask leaders for no more than 30 minutes of time to conduct the interview. Take notes during the interview if it's appropriate, or do so immediately after the interview. Compile the results with your whole team.

**GUIDELINES.** These questions are intended to be used in a way that will keep the interview focused. It is important to allow the person being interviewed to speak freely. It is important not to allow the interview to go beyond the time that was granted by the person being interviewed.

**LIST OF POSSIBLE COMMUNITY LEADERS TO INTERVIEW.** Mayor, school district superintendent, school athletic coach or director, police chief, art/music directors, social work director, funeral director, presidents of civic organizations, directors of community youth organizations, directors of care facilities, prison warden, representatives of hospitals/clinics, community leaders who range in ages from 21-40, youth, directors of self-help organizations, directors of YMCA/YWCA, business leaders, and volunteer fire departments and/or small-business owners in smaller communities, etc.

## LIST OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. What do you see as the greatest strength of this community?
2. What is your greatest concern for this community? What do you see as its greatest needs?
3. What are the key economic/social issues that need resolved today? In five years? Ten years?
4. What do you see as the importance of our community's churches?
5. What role do you see them playing in meeting the community's needs? How might they make an even bigger impact?
6. What role do you see your organization playing in our community? What values does it promote? How is it impacting our community?
7. What potential partnerships do you see between your organization—or some other organization--and our community's churches?
8. What do you know about our church? What is it known for in the community?
9. Do you see specific roles or programs/projects this church could do to strengthen our community's well being?

**EXERCISE TWO.** Visit two dozen homes in your community and ask the following questions: 1. What are the greatest needs of people in this area? 2. Why do you think people do *not* attend church these days? 3. If you decided to attend church, what would you look for in a church? 4. What advice would you give our church that might help us to become more effective in this community? (from Herb Miller's Feb. 2006 Parish Paper)