

	8 Strengths of Congregations

- | | |
|--|---|
| | Strength to: |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Accompany■ Pray■ Give Sanctuary■ Connect■ Frame and Tell Stories■ Endure■ Bless■ Convene |

- | | |
|--|--|
| | Strength to Accompany |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Be present■ Come together■ Foundational to all other strengths■ Helping Roles |

	<p>Strength to Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prayer moves us to the boundary of holy and human ■ Many different forms of prayer ■ Prayer pushes and pulls us into places that are new or uncomfortable ■ Ritual
--	--

	<p>Strength to Give Sanctuary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Physical space for programs or refuge ■ Safe space for raising questions, sharing pain, ■ Space for community
--	--

	<p>Strength to Connect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Makes resources visible ■ Depends on how much members reveal to each other ■ Complexities yield fruit ■ Tangible grows from intangible
--	---

	<p>Strength to Frame/Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Place little story in context of Big Story ■ Drawing new frame around event ■ Awareness of multiple characters, plots and roles ■ Rewrite shared narrative
--	---

	<p>Strength to Endure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rejection of human time frames ■ No success or failure is ultimate ■ Kairos vs. Chronos ■ Intergenerational potential
--	---

	<p>Strength to Bless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Key to deep change/metanoia ■ Must happen within context of community ■ Critical for ministry with marginalized ■ Profound links with healing and change ■ Forgiveness
--	--

	Strength to Convene
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sharing of real needs and concerns ■ Diverse groups meet around common concerns ■ Micro and macro

	Mining the Strengths		
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>How do we find them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expect them ■ Call their names ■ Look in the roles ■ Listen for stories ■ Look for functions </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>How do we build them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make them visible ■ Enhance role capacity by training ■ Use them ■ Use them some more ■ Iron Rule </td> </tr> </table>	<p>How do we find them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expect them ■ Call their names ■ Look in the roles ■ Listen for stories ■ Look for functions 	<p>How do we build them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make them visible ■ Enhance role capacity by training ■ Use them ■ Use them some more ■ Iron Rule
<p>How do we find them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expect them ■ Call their names ■ Look in the roles ■ Listen for stories ■ Look for functions 	<p>How do we build them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make them visible ■ Enhance role capacity by training ■ Use them ■ Use them some more ■ Iron Rule 		

	How do we build them?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expect them. We expect gaps and needs, not strengths ■ Call their names. They live in specific people. Who is it here that does this? ■ Look in the roles. How does the role hold the strength? ■ Listen for the stories. No heroic abstractions. ■ Look for functions

How do we build them?

- Make them visible. Hold people accountable by the fact that they're already there.
- Enhance role capacity through training. Building intelligence and capacity about the strengths that are there.
- Use them.
- Use them some more.
- Iron Rule. Never do for anyone what they can do for themselves
