METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Congregation/Ministry Site Name:_____

Congregation/Ministry Site Address:_____

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROBE

Conduct a Community Assessment Probe

Two members of the Transition Team or the Council make two *separate* appointments, with two local town officials. In our experience, two of the following persons are best: a local school principal, a local chief of police, a local town mayor or supervisor, a council member, or the leader of the local chamber of commerce.

You are calling to ask for an appointment because you are from a local church and, as you are in the process of searching for a new pastor, you want to learn about the greatest needs in your community. You would like 15 minutes of the person's time.

Two of you go to the meeting, and *at least* one of you takes notes. During the conversation, you should ask the following questions:

• In your experience, what do you see as the top two or three problems in our community?

• Whom do you see working on those issues?

• Do you have any concerns about our community as you look into the future, and if so, what are they?

• What could our church do to help improve the quality of life in our community?

• When we call a new pastor to our church, could we bring them in to meet you?

Immediately following the conversation, do the following:
  • Write and mail a handwritten note thanking the official for them time and input.
  • Write up your notes of the conversation and review them with your partner in order to determine if you both heard the same information.
  • After you have conducted both conversations, provide a verbal update to the congregation on the following Sunday, and make your written notes available to the congregation, and especially for the MSP.

Things for the new pastor to consider and address:
  • What things in this community are not the way they should be, and how can the new pastor help with the congregation/ministry to make them right?
  • What needs does the new pastor need to address in order for the community to be/become a better place in which to live?