



187 congregations have attended one of the 15 workshops!! Wonderful! Now what?

What to expect from congregations that attended a workshop.

1. The congregation will delay or “punt” their decision to a later date.
 - a. *District volunteers need to keep in constant communication with congregations. Now is the time for follow-up. We need to have a sense of urgency - a pledge will enable to provide significant new mission resources. We need to have participation decisions by Convention. This will elevate the sights of congregations who are asked to participate and provide needed momentum.*
2. That someone in the congregation who attended the workshop will be the gatekeeper. One or two people made a “no” decision for the entire congregation.
 - a. *We ask pastors and lay leaders to provide the opportunity of all congregation members to participate in this historic mission effort.*
3. The congregation will be isolated (not communicate with district volunteers) with their decision.
 - a. *Encourage open dialogue at winkel meetings, but don't wait for this monthly meeting to be your only contact. Congregations will lose interest. Volunteers need to call congregations on a weekly basis to hear updates, answer questions, provide resources, and receive decisions.*
4. There will be miscommunication between the attendees of the workshop and the congregation members.
 - a. *So much information was provided at workshops that not all information could be digested by attendees. Call attendees and ask if they have any questions. Encourage attendees to visit and use the resources on the Michigan District website (www.michigandistrict.org), offer your services to attend a decision-making meeting.*
5. The congregation will bury the campaign under daily/operational concerns.
 - a. *We are asking for a congregation's participation over and above regular weekly offerings. There are congregation members who have a passion and heart for planting churches, professional church workers and/or international mission efforts. Allow them to opportunity!*
6. The congregation will do something.
 - a. *This is a bad phrase that campaign staff cringe when heard. This is the number one put-off for a congregation's decision to participate. One needs to be weary when hearing that phrase – probe deeper when you hear this statement.*

What NOT to expect from good participation after workshops.

1. The congregation will act immediately
 - a. *We know from history that it takes months to receive a decision. We can't assume that congregations will rush home and schedule a decision making meeting. Immediate and constant communication needs to happen with a congregation to ensure that that decision making process and appeal implementation happens in 2009. Currently we need 60 congregations visited per month and 15 congregations per month to formally commit to the campaign.*
2. The congregation and/or leaders will remember/know what the first step is in participation.
 - a. *First step is to go back and present to the leaders of the congregation – begin the decision making process. Ask if a special decision making meeting can be scheduled if the campaign cannot be discussed/on the agenda for more than four weeks. A PowerPoint presentation for congregations is on the Michigan District website (www.michigandistrict.org). Ask the congregation if they would like you to assist with this presentation. Additionally Ray Zavada and Andrea Essling are available.*