

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Office of Formation and Transition Ministry (OFTM)



Building a Profile of Your Church

A Congregational Self-Study

What is a profile?

- A profile describes a congregation's history, mission and goals, hopes, dreams and the qualities they seek in their next priest.
- Most often it is published on the Parish's website.

How does it help us?

- It helps us see our life as a community more clearly.
- We clarify goals, articulate history, identify qualities we seek in the new priest.
- It invites whole congregation into process.
- Others learn about us as they read our profile.

Elements of a profile

- Mission statement and goals
- History of the congregation
- Description of program, organizations
- Financial summary
- Hopes and dreams of members
- Qualities sought in a new priest
- Information on community, diocese

Mission Statement & Goals



Should be concise

Should reflect current congregational hopes and goals.

Should reflect the priorities of the congregation.

History of the Congregation



- Should be brief
- Conveys the “flavor” of the congregation
- Remembers significant events, people.
- Reflects blessings and challenges over the years.

Programs and Organizations



- Education programs
- Fellowship and prayer groups
- Youth activities
- Outreach ministries
- Seasonal and traditional events

Finances



- Report should be brief and accurate.
- Include pledging units, budget, debt.
- Avoid complex tables and charts

Determine hopes and dreams

- WAYS TO GATHER INFORMATION
- Conversation among leaders
- Focus groups in congregation
- Home meetings that discuss common topics
- Town hall meeting at church
- Survey of congregation

Organizing the Information

- Profile or search committee analyzes.
 - What stands out? Where are clear priorities?
 - What have we learned about our congregation?
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- What does this tell us about the skills and experiences we hope our next priest will bring?

Information about your community, diocese



- Include a brief description of the diocese.
- Keep to essentials on community information.
- MissionInsite Demographics Research.
- Chamber of Commerce is good resource.

Making an effective profile

- Be clear and concise
- Edit carefully.
- Be honest
- Use attractive layout, graphics.
- If you need help, ask your consultant or deployment officer.

