



BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Appendix



NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

Session 1

- **Defining Neighboring Worksheet Example**

Session 2:

- **BIC U.S. Core Values Sheet**
- **Soul Work Practices Worksheet Example**

Session 3:

- **BIC U.S. Core Values Sheet**
- **Groups Practices Worksheet Example**

Session 4:

- **BIC U.S. Core Values Sheet**
- **Systems Practices Worksheet Example**

Session 5:

- **Survey & Mapping Membership Ideas**

Session 6:

- **Getting Started on a Listening Tour**

Session 7:

- **Community Ministry Project Worksheet Example**

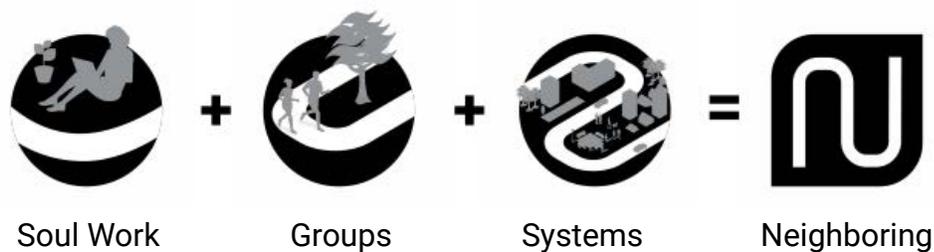


Neighboring CHALLENGE

ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Defining “Neighboring”



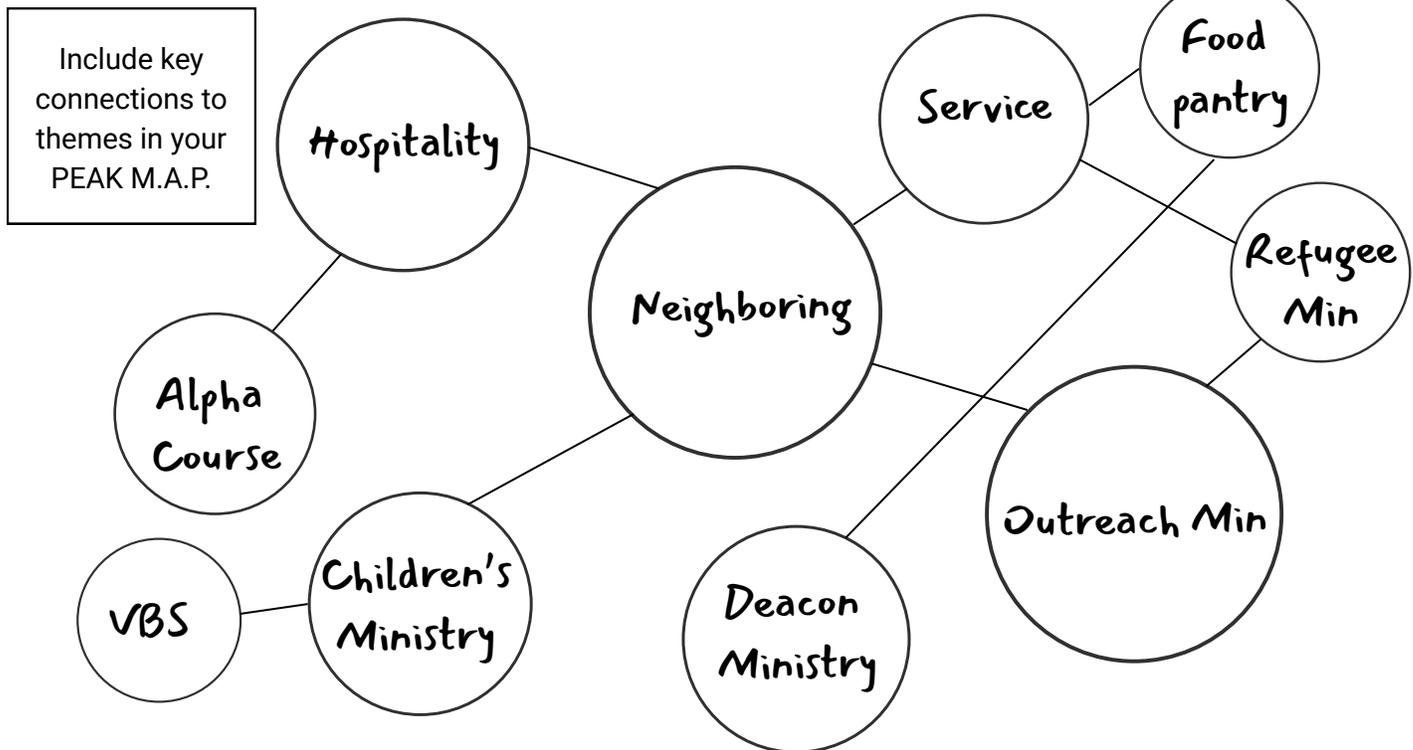
A Working Definition of "Neighboring"



What first comes to mind when you think about "neighboring"?

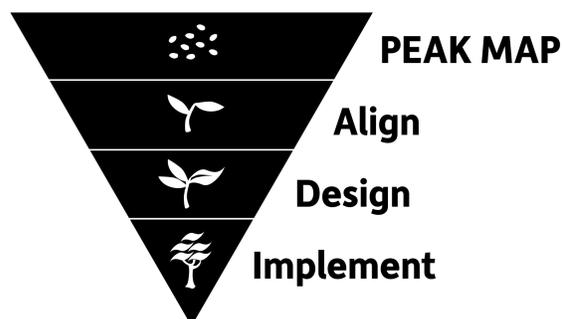
How I relate to the people that live beside me Serving others in need VBS
Loving strangers around me Inviting guests to a meal Outreach Ministries

Visualize connections to "neighboring".



Create a short working definition of "neighboring"...

"Neighboring" is how we relate to those who live around us.



NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

Three Expressions of “Neighboring”



Below are 3 distinct expressions of neighboring. Discuss & describe how they look like in your congregational context?

Neighboring as...



Soul Work

“Neighboring” as soul work is experiencing God’s love transform our personal lives

Neighboring in...



Groups

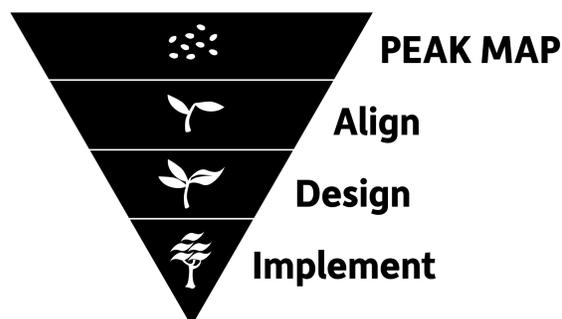
In our small groups “neighboring” happens in community when members are aware of a need and respond by serving together.

Neighboring through...



Systems

As a church we financially support a network of other churches in our area who operate vital ministries that we don’t.



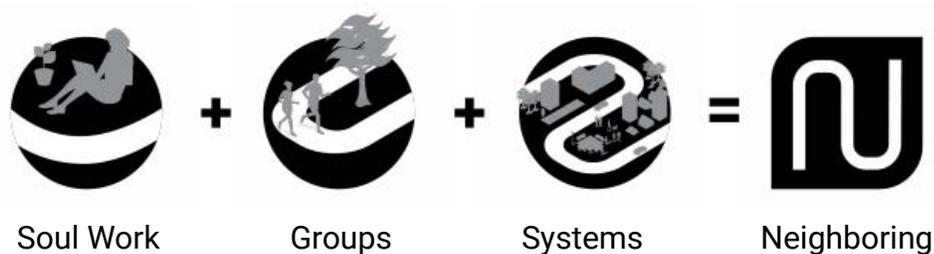
NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'N' that is filled with various icons: a graduation cap, a house, a person, and a building. To the right of the 'N' is the word 'Neighboring' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the word 'CHALLENGE' underneath it in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The word 'CHALLENGE' is underlined. To the right of 'CHALLENGE' are the words 'ALL RIGHTS RESERVED' in a small, sans-serif font.

Neighboring CHALLENGE ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Soul Work Practices Example Worksheet



BIC U.S. Core Values

1. **Experiencing God's Love and Grace.** We value the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Believing the Bible:** We value the Bible as God's authoritative Word, study it together, and build our lives on its truth.
3. **Worshiping God:** We value heartfelt worship that is God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and life-changing.
4. **Following Jesus:** We value wholehearted obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Belonging to the Community of Faith:** We value integrity in relationships and mutual accountability in an atmosphere of grace, love, and acceptance.
6. **Witnessing to the World:** We value an active and loving witness for Christ to all people.
7. **Serving Compassionately:** We value serving others at their point of need, following the example of our Lord Jesus.
8. **Pursuing Peace:** We value all human life and promote forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and non-violent resolution of conflict.
9. **Living Simply:** We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully.
10. **Relying on God:** We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.



BIC U.S. Core Value:

Belonging to the Community of Faith

What: Neighboring Soul Work practices help individuals connect their values, beliefs, and actions in personal experiences with God.

Soul Work Practice: *Participate in Sunday morning services without being rushed or distracted.*

How: Neighboring Soul Work strategies refer to the specific ways you plan to use & organize practices to connect values, beliefs, and actions.

Soul Work Strategy: *Set my alarm 15 minutes earlier on Sunday mornings this month so I'm not rushed in the morning.*

Indicator: Neighboring Soul Work measures are the specific ways individuals will know if they are on track or when to course correct if needed.

Soul Work Indicator: *I'll arrive to church before the service starts and will have had a chance to meet some new people and talk with others.*

BIC U.S. Core Value:

Serving Compassionately

What: Neighboring Soul Work practices help individuals connect their values, beliefs, and actions in personal experiences with God.

Soul Work Practice: *Pray regularly for the refugees in our community*

How: Neighboring Soul Work strategies refer to the specific ways you plan to use & organize practices to connect values, beliefs, and actions.

Soul Work Strategy: *Schedule a fast from lunch every Wednesday this month to pray for wisdom & discernment to know how to show compassion to our global neighbors.*

Indicator: Neighboring Soul Work measures are the specific ways individuals will know if they are on track or when to course correct if needed.

Soul Work Indicator: *I will have fasted 4 times this month and kept notes of my reflections on my prayers during this time in my journal.*



Soul Work



Groups



Systems

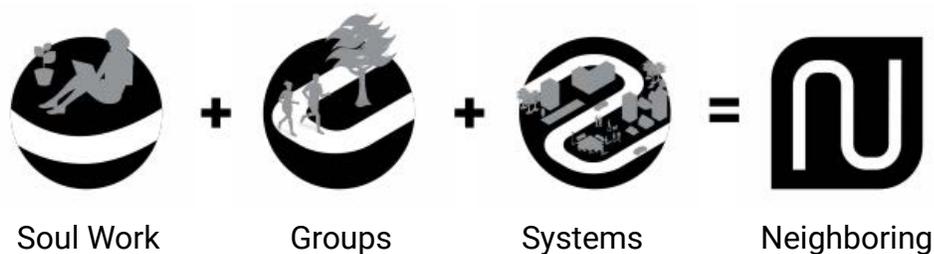


Neighboring

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'N' that is filled with various icons: a graduation cap, a house, a person, and a building. To the right of the 'N' is the text 'Neighboring' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'CHALLENGE' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. The word 'CHALLENGE' is underlined. To the right of 'CHALLENGE' is the text 'ALL RIGHTS RESERVED' in a small, sans-serif font.

Neighboring CHALLENGE ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations Group Practices Example Worksheet



BIC U.S. Core Values

1. **Experiencing God's Love and Grace.** We value the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Believing the Bible:** We value the Bible as God's authoritative Word, study it together, and build our lives on its truth.
3. **Worshiping God:** We value heartfelt worship that is God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and life-changing.
4. **Following Jesus:** We value wholehearted obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Belonging to the Community of Faith:** We value integrity in relationships and mutual accountability in an atmosphere of grace, love, and acceptance.
6. **Witnessing to the World:** We value an active and loving witness for Christ to all people.
7. **Serving Compassionately:** We value serving others at their point of need, following the example of our Lord Jesus.
8. **Pursuing Peace:** We value all human life and promote forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and non-violent resolution of conflict.
9. **Living Simply:** We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully.
10. **Relying on God:** We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.



BIC U.S. Core Value:

Serving Compassionately

What: Neighboring Group practices help people connect their values, beliefs, and actions in community with God.

Group Practice: Volunteer to help a refugee family that can't drive.

How: Neighboring Group strategies refer to the specific ways people plan to use & organize practices to connect collective values, beliefs, and actions.

Group Strategy: Divide driving responsibilities up over our group for groceries, school, and doctor appointments this month.

Indicator: Neighboring Group measures are the specific ways groups will know if they are on track or when to course correct if needed.

Group Indicator: Our group will create a driving schedule that gets our refugee family to all their meetings and appointments this month.

BIC U.S. Core Value:

Believing the Bible

What: Neighboring Group practices help people connect their values, beliefs, and actions in community with God.

Group Practice: Meet together every other Thursday night.

How: Neighboring Group strategies refer to the specific ways people plan to use & organize practices to connect collective values, beliefs, and actions.

Group Strategy: Study the book of Matthew over the next 6 weeks.

Indicator: Neighboring Group measures are the specific ways groups will know if they are on track or when to course correct if needed.

Group Indicator: Our group will meet regularly and complete our study in 6 weeks.



Soul Work



Groups



Systems



Neighboring



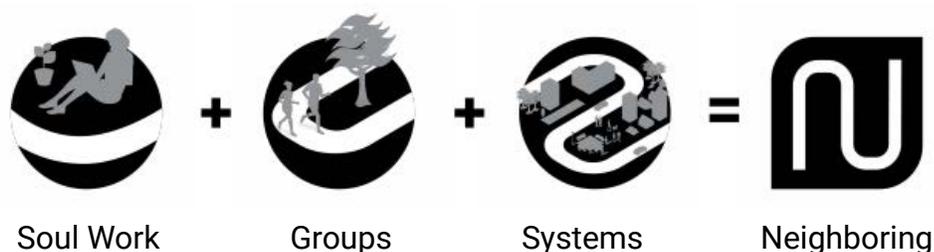
Neighboring

CHALLENGE

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Systems Practices Example Worksheet



BIC U.S. Core Values

1. **Experiencing God's Love and Grace.** We value the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Believing the Bible:** We value the Bible as God's authoritative Word, study it together, and build our lives on its truth.
3. **Worshiping God:** We value heartfelt worship that is God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and life-changing.
4. **Following Jesus:** We value wholehearted obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Belonging to the Community of Faith:** We value integrity in relationships and mutual accountability in an atmosphere of grace, love, and acceptance.
6. **Witnessing to the World:** We value an active and loving witness for Christ to all people.
7. **Serving Compassionately:** We value serving others at their point of need, following the example of our Lord Jesus.
8. **Pursuing Peace:** We value all human life and promote forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and non-violent resolution of conflict.
9. **Living Simply:** We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully.
10. **Relying on God:** We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.



BIC U.S. Core Value:

Serving Compassionately

What: Neighboring System practices help congregations & organizations connect their values, beliefs, and actions in mutually beneficial ways.

System Practice: *Create a partnership with a local refugee resettlement organization*

How: Neighboring System strategies refer to the specific ways congregations & organizations plan to use & organize practices in mutually beneficial networks.

System Strategy: *Meet with Church World Services representatives to determine current needs & identify potential individuals or families we could support.*

Indicator: Neighboring System measures are the specific ways congregations & organizations know if they are staying on track or when to course correct if needed.

System Indicator: *Pastors will make a recommendation to the church board on next steps.*

BIC U.S. Core Value:

Pursuing Peace

What: Neighboring System practices help congregations & organizations connect their values, beliefs, and actions in mutually beneficial ways.

System Practice: *Collaborate with local churches & prison Chaplin(s) on prison ministries.*

How: Neighboring System strategies refer to the specific ways congregations & organizations plan to use & organize practices in mutually beneficial networks.

System Strategy: *Convene local prison ministry stakeholders to coordinate opportunities for congregation members to get involved in existing programs.*

Indicator: Neighboring System measures are the specific ways congregations & organizations know if they are staying on track or when to course correct if needed.

System Indicator: *Interested congregation members will report that they have found meaningful ways to get involved in existing prison ministries.*





BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations
Congregational Survey & Mapping Ideas



NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations Bulletin Survey Example

God is at work all the time and everywhere! As part of our Thriving Congregations initiative, we would like to better understand the valuable resources within our congregation and identity potential points of connection with neighbors around us. Please take 5 minutes to complete this short survey and tell us a little about yourself.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Full Home Address: _____ (Include City, State, Zip)

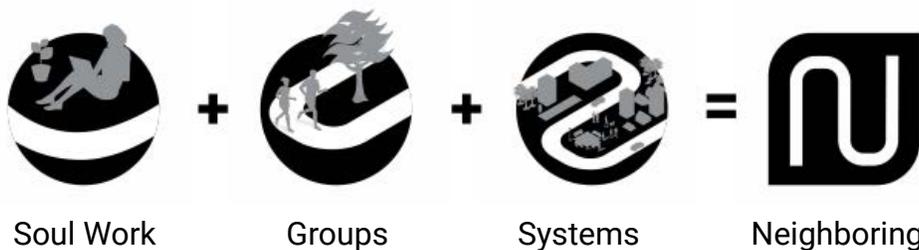
What are some of your recent professional interests / experiences?

Do you currently serve or volunteer in the community? If so, please tell us a little about what you do.

Do you have any experiences and/or skills that you would like us to know about?

Thank you for sharing!

(Please feel free to use the back of this insert to share anything else you think could be helpful in making connections with our neighbors.)



BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations Congregational Mapping Ideas

Post a large map of the area surrounding your church on a bulletin board or foam board in a common gathering area at your church. Instruct congregants to use provided push pins to locate where they live in proximity to the church building.



Mapping the Body of Christ

Using 1 Corinthians 12 as a guide, create the shape of an individual to represent the Body of Christ. Ask individuals to post their post-its or sticky dots onto the areas of the body that best represents that gift or talent. For example, the ability to listen can be indicated by sticking the post-it to the ear. Consider these as guides...



Heart - those things about which you are passionate.



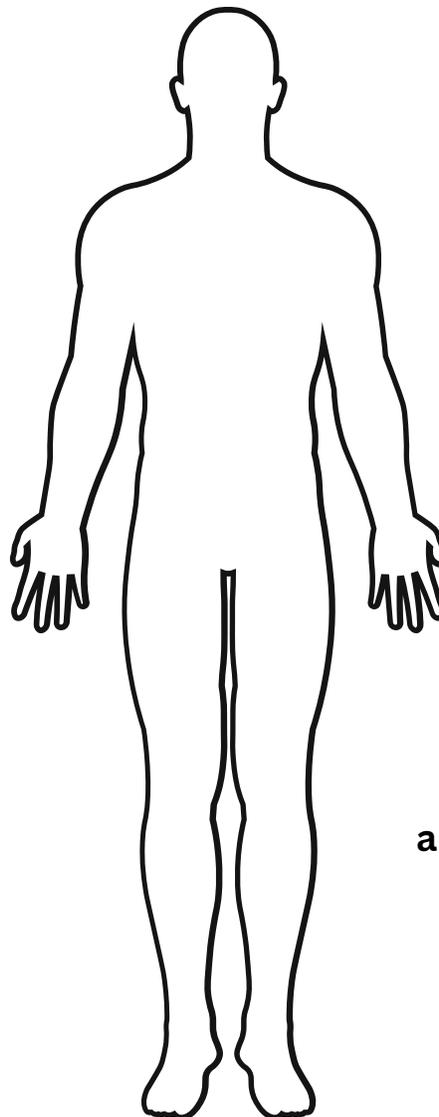
Head - those things you are good at with your brain.



Hand - those things you can do with your hands



Human - important relationships in your neighborhood, community, and beyond. People you ask to get things done.



*This activity is taken from the Episcopal Church .





Harrisburg Brethren In Christ Digital Mapping Example

A gifted member of the church familiar with ACRGIS mapping software, calculated boundaries from the church building in increments of 30 minute drive time, 15 minute drive time, and 15 minute walk times. Once these boundaries were created, he then joined the number of congregation households from the church directory within those boundaries revealing the following counts:

30 minute drive: 266

15 minute drive: 216

15 minute walk: 27

These households were then also joined to a municipality layer, revealing the counts of households in each municipality as follows:

72 - HARRISBURG	5 - CARLISLE
31 - LOWER PAXTON	5 - NEW CUMBERLAND
27 - SUSQUEHANNA	4 - PENBROOK
13 - UPPER ALLEN	4 - SILVER SPRING
12 - SWATARA	4 - LOWER ALLEN
8 - LOWER SWATARA	3 - MIDDLETOWN
8 - CAMP HILL	3 - FAIRVIEW
8 - PAXTANG	2 - NORTH MIDDLETON
8 - HAMPDEN	2 - LEMOYNE
7 - EAST PENNSBORO	2 - MONROE
7 - MECHANICSBURG	2 - HUMMELSTOWN
6 - STEELTON	2 - WORMLEYSBURG
5 - DERRY	2 - CARROLL
5 - WEST HANOVER	2 - MIDDLE PAXTON

Here is a breakdown by Harrisburg neighborhoods:

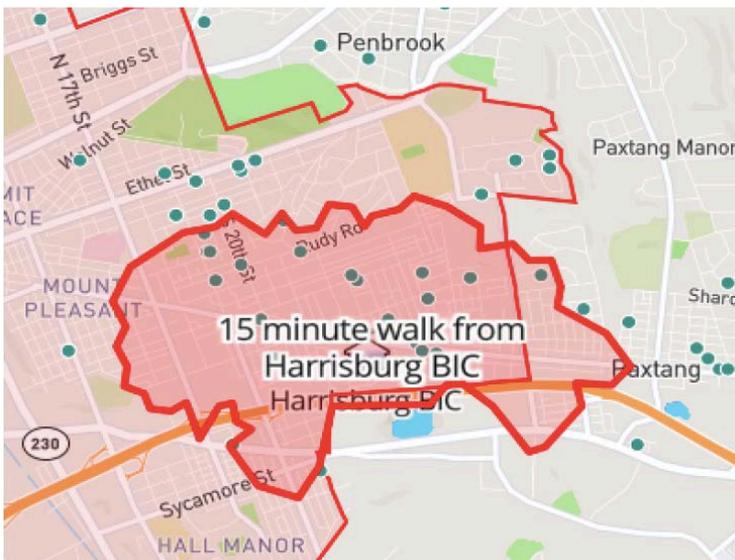
- 22 - East Harrisburg (area around church/Bellevue Park)
- 17 - South Allison Hill
- 12 - Midtown
- 8 - Uptown
- 6 - Downtown
- 5 - North Allison Hill
- 1 - Cameron Street Corridor
- 1 - South Harrisburg



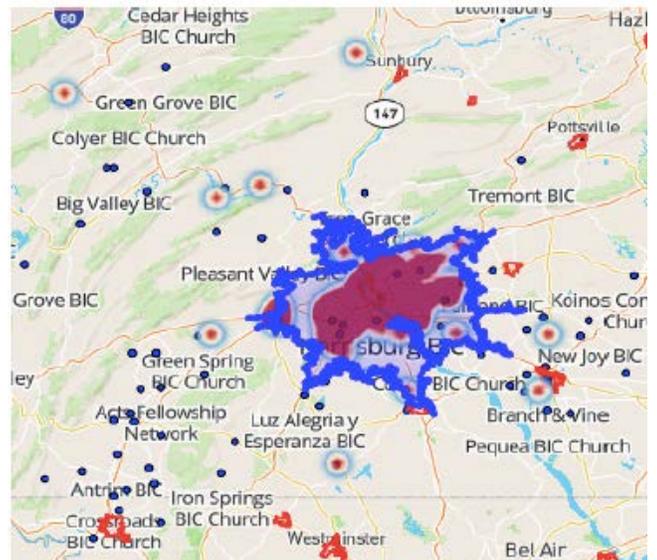
NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

MissionInsite Custom Maps for Harrisburg Brethren In Christ

Study Area: 15 minute walk from Harrisburg BIC



Study Area: 30 minute drive from Harrisburg BIC



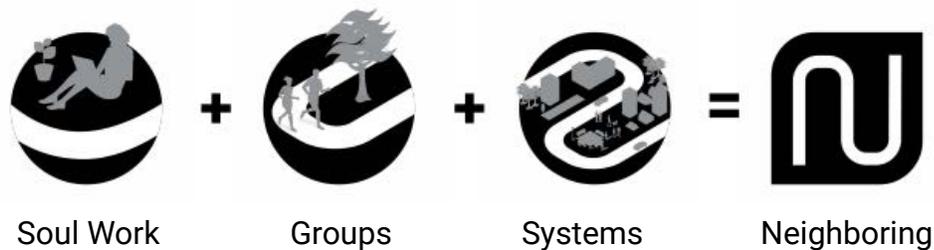
The logo features a large, stylized letter 'N' that is filled with various icons: a graduation cap, a house, a person, and a building. To the right of this 'N' is the word 'Neighboring' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the word 'CHALLENGE' in a smaller, all-caps, bold, sans-serif font below it. To the right of 'CHALLENGE' are the words 'ALL RIGHTS RESERVED' in a small, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Neighboring CHALLENGE

ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED

BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Getting Started on a Listening Tour



Participating in a Stakeholder Meeting

Jesus met people where they are! As we try to do the same with our neighbors, you might want to get creative and look for local opportunities where you can listen to your neighbors who don't worship with you. While these opportunities may vary greatly depending on where you worship, there are common spaces that exist where public participation is encouraged. Here are some places to look for where you could attend and listen to how neighbors are discussing important systems at work in the neighborhood:

- **Municipal Meetings:** City council and school board meetings are places you can go to listen to what's literally on the agenda of local elected leaders. Public meetings like these will post the locations and times you can attend off their municipal websites. When you arrive, you may be asked to check in and times for public comment will be announced by whoever is facilitating.
- **Economic Development Groups:** Many regions will have active economic development networks or Chambers of Commerce. These groups often discuss more than just profit margins. If you take the initiative to participate, you may find refreshing receptivity to creative & innovative ideas that promise to create thriving communities.
- **Local Neighborhood Associations:** Different than home owners associations (HOA's), local neighborhood associations are usually open to anyone in the neighborhood who would like to come and listen to neighbors discuss their priorities. Hearing local perspectives in a setting like this may help you compare and contrast what kinds of things neighbors are thinking about with what your congregation is contemplating.





Planning a Stakeholder Meeting

An important part of any Listening Tour is to design an experience to hear from key stakeholders. Here are some ideas / recommendations to help you get started:

- Start by asking yourself the question, “Why is it important for you to hear from neighbors outside of your congregation?”. Your answers will help you state goals for this listening session.
- Create an agenda for a 90 minute meeting. Clearly state your goals making sure that your primary purpose is to listen to your guests. Toward that end, ensure that at least 45 minutes are devoted to hearing community partners respond to guiding questions like:
 - What are the strengths of our neighborhood?
 - What are your hopes for our neighborhood?
 - Where do you see opportunities for our congregation?
 - How could we improve resident support for neighboring?
- Review the inventory of local churches & non-profits that you put together in Session 4. Have you had positive past experiences with any of them? Does anyone in your congregation have a connection? Consider inviting 16 - 24 leaders in the hopes that 8-12 will be able to participate from organizations that share your values and/or provide complementary services to your existing outreach efforts.
- Determine a date, time, and location that works for you the members of your congregational leadership team and then send invitations out at least a month in advance of the event. Be clear about your goals in the invitation and include the meeting agenda as well as guiding questions and directions for how you would like to handle RSVP’s. (Of note, offering food, refreshments, and accessible parking is always an added bonus!)



Walking Your Neighborhood



Below is an example of a walking map around the neighborhood where Harrisburg Brethren In Christ Church (HBIC) is located. HBIC is an urban congregation so numbered zones were created & assigned to members to walk by city block in small groups of 3-4 in each. The walk took about an hour for groups to complete on a summer Wednesday evening before dark. Walk participants took note of the different types of homes, businesses, schools, and non profits in near proximity to the church building. They also handed out flyers for Vacation Bible School to residents they met along the way. As they felt led, they prayed for the neighborhood as they walked. Groups then reconvened at the church to share their experiences, ask questions, reflect on what they saw, and pray.



NEIGHBORING GROUP
Partner

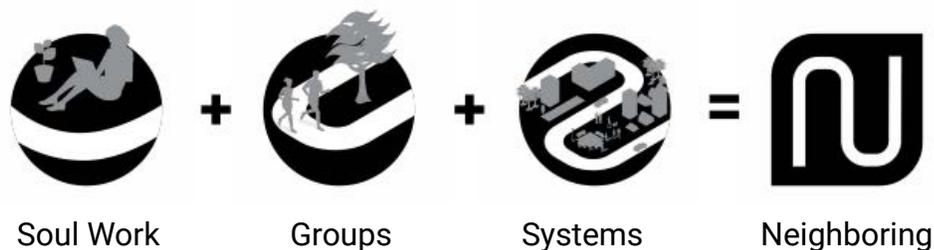
The logo features a large, stylized letter 'N' that is filled with various icons: a tree, a person, a house, and a building. To the right of the 'N' is the word 'Neighboring' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'CHALLENGE' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. To the right of 'CHALLENGE' is the text 'ALL RIGHTS RESERVED' in a small, bold, sans-serif font.

Neighboring CHALLENGE

ALL RIGHTS
RESERVED

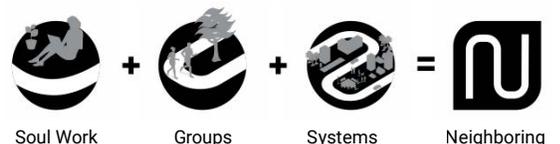
BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Community Ministry Project Example



BIC U.S. Core Values

1. **Experiencing God's Love and Grace.** We value the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Believing the Bible:** We value the Bible as God's authoritative Word, study it together, and build our lives on its truth.
3. **Worshiping God:** We value heartfelt worship that is God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and life-changing.
4. **Following Jesus:** We value wholehearted obedience to Christ Jesus through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. **Belonging to the Community of Faith:** We value integrity in relationships and mutual accountability in an atmosphere of grace, love, and acceptance.
6. **Witnessing to the World:** We value an active and loving witness for Christ to all people.
7. **Serving Compassionately:** We value serving others at their point of need, following the example of our Lord Jesus.
8. **Pursuing Peace:** We value all human life and promote forgiveness, understanding, reconciliation, and non-violent resolution of conflict.
9. **Living Simply:** We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully.
10. **Relying on God:** We confess our dependence on God for everything, and seek to deepen our intimacy with Him by living prayerfully.



BIC U.S. Core Value: *Serving Compassionately*

What: **Neighboring Practice**

Supporting our refugee neighbors

Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves

Focused & consistent prayer

Groups: Relating to Others

Pair small groups with refugee families / individuals

Systems: Engaging Organizations *Partner with Church World Services*

How: **Neighboring Strategy**

Establish a ministry team to coordinate efforts.

Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves

Write specific prayers on slips of paper that members can take after church and use to guide their prayers throughout the week.

Groups: Relating to Others

Hold a series of trainings to help participating small groups understand the immigration process and best practices to empower others and avoid dependency.

Systems: Engaging Organizations

Identify a point person to liaison regularly with Church World Services.

Indicator: **Neighboring Measure**

The ministry team will meet monthly and provide meeting minutes and updates to pastoral staff.

Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves

Members will be encouraged to share how prayer is shaping them during select Sunday morning services.

Groups: Relating to Others

80% of all small group members will participate in a ministry team training.

Systems: Engaging Organizations

When asked, Church World Services will be able to accurately describe the current activities of the ministry team.



Soul Work



Groups



Systems



Neighboring

