

Ministry Patterns and Priorities

The following chart lists possible areas of outreach ministry that a church could emphasize. Identify how high a priority each item is to you. If the item goes against your understanding of church ministry, circle “Contrary”.

4=Essential to me

3 = Quite Important to me

2=Somewhat Important to me

1= Not Really Important to me

0 = Contrary

		Average
1.	Organizing members of the congregation to participate in short-term mission trips.	1.8
2.	Helping transform lives through education, support groups, counseling or spiritual renewal ministries.	3
3.	Promoting social or political change through community organizing or collective influence.	2.3
4.	Modeling an alternative way of life to the surrounding secular culture that attracts people to Jesus.	3.6
5.	Promoting community/economic development programs in the church’s neighborhood of ministry.	2.4
6.	Welcoming people into the church who are diverse in age, family situation, ethnicity, and/or income.	3.7
7.	Sponsoring social service ministries to provide aid to persons in need.	2.8
8.	Taking the gospel to non-Christians in the community through organized evangelism program.	1.9
9.	Encouraging members to minister to the needs of others in their daily lives and charitable giving.	3.6
10.	Forming one-on-one mentoring relationships with people in need of guidance or personal development.	2.3
11.	Making the church inviting to people who never attended church or have dropped out of church life.	3.5
12.	Cultivating a relationship, as a church, with a church or other group from a different racial background.	2.5
13.	Caring for the emergency needs of persons in crisis.	3.3
14.	Hosting revivals, Christian concerts, or other special events that invite people to salvation.	1.6
15.	Partnering with other local nonprofits, civic groups and churches for the betterment of the neighborhood.	3.1
16.	Taking a stand and speaking out on social, political, and economic injustices.	3.3
17.	Coming together to pray regularly for non-Christians.	2.4
18.	Training members to share their faith personally with friends, neighbors and strangers.	1.9
19.	Financially supporting mission or aid programs of your denomination or other para-church agencies.	2.9
20.	Incorporating a gospel message into service activities (such as a devotional at a soup kitchen).	1.9

Our Ministry Priority

If one or both items for any ministry priority is/are high, CoS strongly identifies with this ministry focus. If one or both is low for any ministry priority, our church might resist moving into this area of ministry. If we do not have a high priority in any ministry area, this suggests, that CoS has not developed a commitment to outreach. And the survey says....

- Priority 1: Focus on ministries of personal development. #2:3 and #10:2.3
- Priority 2: Focus on ministries of compassion. #7:2.8 and #13:3.3
- Priority 3: Focus on community development. #5:2.4 and #15:3.1
- Priority 4: Focus on justice ministries. #3:2.3 and #16:3.3
- Priority 5: Focus on ministries of reconciliation. #6:3.7 and #12:2.5
- Priority 6: Focus on modeling the gospel. #4: 3.6 and #11: 3.5

Priority 1: The church emphasizes reforming society by transforming individuals “one by one from the inside out”. Ministries help people overcome barriers to wholeness by developing skills, nurturing behavioral change, or offering relational support.

Priority 2: The church models God’s love through ministries of mercy. Providing goods or services to meet needs---financial, physical or emotional---helps people to live with dignity and makes the gospel tangible.

Priority 3: Social and economic development ministries improve quality of life in the community, nurturing an environment that affirms human dignity. The church helps to break cycles of dependency by creating opportunities for people to become self-sufficient, offering access to assets such as housing or capital, and renewing institutions such as schools.

Priority 4: Through advocacy ministries, churches grapple with cultural or structural evils. Churches may work within channels of power, organize to exert pressure for social change, or raise a prophetic voice of protest, witness and solidarity.

Priority 5: Through the church, God’s redemptive power flows to the root of the divisions of race and class in our society, healing scars and creating new patterns. Reconciliation ministries bear fruit in multicultural worship, cross-cultural personal relationships, cross-cultural ministry partnerships, and challenges to entrenched racism in the wider society.

Priority 6: With a spirit of Christ-like servanthood, the church challenges the community’s often cynical perception of Christianity and models a meaningful alternative to our materialistic, me-first, anything-goes culture. The church seeks to become a home to spiritual seekers hungry for authentic justice, compassion, integrity and love.

Our Ministry Pattern

If a church is strong in only one method, this may indicate that the church’s approach to ministry lacks balance. If none of these patterns is a clear strength, this suggests a weak overall commitment to outreach. There are three complementary ways a church can promote its ministry focus. And the survey says.....

- Pattern 1: “Daily Life” ministry. #4:3.6, #6:3.7, #9:3.6, #18:1.9
- Pattern 2: “Organized ministry. #2:3, #5:2.4, #7:2.8, #8:1.9
- Pattern 3: Ministry partnerships. #3:2.3, #12:2.5, #15:3.1, #19:2.9

Pattern 1: A church that is strong in encouraging individual members to engage in ministry through their daily lives, in informal, relational ways.

Pattern 2: A church that conducts ministry through organized, church-sponsored programs.

Pattern 3: A church that conducts ministry by forming partnerships with other entities, with a collaborative approach to ministry.

Our Involvement in Evangelism

If three or more of these items is a high priority, CoS has a strong commitment to explicit evangelism. If none of these items is a high priority, this may indicate that evangelism is not seen as part of the church’s mission. And the survey says....

#1: 1.8; #8: 1.9; #14: 1.6; #17: 2.4, #18: 1.9, #20: 1.9