



ST. SOPHIA, Ss. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

***Vision &
Strategic
Planning -
WHY
Discovery
Part 2***

Dr. Bill Marianes



STEWARDSHIP
CALLING



[StewardshipCalling.com](https://stewardshipcalling.com)

Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

Strategic Planning

Scroll down to St. Sophia page

WHY?	STEWARDSHIP	STRATEGIC PLANNING	INTERNET RADIO & PODCASTS	KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP	RESOURCES
PERSONAL		HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH OF UGANDA			
		ST. SOPHIA JEFFERSONVILLE, PA STRATEGIC PLAN			
		SAMPLE S.M.A.R.T GOAL & ACTION PLANS			
		BOSTON METROPOLIS – THRIVING CONGREGATIONS TRAINING PROGRAMS ON PARISH STRATEGIC PLANNING			
		ST. SOPHIA UKRAINIAN SEMINARY			

St. Sophia Jeffersonville, PA is undertaking a strategic planning process. This incredible work is under the inspired leadership of Father Symeon Williams. This Core Team will be supplemented with an additional 40+ parishioners. The ongoing work of our very diverse and extensive Strategic Planning Team

ST. SOPHIA, Ss. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF VALLEY FORGE

St. Sophia Ukrainian Seminary

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<https://stewardshipcalling.com/st-sophia-jefferson-pa-strategic-plan/>

WHY

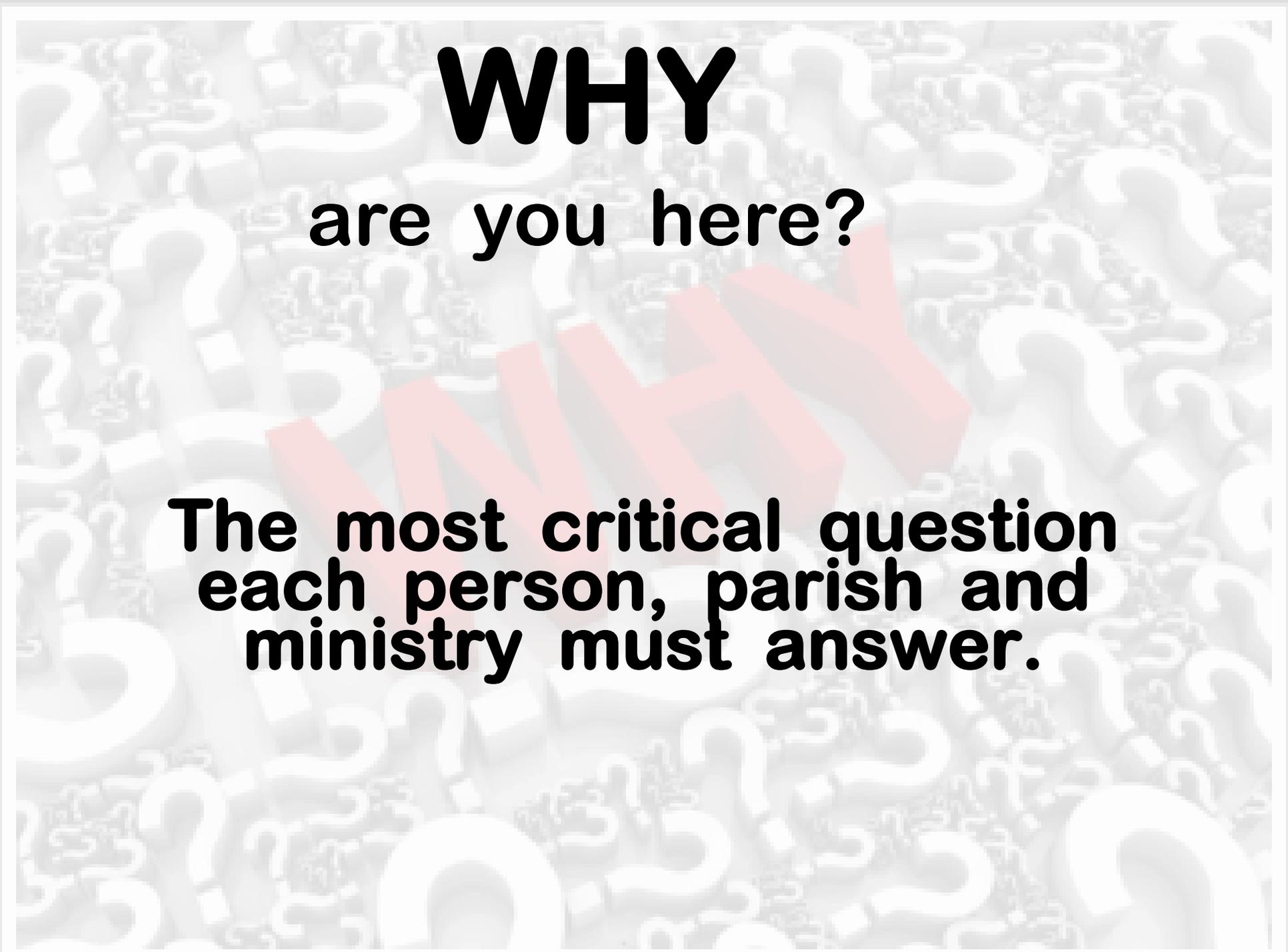
are you here?

The most critical question each person, parish and ministry must answer.



**“The mystery of human
existence lies not in just
staying alive, but in finding
something to live for.”**

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky -

The background of the slide is a light gray field filled with numerous white question marks of varying sizes and orientations. In the center, there is a large, semi-transparent red hand with fingers spread, reaching upwards towards the text.

WHY
are you here?

**The most critical question
each person, parish and
ministry must answer.**

WHY Statement

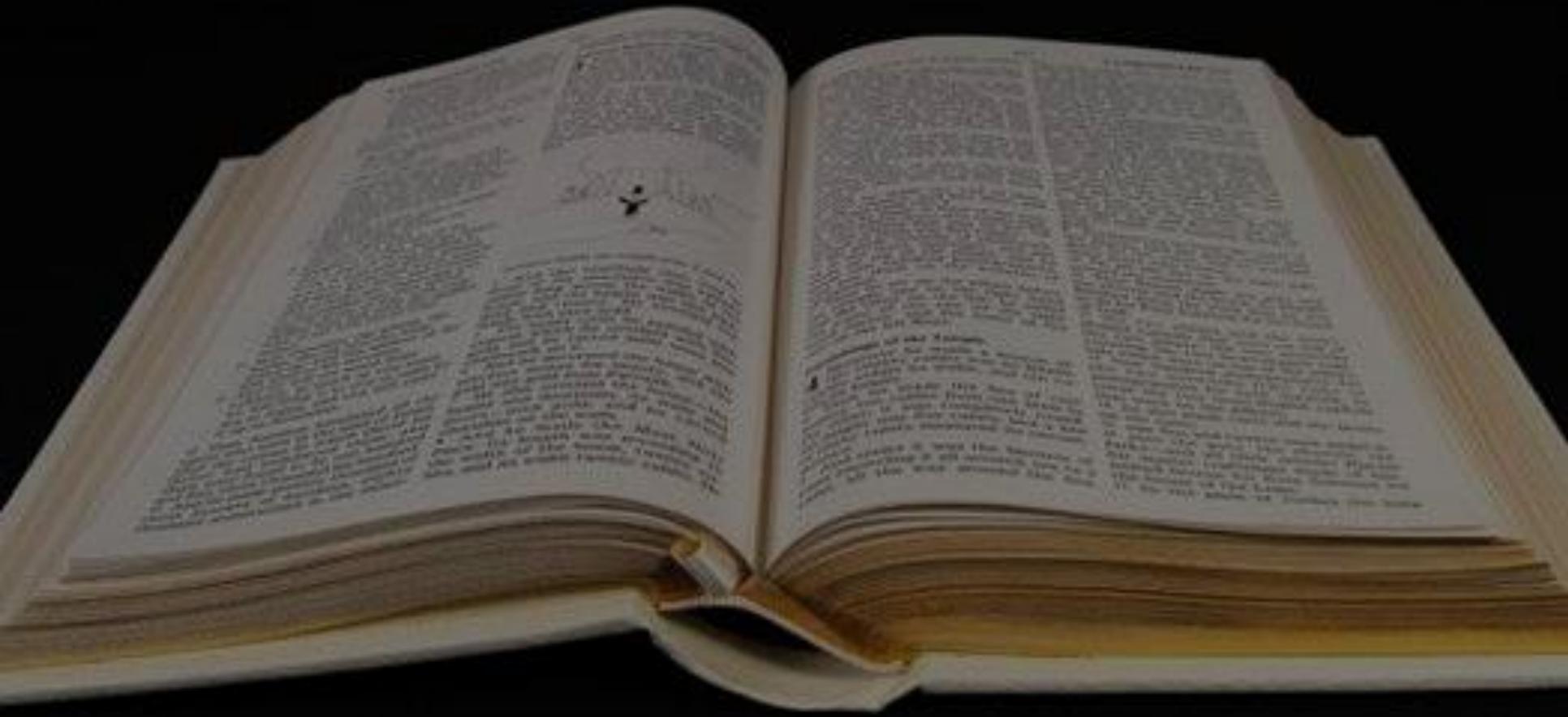
Answers strategic planning question #1:

Why are we here?

~ An articulate, compelling and inspirational reason why our parish exists and why anyone should care, or want to join us.



A Statement of Why is Biblical



“Friends, WHY
are you doing
these things?”

Acts 14:15



Start With WHY?



- ~ A **WHY** should inspire and explain your parish's essential purpose (not everything it does)
- ~ It answers: “Why does our church exist?” - “Why should anyone want to join us?”
- ~ Your 1 SHORT **WHY** sentence should:
 - Be simple, clear, and memoizable
 - Be actionable and inspirational
 - Focus on impact and contribution
 - Be expressed in affirmative language that resonates and inspires others



Start With WHY?



- ~ From the 28 suggestions, we will conduct a straw poll to identify the three most powerful and effective Why Statements**
- ~ We will keep editing and wordsmithing the consensus top three until we reach ONE simple, inspiring, and compelling WHY Statement that explain your parish's purpose**
- ~ This must be easily memoizable and repeatable. (I had to edit two down because they substantially exceeded the word limit for the polling software.)**

You Will Tattoo Your Parish WHY Statement Somewhere, So Make It Memorable



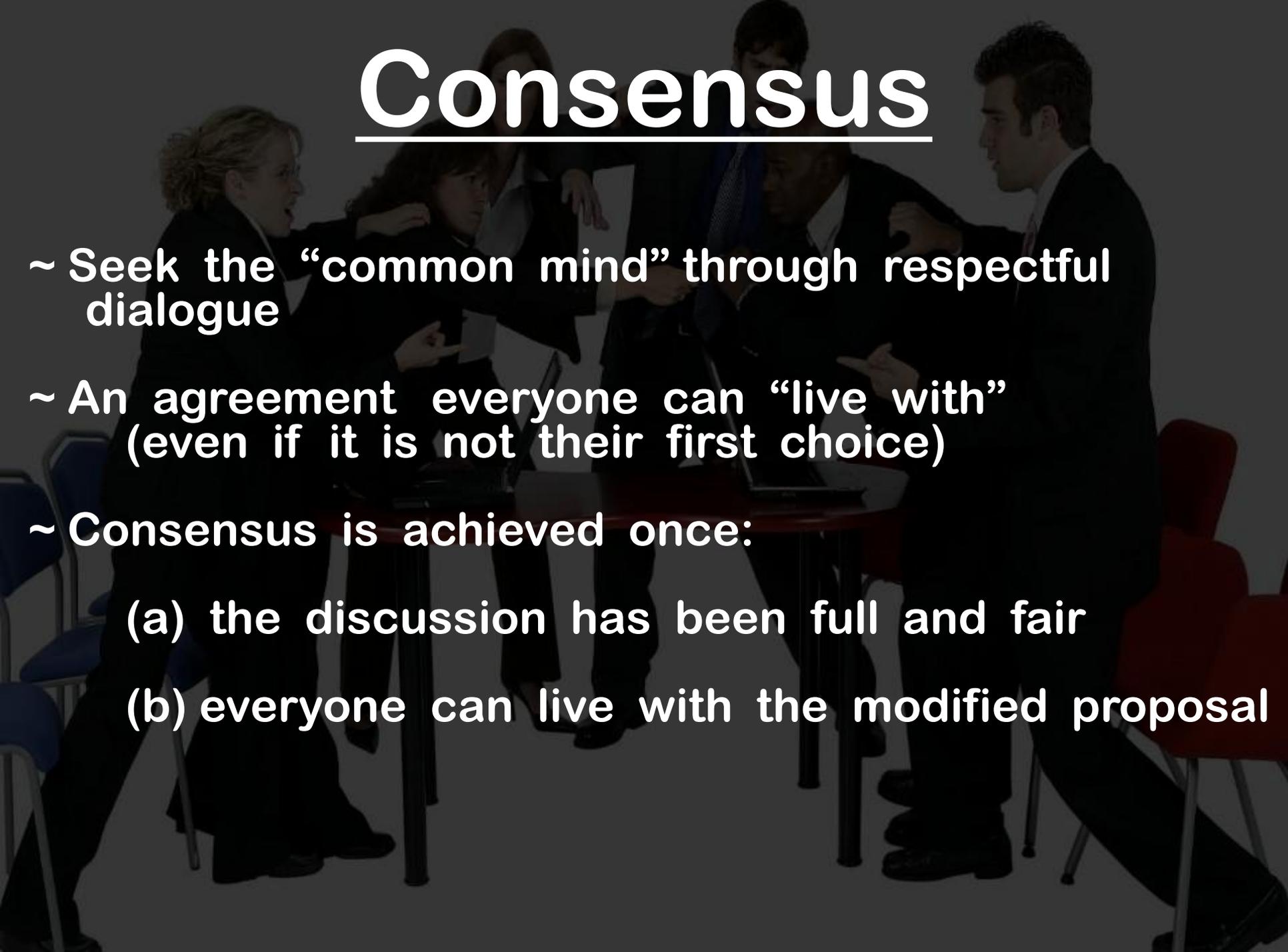


Guidelines



- ~ You do not need to vote for what you wrote.
- ~ Pick the top three that speak most succinctly and powerfully to your gut
- ~ We are NOT defining what the parish does (Mission Statement) where it is going (Vision Statement), or how it will get there (Strategic SMART Goals)
- ~ Christ called us to make disciples of all nations, so please do not think **too small**

Consensus

A group of business professionals in a meeting, with text overlaid on a dark background. The image shows several people in business attire sitting around a table, engaged in discussion. The text is white and stands out against the dark background.

- ~ Seek the “common mind” through respectful dialogue
- ~ An agreement everyone can “live with” (even if it is not their first choice)
- ~ Consensus is achieved once:
 - (a) the discussion has been full and fair
 - (b) everyone can live with the modified proposal



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WHY Statement

**To glorify God, serve all
through love, and live a
purposeful life in Christ.**

**Join us next on October 29, 2025 to
finalize St. Sophia Strengths,
Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats.
at 6:30 p.m. Eastern**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82338413782?pwd=L7a3k7IVgJa1Cpl0bgFgceWWaaU3Tr.1>

Meeting ID: 823 3841 3782

Passcode: 695071

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,82338413782#,,,,*695071# US



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St. Sophia Jeffersonville, PA

By the grace of God, the congregation of St. Sophia Ukrainian Seminary is undertaking a transformational and collaborative strategic planning process. This incredible work is under the inspired leadership of Father Symeon Williams, the newly appointed pastor of St. Sophia. In addition to the Seminary, an additional 40+ parishioners are participating in the process. The Strategic Planning Team

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WHY

Consensus First Choice (70%)

To glorify God, serve all through love, and live a purposeful life in Christ.

Distant Second Choice (30%)

Glorify God, live with purpose, and serve all through the love of Christ.