

Mapping your Missional Neighborhood



MAPPING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

What does it mean to map your missional neighborhood?

- Mapping your missional neighborhood means getting to know the neighborhood that your church community has committed to being missionally present in.

Why is it important?

- Mapping your missional neighborhood is a tool for discernment. It is a process that slows us down, asks us to seek where God is already moving, provides insight, and reveals opportunities for missional presence.

Check out this church hack for best practices for mapping your neighborhood.

[2022-CH4-Mapping-Your-Neighborhood.pdf](#) ➔

USING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

Once you map your neighborhood, what do you do with it? The information gained from mapping your neighborhood needs to be used to support the development of a missional presence! Just like with any journey, the map is just the beginning.

Study your map:

- Pray over what you have learned about your neighborhood and ask for God's guidance to:
 - Identify patterns and rhythms that already exist in the neighborhood.
 - Identify natural overlaps between neighborhood rhythms and ministry rhythms.
 - Identify opportunities to be neighbors.
- Reflect:
 - What do our neighbors care about? What do they celebrate?
 - Where is there pain and suffering in our neighborhood?
 - What is unique about our neighborhood?
 - What do we love most about our neighbors and neighborhood?
 - Where do we need to learn from our neighbors?
 - What gifts do we have to offer to our neighbors?



Plan your neighborhood journey:

Once you put together a map and become familiar with it, it's time to take a trip into your neighborhood! A neighborhood map is an excellent tool to help us plan Love Avenue ministry.

- Does our Love Avenue meet our neighbors in places of joy and pain?
- Does our Love Avenue join already existing rhythms in the neighborhood?
- Does our Love Avenue create space for church members to be neighbors in the neighborhood? To be sent?
- Does our Love Avenue create spaces that foster genuine relationship?
- Are the ministry activities of our Love Avenue relevant to our neighborhood?
- Do the ministry activities of the Love Avenue utilize the strengths of our neighborhood? Do they create opportunities for partnership?

Monitor the journey:

Communities are not stagnant, so neighborhood maps are not stagnant tools.

- Schedule regular times to review your neighborhood map. Does your map accurately reflect the neighborhood today? What changes can be made?
- Schedule regular times to assess how the map is being used. How is our understanding of our neighborhood informing our missional presence and Love Avenue ministry?
- Be open to new insights, new opportunities, new ways to know and love your neighbors.



THE ESSENTIALS

Mapping your missional neighborhood is a tool for discernment and planning. It is a living document that provides points of reflection and insight that can help shape the missional rhythms of the local congregation. When corporate practices and personal habits work together, discipleship becomes a shared journey of formation in Christ.