

Sample Format for a Board Planning Weekend

Hour Number	Design Notes
<p>Friday Evening</p> <p>1. Community Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a format like <i>Growing Together: Spiritual Exercises for Church Committees</i> • Keep the sharing questions simple • “Share what you wish to” (norm of setting one’s own boundaries)
<p>2. Celebrating Accomplishments of Past Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free form (whatever comes to people’s minds rather than goal checklist) • Energizing, fun, creative • End with appropriate devotion
<p>Saturday Morning</p> <p>3. Revisiting Previous Goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with some appropriate form of prayer • Encourage description, curiosity: <i>What actually happened?</i> <i>What are we learning?</i>
<p>4. Crystallizing Shared View of Present Moment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we now? <i>Picturing exercise</i> <i>Finding our biblical story</i> (Resource D, <i>Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations</i>) • Note: “Discerning the present moment” precedes “discerning the future”
<p>5. Asking Where We Are Called to Go Next</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad hopes and images • Particular goals: <i>Learning goals</i> <i>Action goals</i> • What resources do we need? (www.congregationalresources.org)
<p>Saturday Afternoon</p> <p>6. Identifying Specific Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose top three goals • Form sub-groups to work out specific steps • Share and test commitment
<p>7. Board Practices for the Coming Year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify strengths of the way board works as a team • Identify practices that might enhance on that strength • Some boards develop a “behavioral covenant” <i>(Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences)</i> • Assess the weekend • Close with an appropriate form of prayer