



Site Selection Criteria Revision

In effort to engage the third-prong of Project Transformation's (PT) mission and provide robust outcomes related to church revitalization, the following is an attempt to provide structure and accountability when entering and maintaining effective site church relationships. ***Our ability to provide an organized strategy according to each site church is becoming more pertinent for four main reasons:***

- 1) **To set clear, measurable goals before relationship, thereby, amplifying the impact of PT programming and making space for site churches to present objectives for which they have direct ownership,**
- 2) **To create environments in which relationships and connections are made which can lead to transformation in a neighborhood, church, families, and the lives of other partners**
- 3) **To open additional funding streams through stronger program outcomes; and,**
- 4) **To unite revitalization strategies at the PT and UMC Conference level.**

The following models attempt to brainstorm ideas and practices related to Site Church Selection Criteria, 5 Quality Elements and a Phase-based Assessment Tool for PT to utilize in relationships with site churches when setting expectations, supporting church objectives, providing feedback, etc.

- I. **Site Church Selection Criteria** provide consistency and structure when considering and accepting new churches and each item should be a part of the site church application process and discussed in initial meetings.
- II. **6 Quality Elements** set expectations for site church performance once selected and become the standards by which site churches are regularly assessed and provided positive feedback and growing areas.
- III. The **Phase-based Assessment Tool** acts as a roadmap in a PT/Site church relationship. Initially, PT would work with site church to determine 3-5 goals to be achieved through the partnership. PT acts as a facilitator, resource, and accountability partner as the site church takes responsibility for objectives that benefit its ministry. Consequently, PT might set an appropriate, estimated timeline for partnership (3-5 years) so there is mutual understanding. Having this knowledge and level of communication with each site church would prevent stagnation and could alleviate the risk of last-minute site church fluctuation.

Site Church Selection Criteria

A. Neighborhood Opportunity

- Partnering with this church and neighborhood is likely to create transformation
- Community, School, Participant income and FRLP demographics and assets
- Church-specific assets, vision, and objectives are outwardly focused

B. Missional Readiness

- Church possesses willingness/Readiness to build new relationships with neighbors
- Church vision for ministry and mission matches PT mission
- Theological understandings of outreach are comparable between Site Church and Project Transformation (i.e.: empowerment, diversity, mutuality, prevenient grace, etc.)
- Preference given to churches seeking longer-term partnership (3 year option)

C. Lay Engagement

- Key church members and committees are engaged in PT-Related decision-making processes (Application, PT Connect Team, etc.)
- Willingness and capacity to engage constituents in PT service with focus on building relationships with new people
- Congregation has capacity and will to support and minister to AmeriCorps members, volunteer in programming, and engage new families

D. Leadership Engagement

- Pastor/supervisor displays understanding of leadership and support role with participants, families, and interns
- Pastor/supervisor is accessible and communicative
- Pastor/supervisor has key community contacts or track record of creating those connections

E. Location

- Geographical location in relationship to AmeriCorps member living accommodations, other sites, PT Leadership Center
- Program space available to PT - need one large space, 3-5 smaller rooms, outdoor space, library, kitchen, office space, etc.
- Ability to pay for additional utility and maintenance costs of running program
- Ability to add Project Transformation as an additional insured under your comprehensive general liability policy.