

Part 3: Abundance!

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2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY



Building
Learning
Growing

AGENDA

Part 1: Where are we?

Part 2: The (possible) future of the church

Part 3: Abundance!

Part 4: Design Thinking 101

Before you start

- 1- Gather a diverse group
- 2- Reflect and document
- 3- Keep inviting God in

The Abundance Analysis Tool

Foundation:

Ours is a God of abundance.

God has given us **everything** we need to do the work we are called to do.

If we don't see the abundance, it's because it's in a form **we don't recognize**.

The Abundance Analysis Tool is a **framework** to help us recognize it.

The OSMaT framework

Four *simple* steps!

1- **O**pportunities

2- **S**ources

3- **M**atching

and

4- **T**ransformations



Step 1: Opportunities - Seeing the Openings for Grace

1 Grounded in Reality

The Opportunities stage of the AAT calls us to open our eyes to the real needs and challenges facing our community, grounding our analysis in a clear understanding of the context.

2 Hopeful Expectation

At the same time, this stage encourages a posture of hope, recognizing that the very spaces where needs are greatest may also be the places where God's abundance can be most powerfully manifested.

3 Missional Discernment

Through prayerful reflection and community engagement, we can identify the specific opportunities where our church can make a meaningful impact, aligning our efforts with God's missional purposes.



Step 1: Opportunities – HOW TO

Definition: Identifies the external needs of the community and the world, grounding the analysis in real and present challenges.

Key Questions: What are the pressing needs in our community? Where can we make a meaningful impact? What sources of information help us understand these needs (e.g., community surveys, local news, direct outreach)?

How: Gather your group and ponder the key questions. You will want to share the questions in advance so that each member can have time to ponder and research. The output of this section is a list of the real opportunities.

Pray: As a team, pray and ask God to point you to the opportunity that most aligns with God's will.

Step 2: **S**ources: Uncovering the Abundance Within

Tangible Assets

The Sources stage of the AAT invites us to look inward at the tangible resources available within our community, such as physical spaces, financial resources, and technological capabilities.

Intangible Gifts

Just as importantly, we must also recognize the intangible gifts, talents, and networks that our congregation and community members possess, echoing the scriptural affirmation of the body of Christ being equipped with varied and complementary gifts.

Spiritual Abundance

Underlying this process is the foundational belief that all of these resources and capacities are ultimately provided by our generous and abundant God, to be stewarded faithfully for the common good and the fulfillment of our mission.

Step 2: **S**ources: HOW TO

Definition: Catalogs the tangible and intangible assets available to address identified opportunities.

Key Questions: What skills, talents, resources, or networks do we currently possess? How can these be viewed as abundances provided by God for our mission?

How: This is likely a multi-day process. But you want to take your time with this. See the questions below and keep an inventory list.

Pray: As a team, pray and ask God to open your eyes to all of the sources of God's abundance.

Step 3: **M**atching: Connecting Abundance to Opportunity

1

Creative Deployment

The Matching stage of the AAT is a creative and prayerful process of connecting our God-given abundances to the identified opportunities, thoughtfully deploying our resources in ways that meet real needs and amplify the good.

2

Stewardship of Grace

This stage embodies the theological principle that God's gifts are given not just for individual edification but for communal uplift and mission, challenging us to be faithful stewards of the abundance entrusted to us.

3

Innovative Solutions

By exploring innovative ways to apply our resources, we can uncover unexpected synergies and discover new avenues for addressing the challenges facing our community.



Step 3: **M**atching: HOW TO

Definition: Focuses on the practical application of identified sources to meet the opportunities.

Key Questions: How can our specific abundances be utilized to address the opportunities we've identified? Are there innovative ways to apply our resources that we haven't considered?

How: This is a creative section. Be sure to stretch your creative muscles. Two items may at first seem opposites, but in God's economy, we are called to see beyond the obvious to reveal possible miracles. Gather the group and take your time to go through the questions in this section.

Pray: As a team, pray and ask God to help your creativity thrive.



Step 4: Transformations: What Change Can We Enact

Immediate Outcomes

The Transformations stage of the AAT challenges us to consider the immediate, observable changes that our initiatives can bring about in our community, such as increased engagement, improved access to services, or enhanced well-being.

Long-Term Impact

Looking beyond the short-term, we must also envision the potential for lasting, systemic change that can result from our faithful stewardship of God's abundance, transforming the very trajectory of our community.

Continuous Learning

To ensure the sustainability and adaptability of our efforts, we must foster a culture of continuous learning and reflection, evaluating our progress, addressing unforeseen consequences, and adjusting our strategies as needed.

Spiritual Alignment

Ultimately, the Transformations stage calls us to keep our spiritual mission at the forefront, ensuring that our community engagement efforts remain grounded in the values and teachings of our faith.

Step 4: Transformations: HOW TO

Definition: Reflects on the potential impact of utilizing God's abundance in addressing the opportunities, focusing on the transformative aspect of this engagement.

Key Questions: How will addressing these opportunities transform our community and our church? What changes do we hope to see? How can we measure the impact of our actions?

How: Gather your team and reflect on the questions below. Sense where the energy among the group shifts since this might be where the Spirit is guiding.

Pray: As a team, pray and ask God to help you decide and, if needed, take a leap of faith.

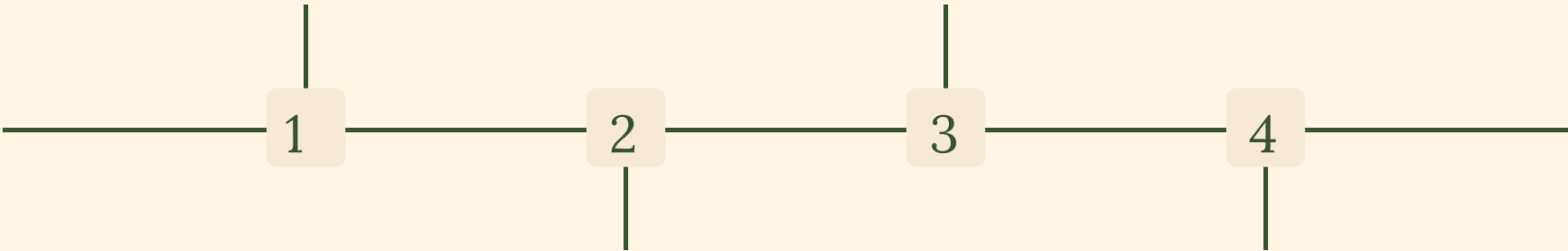
In other words....

Community Analysis

Begin by gathering data and insights into the needs and assets of your community, engaging with members and utilizing various resources to identify the key opportunities where your church can make a meaningful impact.

Strategic Alignment

Develop strategies to match your church's sources of abundance with the identified opportunities, focusing on creative and effective utilization of your resources to address community needs.



Asset Mapping

With a clear understanding of the opportunities, conduct a thorough mapping of your church's resources and talents, uncovering the abundance that God has provided for your mission.

Action and Reflection

Implement your initiatives, regularly reflecting on the outcomes and adapting your strategies as needed to ensure sustainable and transformative change in your community.

Embracing God's Abundance



Prayerful Discernment

The Abundance Analysis Tool is not just a strategic framework but a spiritual exercise, inviting us to engage in prayerful discernment and align our efforts with God's missional purposes.



Collaborative Approach

By involving a diverse group of community members in the process, we can tap into a wider range of perspectives and resources, fostering a sense of collective ownership and agency.



Transformative Impact

Ultimately, the AAT challenges us to envision and work towards the transformation of our communities, bearing witness to the God of abundance and becoming conduits of divine grace.



Grounded in Faith

At the heart of the AAT is the belief that our generous and abundant God has provided everything we need to fulfill our calling, inspiring us to step out in faith and see the miracles that can unfold.

Conclusion: Unleashing God's Abundance

1 Recognize Abundance

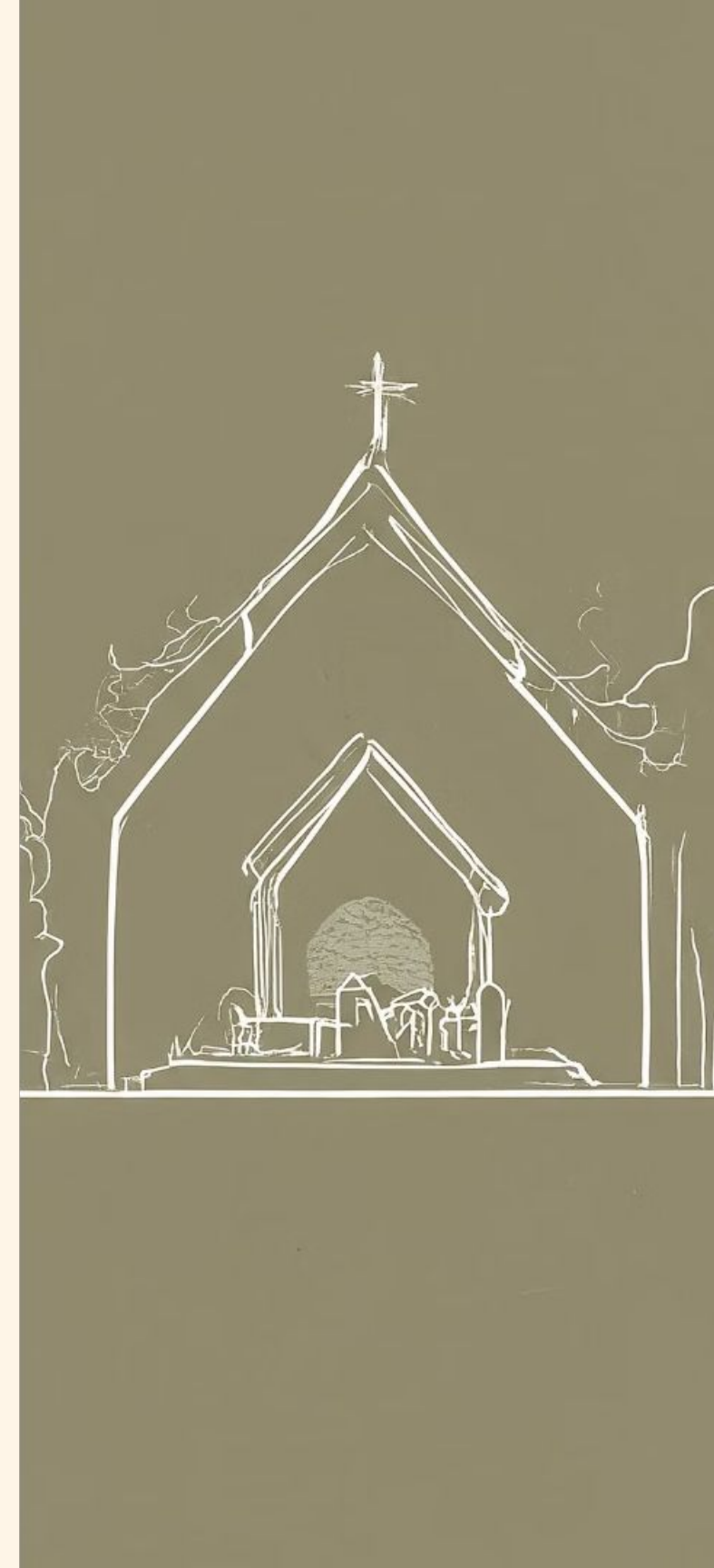
The Abundance Analysis Tool empowers us to shift our perspective, opening our eyes to the abundance that God has already provided within our communities and congregations.

2 Align Resources

By thoughtfully matching our God-given resources to the identified opportunities, we can unleash the transformative power of this abundance, making a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve.

3 Embrace Transformation

As we engage in this process, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also fostering lasting change, aligning our efforts with God's vision for the renewal of all things.



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3rd Wednesday of the month (6/19)

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