

Getting started

This book is full of asset questions and answers.

Although asset-based thinking and planning are not easily captured in 10 easy steps, you can get started toward asset-based approaches in any of these ways:

PRAY DEEPLY. This approach may not be easy, but when you start to feel that it's the right way to go, you'll find that it matches the deeply yearning prayers you've sent to God. Keep praying that way.

“START OVER” WITH PEOPLE YOU’VE BEEN WORKING WITH. Have a heart-to-heart with them about some of your frustrations with needs-based approaches to congregational life. Be honest, not only about the futility you face, but also the hopes you harbor down deep.

START SMALL. Pick something simple, like the annual church picnic. Try an asset-based approach to plan something familiar. Along the way, talk about the possibilities you sense in this approach. (See Case Study 6.)

START NEW. Try an asset-based approach on something new in your congregation, like calling a new pastor, or starting a new program. Maybe even start with new people.

ASK “ASSET QUESTIONS” AND EXPECT “ASSET ANSWERS.” This book is full of asset questions and answers. Pick some of your favorites, and keep asking them.

READ AND TALK ABOUT THIS BOOK. Read especially pertinent sections of this book, and talk about what you read with someone you trust or admire. Have the conversation in a comfortable location.



ANOTHER LOOK

ONE WAY TO GET STARTED: PICK A CASE STUDY IN THIS BOOK THAT’S LIKE YOUR SITUATION. TALK ABOUT ITS ELEMENTS, AND HOW IT’S SIMILAR OR DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CONGREGATION. THEN DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT.