



Barnabas Principle Summary¹

What does it mean to be a Barnabas today?

- Begin with the big picture
- Arrange structures strategically
- Retain and recruit newcomers
- Nurture fellow leaders and stewards
- Ask for direction and support
- Become a church for the community
- Analyze the budget and giving patterns
- Specify a pledging plan

Consider the character of Barnabas in the book of Acts:

“There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means ‘son of encouragement’). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:36-37).

Begin with the big picture

- How do we define our roles as vestry members/leaders in our church?
- What was the vision of the church when it was founded?
- How has that vision altered, evolved, or changed in the years since the founding? What can our timeline tell us? Create a Heritage Committee do this homework.
- How would we define the vision of the church right now? What is in our Sacred Bundle?

Arrange structures strategically

- Do all our structures line up with our defining principles and vision?

Retain and recruit newcomers

- Target your advertising
- Take a field trip of your communications system, your property, and your services
- Be ambassadors and not simply greeters
- Create an ongoing record of newcomers
- Pray for newcomers
- Create a “membership moment” and an “invitation-only” information event

¹ Used with permission.

Nurture fellow leaders and stewards

- Empower others from early on
- Think of those whom you would like to mentor
- Consider how you can share what you have learned from your time in leadership
- Make exit interviews standard procedure for volunteers & staff

Ask for direction and support

- Pray
- Seek the feedback and ideas of the Council of the Wise
- Grade yourselves on key areas of ministry
- Understand conflict and how to move through it

Become a church for the community

- Consider the needs of the community and how to engage them, and not only the obvious needs
- Create a Horizons Committee to do the homework

Analyze the budget and giving patterns

- Examine giving patterns in terms of age/generation, length of time involved in church, geographic area, service attended

Specify a strategic pledging plan

- Break predictable timing patterns (October in Church = April 15th!)
- Move towards a year-round approach (There are reasons for the seasons!)
- Consider your church's timeline; make the most of your heritage
- Create a Vestry stewardship statement, signed "unanimously and enthusiastically"
- Personalize the pledge program