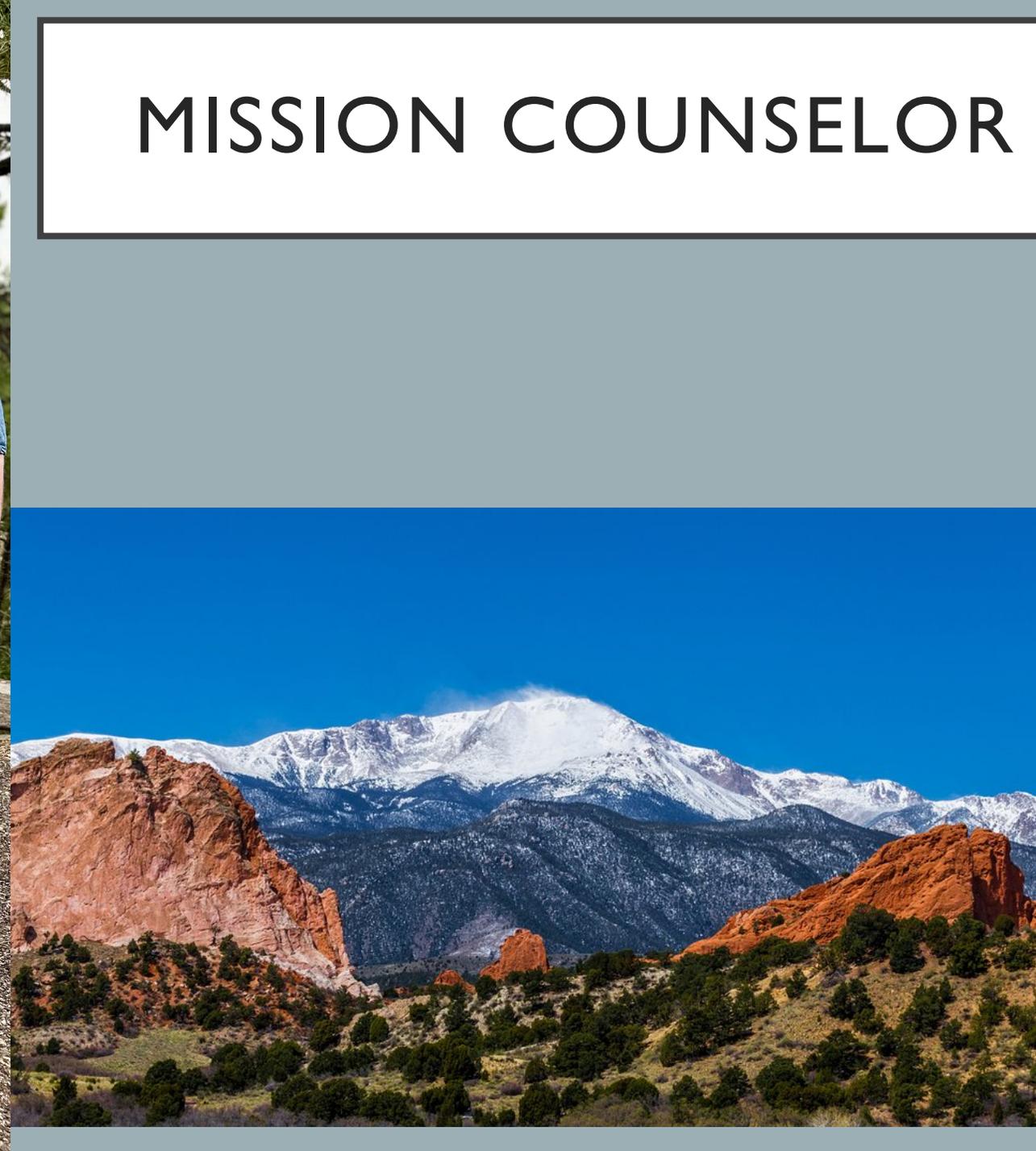


SMALL CHURCH * BIG MISSION

MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT
WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

MISSION COUNSELOR







Truth in Love

MINISTRY

Hurting Mormons Need Jesus.

WILL YOU HELP THEM FIND HIM?

We equip and empower Christians to share the truth in love with Mormons through witnessing courses, training and personalized mentoring

SMALL CHURCH; BIG MISSION MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT WITH LIMITED RESOURCES

Small churches can still have a BIG mission!

Small doesn't mean insignificant – it means **focused**.

Our goal isn't to turn your small church into a big church,
but to help you become **clear** and **confident** in your God's given mission.

Story problem #1:

Ted and Rhonda moved from Wisconsin to Maryland and couldn't wait to get as involved in their new church as they were in their old church. They told their new church leadership / outreach team about their popular Trunk or Treat Event that won a neighborhood award for "safest and funnest Halloween event" in their old city and attracted close to 1,000 people! Why may their idea for their new church not work as well as it did with their old church?

Story problem #2:

Science Camp! That sounded like a great idea for the Outreach Team, who has grown weary of the dwindling numbers of their Vacation Bible School attendance. They started reaching out to various churches in the WELS that hold a Science Camps each summer to try to get a curriculum. What else should they consider as they plan for holding a Science Camp?

Story problem #3:

Once again, there are 3 vacancies on the 9-man church council. The annual voter's meeting is coming up and there aren't any good men to fill those vacancies. The church president begins to overhear the usually "back hallway" discussions about how young men just don't care anymore about serving the church, and how the WELS needs to do something about allowing women to serve on Church Councils. Got some solutions for this small church!

Story problem #4:

Ted and Rhonda (they're back) came back from the WELS Worship Conference on fire for some of the songs, hymns, and arrangements they heard there. It was like a little slice of heaven on earth! They show their pastor some of the worship examples when they get back to their church (remember – small church in Maryland) and he doesn't seem as excited. Why not?

- 70% of congregations in WELS have an average weekly worship attendance fewer than 100.
 - 40% worship fewer than 50.
 - 15% worship fewer than 25.

This is not unusual, but rather fairly typical in American denominations.

How big is your church?

From Sam Rainer

In a previous Church Answers article, my father, Thom Rainer, gave a slightly different breakdown of church sizes.

Under 50 in attendance: smaller churches

51 to 99: mid-size churches

100 to 249: large churches

250 and above: larger churches

Being small is not only normal – it is **NOT** a problem. The problems arise when a smaller church tries to approach ministry exactly the same as the church of 1000+ members. **It's not realistic. It's going to burn people out fast.**

The reality is that small churches actually have a lot of advantages: the **close relationships** in the membership... the ability to **adapt quickly...a strong sense of community.** **But you need to plan ministry in a way that aligns with your size/capacity.**

So what should you do? What should you NOT do?
What are the BEST ideas for small church outreach?

I am NOT going to give you a List of Ideas!
(Well, maybe later I might). Some of those ideas are
transferable; some are not.

Instead we are going to go through the THOUGHT
PROCESS as you go about your ministry and outreach
plans.

Let's start by

I. FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Interview city/town leaders asking

FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Interview city/town leaders asking

What are some of the greatest needs of this community? What about challenges?

What issue(s) does everyone know about but no one seems to have an answer to (or is doing anything about)?

What do you think I or my church could do to assist in meeting some of those needs?

FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Interview city/town leaders asking

To what person, location, or online resource do you go if you need to get information about community resources (be as specific as possible)?

FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Interview city/town leaders asking

Are there some churches that you know about that are doing good and helpful things in the community and have a good reputation? What are the churches and what are they doing?

FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Interview city/town leaders asking

What associations and institutions do you have strong relationships with?

What advice would you give to a church that wants to be a true partner in the community and help bring hope and be a blessing to people here?

Next, let's

2. MAKE A REALISTIC MINISTRY PLAN

What's wrong with the following picture?

Church Calendar for December:

December 3 – Advent soup supper 6 pm

Midweek Advent Worship 7 pm

December 6 – Advent by Candlelight 6:30 pm

December 7 – Worship with Communion at 9 am; Bible Class at 10:30 am

Voter's meeting at 11:30 am

December 10 – Advent soup supper 6 pm

Midweek Advent Worship 7 pm

December 13 – Christmas for Kids – 9 am – 12 noon

December 14 – Worship at 9 am; Bible Class at 10:30 am

December 16 – Ladies Christmas Gift Exchange – 7 pm

December 17 – Advent soup supper 6 pm

Midweek Advent Worship 7 pm

December 20 – Church Christmas Dinner and Party – 6 pm

December 21 – Worship with Communion at 9 am. Pack Christmas Bags after church

December 24 – Children's Christmas Program – 5 pm & Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7 pm

December 25 – Christmas Day Song Service

December 28 – Worship at 9 am

December 31 – New Year's Eve worship with communion 7 pm

How about ONE outreach or
fellowship event PER QUARTER?!

SPRING: Easter for Kids
Or Community outreach participation

SUMMER: Soccer Camp or Science
Camp or Art Camp orCommunity
outreach participation



BUTTER & EGG DAYS

Petaluma Butter & Egg Days Parade and Festival

Saturday, April 18, 2026
10am - 5pm, Parade at noon

**2026 THEME AND EVENT APPLICATIONS
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY 2026**

How about ONE outreach or
fellowship event PER QUARTER?!

OCT: Partner with local city
Oktoberfest event

DEC: Advent by Candlelight

Next, let's

3. MAKE USE OF LOCAL TALENT

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIALIZED (ART –SCIENCE – MUSIC ...)
TEACHER IN YOUR CONGREGATION?

A COUPLE OF OF REALLY GOOD (SOCCER – BASKETBALL)
PLAYERS?

CAN YOU IMPORT TALENT?



[Daylight - MLC](#)

Next, let's

3. MAKE USE OF LOCAL TALENT

Who are your musicians and what CAN they play?

What about recorded music?

FINALLY, let's

4. RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

You still need your State and Church Constitution mandated
“Council of Ministry”

Positions such as: Church Present; Secretary; Treasurer; etc.

SO DON'T CHANGE YOUR CHURCH CONSTITUTION... it
will take years!

RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

But after thatWith minor changes to your church constitution by-laws (or not) you can form

Ministry Action Teams (Evangelism Education FellowshipCommunity engagementSoul Care ... and whatever Ad Hoc/Short Term Team you need)

RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

All these Teams report to and are under the Council of Ministry But **anyone that has the heart and talent and time can serve on these short term Teams** (that have NO TERMS or mandates about length of service!)

When a need no longer is there or you want to change thingsYou can add or subtract a Team)

RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU

There are good examples on the WELS web site.

https://welsmn.org/resource/Example_A_Small_Congregation_with_Explanations_2.pdf

RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU



A GOOD EXAMPLE

Core Values

Grow, Gather, Share, Serve

A GOOD EXAMPLE

GROW

Sunday Worship

Midweek Oasis, Anchor Kids

A GOOD EXAMPLE

GATHER

Last Friday Sabbath

Sunday Fellowship Hour

A GOOD EXAMPLE

SHARE

Nursing Home Worship

Blueberry Festival

Bible Basics

Friendship evangelism

A GOOD EXAMPLE

SERVE

Fall: “Back to School”
People donate school supplies,
clothes, and shoes
and community “shops” at no cost

A GOOD EXAMPLE

SERVE

Winter - “Christmas Store”
People/city donate gifts and those in
need do their Christmas shopping
and wrapping at no cost

A GOOD EXAMPLE

SERVE

Spring - “Open Drawer”

2x a year - “EatUp NMU”

(Free to-go home cooked meals for college students to kick-off exam week)

A GOOD EXAMPLE

GROW/GATHER/SHARE/SERVE

Campus Ministry

- 1) Fridays @ 6PM for Dinner and a Bible study.
- 2) Fall Festival Booth.
- 3) Wildcat Weekend Booth.
- 4) Winter Ski Trip with Tech
- 5) EatUP NMU

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Name **ONETHING**
besides Sunday worship
that they do during summer?

Blueberry Festival

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Spiritual Oversight Team:

Pastor, Church President, Vice President, Treasurer

Staff: Pastor and

(Part-time): Service Coordinator

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Teams (Volunteers):‘

Worship, Audio/Visual, Hospitality, Finance,
Children’s Ministry,
Care Committee, Facilities, Promotions

A GOOD EXAMPLE

“Bread and Butter”:

- 1) Lay Leadership
- 2) Friendship Evangelism
- 3) Community Service

LET'S REVIEW

- 1. FOCUSING ON YOUR COMMUNITY (talk to people)**
- 2. MAKE A REALISTIC MINISTRY PLAN (don't take on too much)**
- 3. MAKE USE OF LOCAL TALENT (or import talent)**
- 4. RESEARCH SYSTEMS THAT WORK FOR YOU (think Ministry teams)**

REMEMBER you need to plan ministry in a way that aligns with their size/capacity.

LET'S REVIEW

**SoWhat are you going to do this summer?
Next December?!**

YOU CAN ALWAYS CALL/TEXT/EMAIL ME
AND I CAN SHARE SOME IDEAS AND RESOURCES

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