

APPENDIX I – MISSION AND MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Describing Your Ministry and Mission

In each category, discern whether your ministry has a specific goal in the area.

Discuss the importance of this area of ministry and mission in your local context.

Consider how much budget you allocate to this work; and who provides leadership.

Think about the unique context of your local ministry; consider any special needs; gifts or skills.

Think about groups and activities in your ministry – Which category do they fall into?

Category Title	As well as the general questions above, consider these more specific ones.
Discipleship	Discipleship includes Christian education, evangelism, and deepening faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are some of your discipleship activities or groups?</i> • <i>How do you spread the gospel in your community?</i> • <i>How do you live out the gospel?</i> • <i>How do you teach and learn the stories of our faith?</i> • <i>How do you make space for and welcome new people to your faith community?</i>
Justice and Outreach	How do you understand justice and outreach to be part of your ministry? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How do you identify community needs? To what extent do you collaborate with other groups who have common goals or interests?</i> • <i>What are the unique needs or strengths or issues facing the community right now? How have you responded?</i> • <i>How do you use General Council resources about specific justice issues, e.g. the environment, First Nations, intercultural ministry, becoming an Affirming congregation etc.</i>
Leadership	Who do you look to for leadership in your Local Ministry Unit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How much responsibility for leadership is placed on staff? On lay leaders?</i> • <i>What kind of leadership skills are you looking for in your minister?</i> • <i>Are there specific skills or experience you need at this time? (e.g. transitional/transformational ministry, comfort with conflict, experience with youth/children’s ministry, consensus building, volunteer recruitment)</i> • <i>How do you support lay people to discern their gifts for leadership?</i>
Ministry Partnerships	What ministry do you share with other churches, including local partnerships? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What shared ministry conversations (informal, amalgamation, cluster) is your Local Ministry Unit currently engaged in, or anticipating in the near future?</i> • <i>Is this a team ministry position? Describe the full ministry team complement, with areas of work and accountability.</i> • <i>What are your ecumenical, outreach and/or interfaith partnerships?</i> • <i>What responsibility and initiative are expected of ministry personnel in your current or prospective partnerships?</i>

<p>Pastoral Care</p>	<p>What activities does pastoral care involve (e.g. pastoral visiting, funerals, informal conversations in the grocery store, UCW visiting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To whom is pastoral care provided?</i> • <i>Who provides pastoral care now?</i> • <i>Are there specific pastoral care needs that you have identified within your Local Ministry Unit or community?</i> • <i>How much time is spent on pastoral care by Ministry Personnel?</i> • <i>Are there specific pastoral care skills or experience needed?</i>
<p>Stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How frequently do you review your financial situation? How do you describe your financial position? Healthy? Abundant? Struggling? Near to crisis? Other? What is the ‘story’ behind this description? How did you get here?</i> • <i>Describe the human gifts that you have in your midst. What are your strengths? What are the areas that you need to nurture and grow?</i> • <i>What property and other assets does your ministry hold?</i> • <i>In what condition are your physical assests? If reserves/trust funds are held are they growing or diminishing?</i> • <i>How is stewardship kept visible? Who takes responsibility for it now?</i> • <i>How does your ministry support and benefit from the Mission and Service Fund?</i> • <i>How comfortable is your Local Ministry Unit talking about money?</i>
<p>Worship</p>	<p>Describe worship in your ministry. What makes it worth coming to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Describe the music in your worship services.</i> • <i>How do you use technology in worship?</i> • <i>What is meaningful for you in sermons in terms of content, relevance, academic/theoretical/historical components, length?</i> • <i>What other liturgical arts are appreciated in worship? (drama, puppets, altar)</i>

Describing ministry according to the categories is the first step; next is discerning the priorities.