



# Neighboring CHALLENGE

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BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations



NEIGHBORING GROUP  
Partner

# Coaching Guide



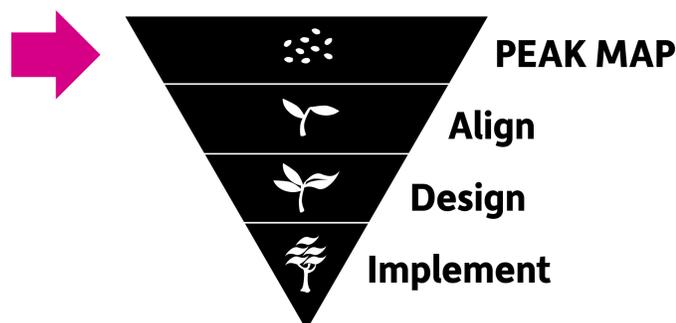
The Neighboring Challenge guides CLCs through 7 sessions that are designed to help them explore & describe neighboring as a practice that has 3 distinct expressions. As they reflect on each of these expressions within their particular congregational context, coaches help them align with BIC U.S. Core Values to become more focused & deliberate in making loving connections with their neighbors.

Using the PEAK MAP exercise as a starting point, CLCs will build on existing strengths to align 1 BIC U.S. Core Value with 1 community engagement practice that has 3 distinct expressions in a sustainable Community Ministry Project.

What would it look like if we took the Great Commandment (Matthew 22: 37-40) literally? There are no easy answers to a big question like that. If, however, God's love has changed our lives in any meaningful way, then let's start there. The Neighboring Challenge begins with experiencing the transforming love of God in our personal lives, before moving outward to explore how we love our neighbors around us in small groups and engage our neighborhoods through systems.

#### Coaching resources include:

- Self-Assessment Inventory
- Worksheets for the expressions of
  - Soul Work
  - Groups
  - Systems
- Community Ministry Project proposal support



## **Session 1**

- Coaching Guide
- Session 1: “Neighboring From Our Core Values”
- Develop a Working Definition of Neighboring Worksheet
- Three Expressions of “Neighboring” Worksheet
- Neighboring Self-Assessment

## **Session 2:**

- Session 2 Worksheet: “Neighboring As Soul Work”
- Soul Work Practices Worksheet (With Example)

## **Session 3:**

- Session 3 Worksheet: “Neighboring In Groups”
- Groups Practices Worksheet (With Example)

## **Session 4:**

- Session 4 Worksheet: “Neighboring In Systems”
- Systems Practices Worksheet (With Example)

## **Session 5:**

- Session 5 Worksheet: “Listening To Your Neighbors”
- Survey & Mapping Ideas

## **Session 6:**

- Session 6 Worksheet: “Goal Setting With Neighbors”
- Getting Started on a Listening Tour

## **Session 7:**

- Session 7 Worksheet: “Preparing A Proposal”
- Community Ministry Project Worksheet (With Example)

**\*Complete Online Community Ministry Project Proposal**

## Session 1: Neighboring From Our Core Values

“For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ~ Galatians 5:14

### Summary

If everyone is our “neighbor” then no one really is. Neighboring isn’t an abstract idea. It is a practice that begins from being loved by God. As we are transformed by God’s love we become capable of loving others. Neighboring has different expressions that can create deep connections of belonging. Our core values guide our approach to neighboring and our postures toward others.

### Challenge Questions

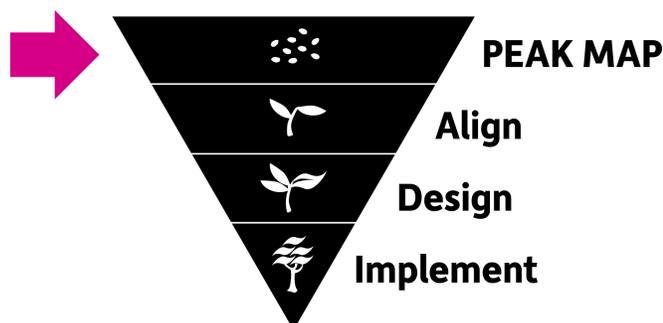
1. What is the difference between “neighboring” and discipleship?
2. What is the difference between “neighboring” and outreach?
3. What is the difference between “neighboring” and worship?

### Activity

1. Develop a short working definition of “neighboring” as a verb and discuss what the 3 expressions of neighboring looks like in your congregation.
2. Take the Neighboring Self-Assessment
3. Identify the geographic boundaries that constitute the local neighborhood around your place of worship. Consider this to be an area of focused ministry.

### PEAK Connections

1. Session I: MORE
2. Session II: PEAK Report



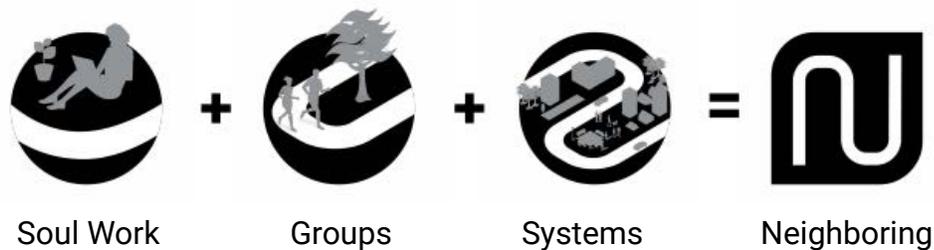
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# Neighboring CHALLENGE

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Defining “Neighboring”



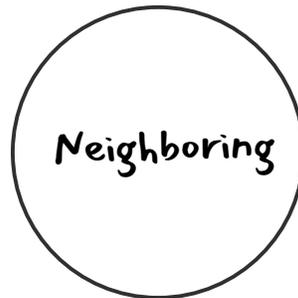
# A Working Definition of “Neighboring”



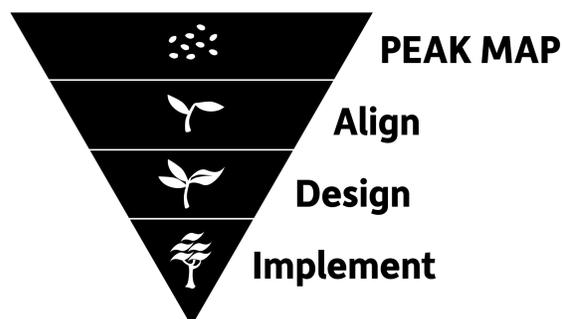
What first comes to mind when you think about “neighboring”?

Visualize connections to “neighboring”.

Include key connections to themes in your PEAK M.A.P.



Create a short working definition of “neighboring”...



# 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 in...

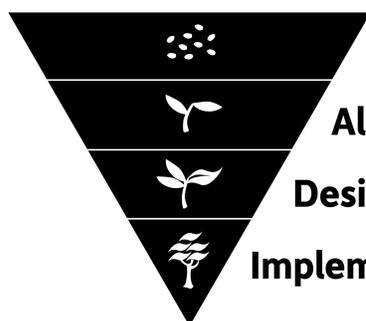


Groups

Neighboring through...



Systems



**PEAK MAP**

**Align**

**Design**

**Implement**



**NEIGHBORING GROUP  
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## Session 2: Neighboring As Soul Work

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ~ Jeremiah 1:5

### Summary

God knows us better than we know ourselves. What a profound mystery to be made in the image of God. We are able to practice Value-Based Neighboring because of the transformative work of God’s great love, grace, and healing in our lives. Neighboring as “soul work” serves to connect us to the image of God within.

### Challenge Questions

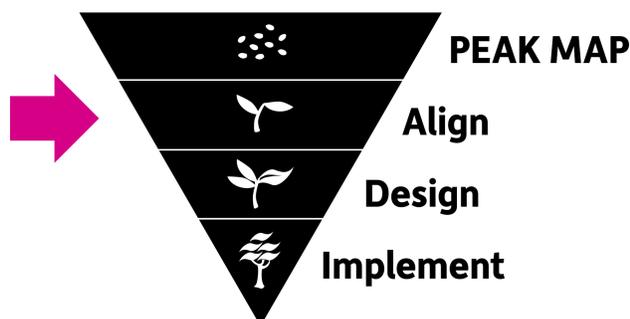
1. In what ways are you a stranger to yourself? What does neighboring look like in your spiritual development?
2. What do you think about being made in the image of God? What do you feel?
3. Where is God working in you to cultivate the “Fruits of the Spirit”?

### Activity

Choose 2 BIC U.S. Core Values that resonate with you. Use the Neighboring worksheet to align these values with a practice that helps you experience God (E.g. Perhaps a spiritual discipline like prayer). In the “How” section, share ways you hope to employ that practice going forward. Under the “Indicator” section, note how you will know if you are staying on track. with your plan.

### PEAK Connections

1. Session III: COMPASS
2. Session V: STORY



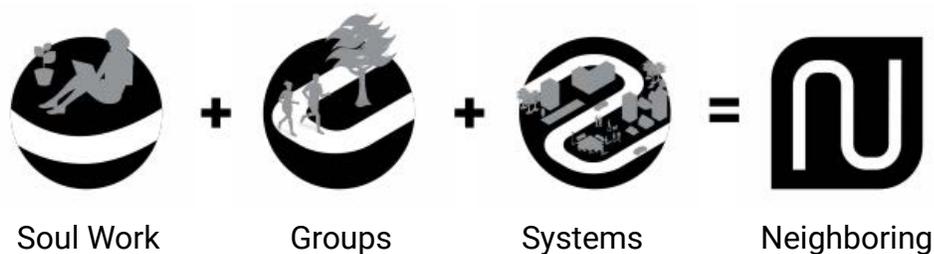


# Neighboring

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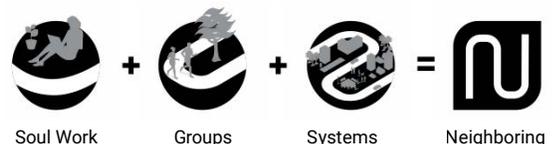
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BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations  
Soul Work Practices Worksheet



# 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:

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

**Soul Work Practice:**

**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:**

**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:**

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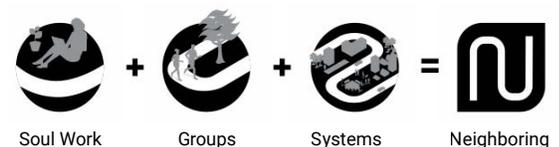
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**Soul Work Indicator:**



## Session 3: Neighboring In Groups

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “ and I will send you out to fish for people.”

~ Matthew 4:19

### Summary

The ability to practice neighboring comes from God’s transformative love which is the most powerful and sustainable force in the universe! When groups of people gather together to experience and express this love, it creates a different kind of sacred belonging. Neighboring that is motivated by God’s love, creates a special kind of social & spiritual bond among people.

### Challenge Questions

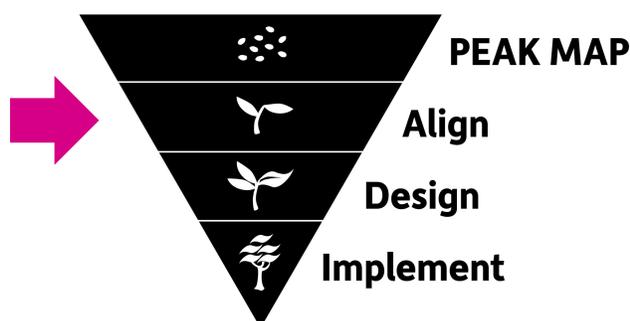
1. What BIC U.S. Core Value(s) does your group bond around?
2. In your group, where do you see God working in and through others?
3. How does your group bond & bridge with other groups within & outside of your congregation?

### Activity

Using your responses to the Challenge Questions above, complete the Group Practices Worksheet to help you align BIC U.S. Core Values with group neighboring practices.

### PEAK Connections

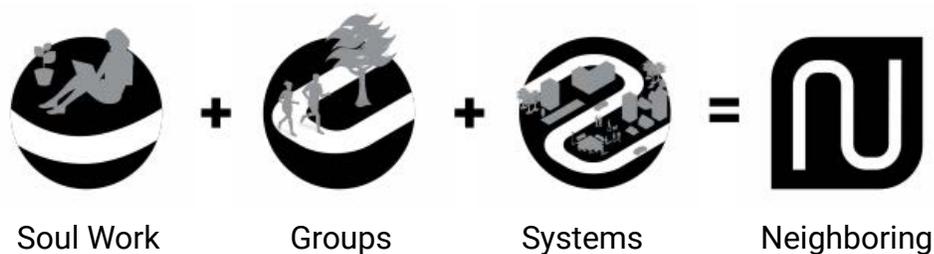
1. Session III: COMPASS
2. Session VI: The MAP



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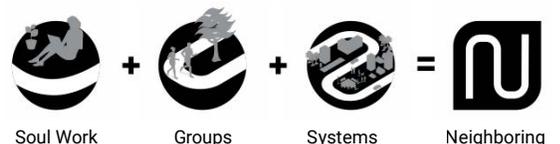
# Neighboring CHALLENGE ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

## BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations Group Practices Worksheet



# BIC U.S. Core Values

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## BIC U.S. Core Value:

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

**Group Practice:**

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

**Group Strategy:**

**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:**

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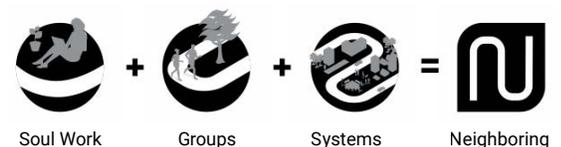
**Group Practice:**

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

**Group Strategy:**

**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:**



## Session 4: Neighboring In Systems

“Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher”, he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”” ~ Luke 10:25

### Summary

Congregations exist in neighborhoods that are constantly being shaped by a complex network of institutions & organizations. This network is composed of systems & structures that create, sustain, and perpetuate the places around us. Value-Based Neighboring uses our BIC U.S. Core Values to compare & contrast the values currently operating in the neighborhood.

### Challenge Questions

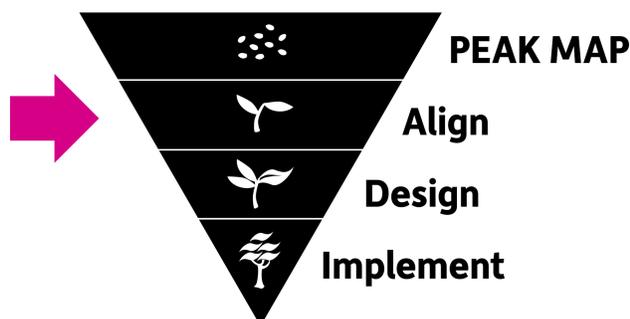
1. What systems are at work in your neighborhood? What organizations represent them?
2. How did your congregation originate within the neighborhood?
3. Does your congregation have active partnerships with community organizations or networks serving this neighborhood?

### Activity

1. Know Your History! Situate your congregation’s origin story within the history of the larger neighborhood. Describe important events and/or historical markers that shaped both the congregation & community. (1-2 pages max)
2. Inventory the churches & non-profits physically located in your neighborhood. Identify what services they provide and where gaps exist. Of note, check to see if a list has already been compiled. ( E.g. The United Way is a resource.)

### PEAK Connections

1. Session IV: The Impact
2. Session V: Story





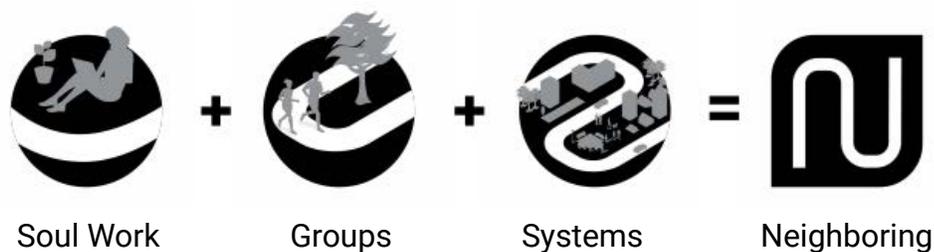
# Neighboring

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## BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

### Systems Practices Worksheet



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## BIC U.S. Core Value:

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

**System Practice:**

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

**System Strategy:**

**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:**

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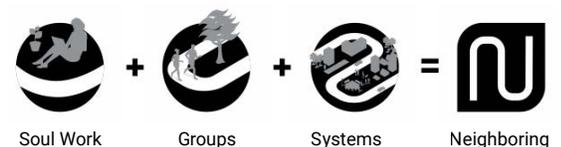
**System Practice:**

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**System Strategy:**

**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:**



## Session 5: Listening To Your Neighbors

“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” ~ James 2:17

### Summary

The good news of Jesus is a profoundly good gift that we are privileged to share with our neighbors and each other both in word & deed. However, for this gift to be recognized & received by our neighbors, we need to meet them where they are and listen carefully to them. Fortunately, others are also engaging our neighbors so let’s look for opportunities to discern what we learn together.

### Challenge Questions

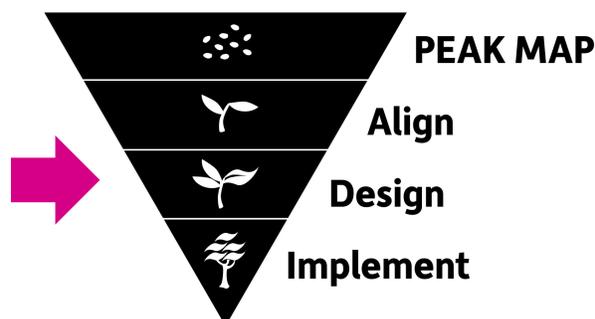
1. How did your neighborhood originate? Who knows the history of your place?
2. What are the “anchors” in your neighborhood? (Anchors are well established and well known stabilizing organizations or institutions.)
3. How are goals identified and prioritized for your neighborhood?

### Activity

1. Map your membership. Visualize where congregants live in proximity to where you gather to worship. How many are within walking, biking, driving distance? (Refer to the Survey & Mapping Membership Ideas in the Appendix for creative ideas on how to involve your congregation.)
2. Survey members to also understand where they work, serve, and the experiences / skills that they have. (These are important forms of capital.)

### PEAK Connections

1. Session IV: The Impact



## Session 6: Goal Setting with Neighbors

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” ~  
Matthew 6:10

### Summary

Values-Based Neighboring is an expression of how we see the world around us. If we don't meaningfully involve neighbors in our planning efforts to engage the community, neighboring can quickly turn into something we do “to” others and not “with” them. Neighboring expressions that we undertake on our own might enable us to launch something quickly, but it rarely lasts.

### Challenge Questions

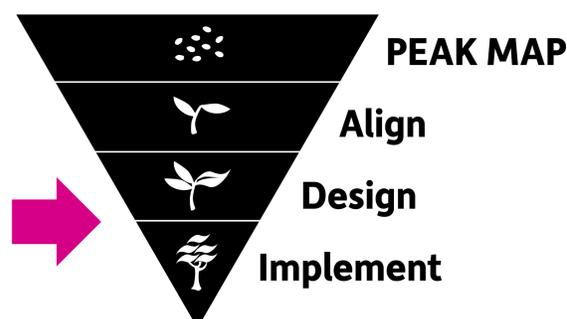
1. How can you involve neighbors who share your values but not your beliefs?
2. How will you identify who to invite to inform your neighboring work?
3. How will you gather feedback from your neighbors?

### Activity

1. Go on a “Listening Tour”. Share a summary of results from Dimension 5 of your Neighboring Self-Assessment with an invited group of representatives from the organizations you identified in Session 4. Ask them for feedback & suggestions on how to best hear from representative local residents to help you clarify the Neighboring Self-Assessment results from Dimension 4.

### PEAK Connections

1. Session IV: “The Impact”
2. Session VI: “MAP”



## Session 7: Preparing A Community Ministry Proposal

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world...” ~ Ephesians 6:12

### Summary

Values-Based Neighboring is an iterative process. It is more of an “art” than a “science” as we learn to adapt our best laid plans in conversation with God & others. Keeping this in mind, this session takes a snapshot of what you have learned so far and helps you organize it into a Community Ministry Project grant proposal.

### Challenge Questions

1. What kinds of capital will your need to implement your project? (Consider more than just financial capital like social capital, intellectual capital, etc.)
2. How does involving neighbors change your PEAK M.A.P. project timeline?
3. What strategic partners would you like to ask to work with you? (Refer to the inventory of churches and non-profits you created in Session 4.)

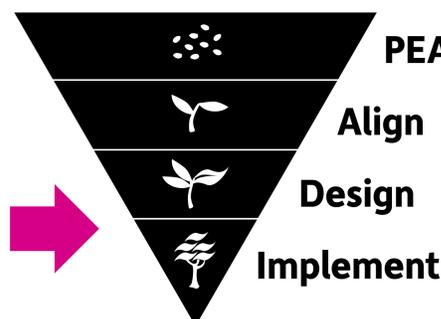
### Activity

1. Reflect on the results of your Session 2-4 worksheets. Which BIC U.S. Core Values were selected the most by your congregational leadership team? Choose one of these to become the value focus of your Community Ministry Project (CMP). Use the CMP worksheet to help you align your Neighboring practices, strategies, and measures around this focusing value.

## Next Step: Create your Community Ministry Proposal Online

### PEAK Connections

1. Session IV: “The Impact”
2. Session VI: “M.A.P.”



Website link to be emailed!



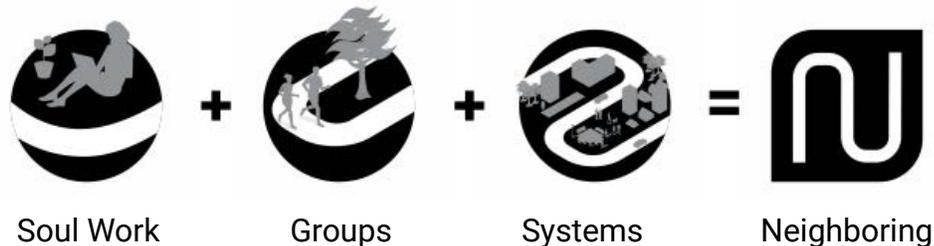
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BIC U.S. Thriving Congregations

Community Ministry Project Worksheet



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# BIC U.S. Core Value:

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## What: Neighboring Practice

**Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves**

**Groups: Relating to Others**

**Systems: Engaging Organizations**

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## How: Neighboring Strategy

**Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves**

**Groups: Relating to Others**

**Systems: Engaging Organizations**

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## Indicator: Neighboring Measure

**Soul Work: Knowing Ourselves**

**Groups: Relating to Others**

**Systems: Engaging Organizations**

