

How Will Congregational Discovery Help?

Is your congregation about to

- *revisit or expand its mission?*
- *make a staff change?*
- *make a worship change?*
- *make a ministry change?*
- *tackle a tough issue?*

Do you want to meet that experience

- *with scripture providing your vision?*
- *with adequate knowledge?*
- *with expanded lay leadership?*
- *with improved listening skills?*

Congregational Discovery will help you!

Congregational Discovery is an interviewing process that uncovers patterns of deep attitudes, beliefs, skills, knowledge, and habits that are shaping the future of your congregation.

To Learn More Contact Us:

Dr. Pat Taylor Ellison,
Managing Director of Research
e-mail us at:
consulting@churchinnovations.org
or, visit us on the web:
<http://www.churchinnovations.org>

What Resources are Required?

People: 5-6 of the best listeners in the congregation

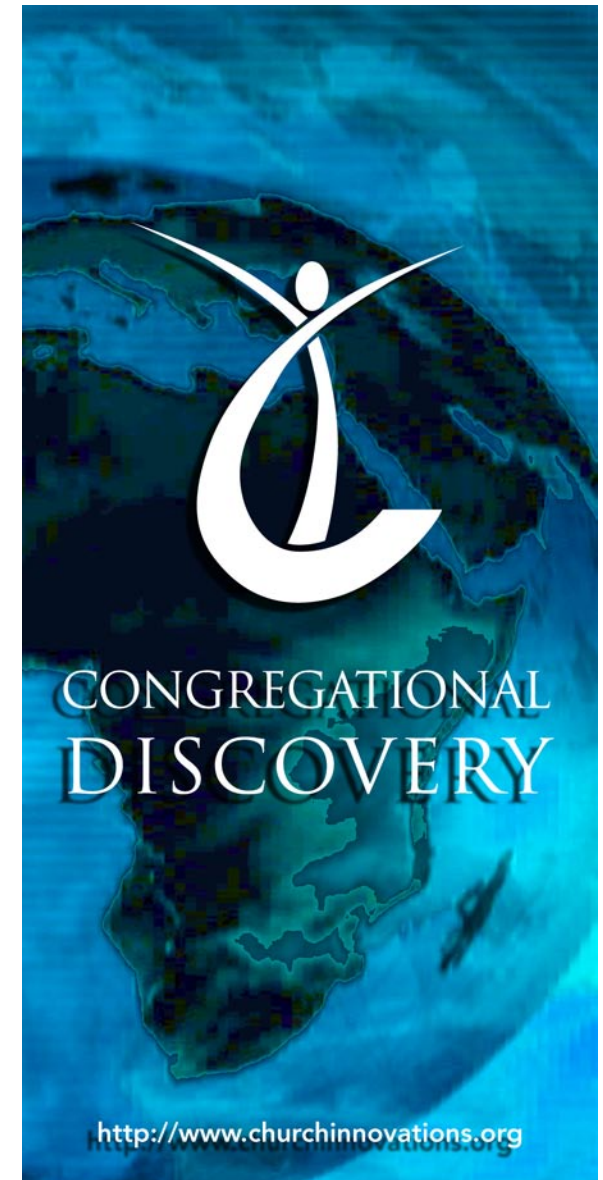
Time: 10 hours from each Listening Leader

- *3 hours for training*
- *5 hours for interviews*
- *1 hour to read the Congregational Discovery Report*
- *1 hour to meet with Listening Leader Team & Discovery Report Writer*

The process takes three months to complete.

Church Innovations will:

- *lead a 2-3 hour Listening Leader training session*
- *read the interviews*
- *create your Congregational Discovery Report*
- *lead a 1 hour meeting of Listening Leader Team & Discovery Report Writer*



Learning your story Seeking your mission Growing your leaders

Why Do Congregational Discovery?

Your congregation has proven capacities which God gives and uses, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish God's preferred future for your congregation.

We innovate your God-given capacities by guiding you through a process of spiritual discernment, helping you pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is already up to in your congregation. We pay attention by listening.

We help you to develop lay leaders who can listen. We help your members feel their stories and experiences are honored.

We know from experience that you must know your congregation, its history, its current practices, and your hopes for its future if you are to build that future upon your own roots.

Congregational Discovery, done through Listening Leaders, builds your knowledge and listening capacities in order for you to lead.

If you are doing *Church FutureFinder* work, Discovery will complete Part 10 of that project.

Your Congregational Discovery Partners

Listening Leaders:

Five or six Listening Leaders from your congregation. These are people who have

- first-rate listening skills
- a trustworthy reputation in the congregation
- the discipline to record people's real responses and not coloring them with their own feelings

You select these people; Church Innovations trains them.

Church Innovations:

Our research team blanches your interviews and provides them to a reading team. The readers prayerfully read them, searching for patterns, habits, and gifts, and together they construct a report that summarizes the interview responses, also asking questions they want you to consider.

The Listening Leaders are sent this report to edit along with the C.I. report writer, and finally the Listening team shares it with the congregational leadership.

What Are the Results?

Congregational Discovery will result in:

- a God-centered vision for leading by listening
- a completely new core group of lay leaders
- innovated listening and interpretation capacities
- a new way of learning already in place for the next time you need it
- wider congregational exposure to missional questions
- thick, rich answers to questions you want to ask
- new awareness of your past's affecting your present
- honor given to members' stories, hopes and fears
- metaphors that drive the congregation's imagination

