

## Building A Parish Ministry Plan

Daniel P. Smith & Mary K. Sellon, *“Pathway to Renewal: Practical Steps for Congregations”*

### Key Ideas:

- *“Planning is fundamentally a way of creating things: a garden, a vacation, a new phase of life, a piece of art.”* p. 140
- *“Renewal planning is an intentional joining with God in God’s continuing process of creation to bring new hope and healing to the world.”* p. 140
- Renewal Planning is an Art Form.
- *“Accepting our responsibility as co-creators with God means knowing and using some kind of planning process, some method of turning a dream into a reality.”* p. 140
- *“The goals your group ultimately articulates, even if they are small, need to serve God’s overarching call to your congregation.”* p. 142

### Methods:

- **Appreciative Inquiry (AI)** (p. 141)
  - ◇ Discover
  - ◇ Dream
  - ◇ Design
  - ◇ Deliver
- **Five Key Elements** (p. 141)
  - ◇ Develop a clear sense of what you want to achieve and a commitment to achieve it.
  - ◇ Honestly assess where you’re starting from.
  - ◇ Design steps that will move you from where you are to where you want to be.
  - ◇ Take those steps.
  - ◇ Assess whether your actions are getting you where you want to go and then make adjustments as needed.

Note: “Renewal will not happen in your church without your mastering some kind of planning process that incorporates these five elements.” p. 141

## The SMART Plan (p. 143-144)

- Specific
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Relevant
- Time-Bound: Time-Line

### Specific:

- What do we want to accomplish?
- Who is involved?
- What are the benefits of accomplishing this goal?

### Measurable:

- How much? How many? By when?
- How do we know when the goal is accomplished?

### Attainable:

- Given our resources, and the circumstances of time and situation, is this goal realistic?
- Even though we don't yet see how, do we believe we can achieve it?
- Is the goal too big? Not big enough?

### Relevant:

- What makes the goal worthy of our time and efforts?
- What is the immediate large vision of the congregation?

### Time-Bound or Time-Line:

- When must this goal be completed?
- How might events on the larger church calendar affect our work and this completion date?