



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

By the grace of God, the congregation of St. Sophia 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. The congregation has elected an additional 40+ parishioners to the Strategic Planning Team.

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

St. Sophia Ukrainian Seminary is a Greek Orthodox Church in Jefferson, PA. is undertaking a strategic planning process. This incredible work is under the inspired leadership of Father Symeon Williams, the newly appointed pastor. The congregation has elected an additional 40+ parishioners to the Strategic Planning Team. The ongoing work of our very diverse and extensive

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

WHY

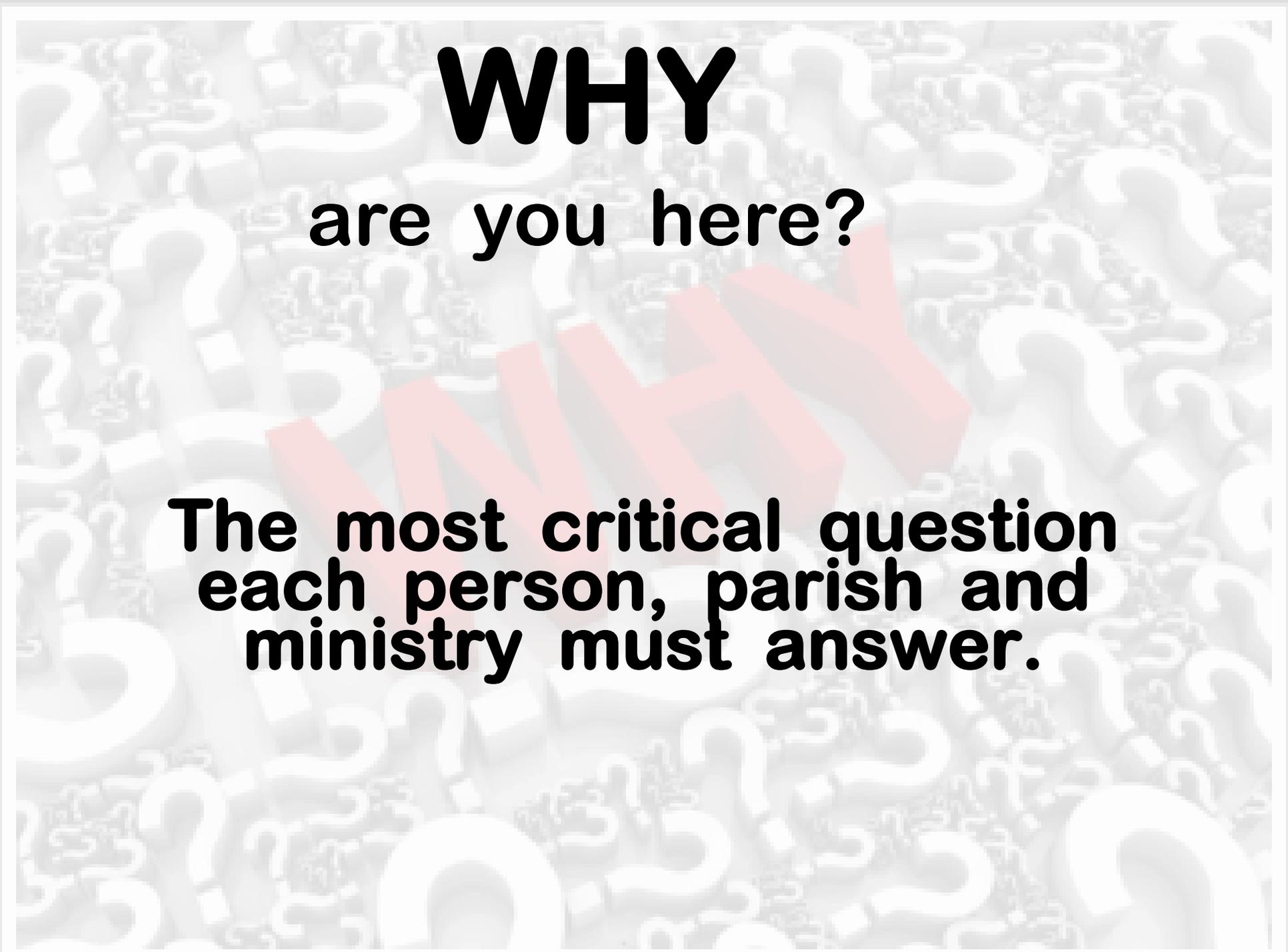
are you here?

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 color filled with a dense pattern of white question marks of various sizes. In the center, there is a large, semi-transparent red hand with fingers spread, reaching upwards.

WHY
are you here?

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

WHY Statement

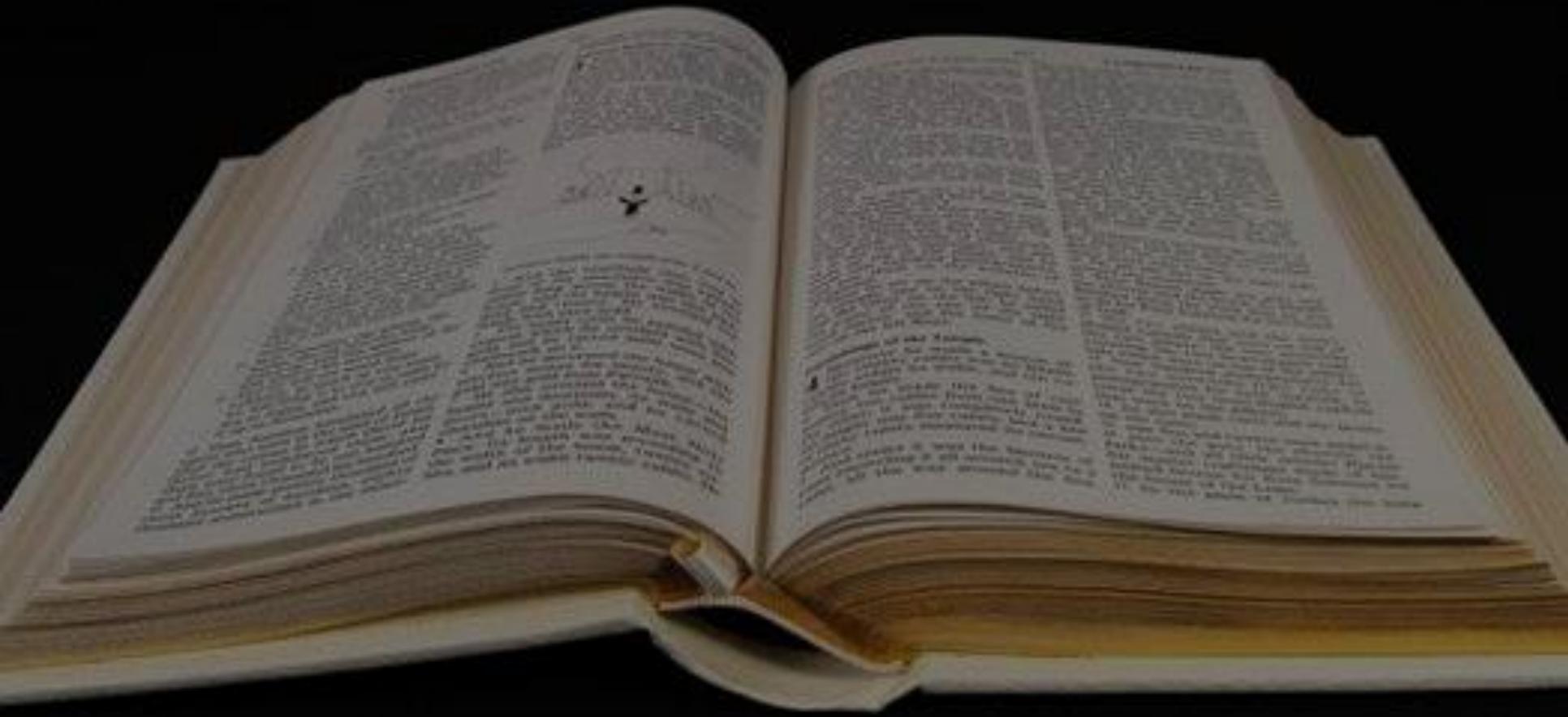
Answers strategic planning question #1:

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

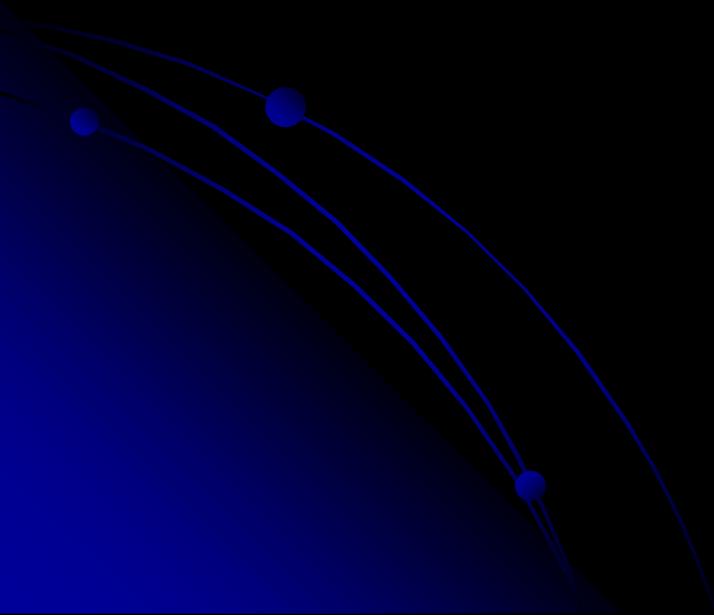


“Friends, WHY
are you doing
these things?”

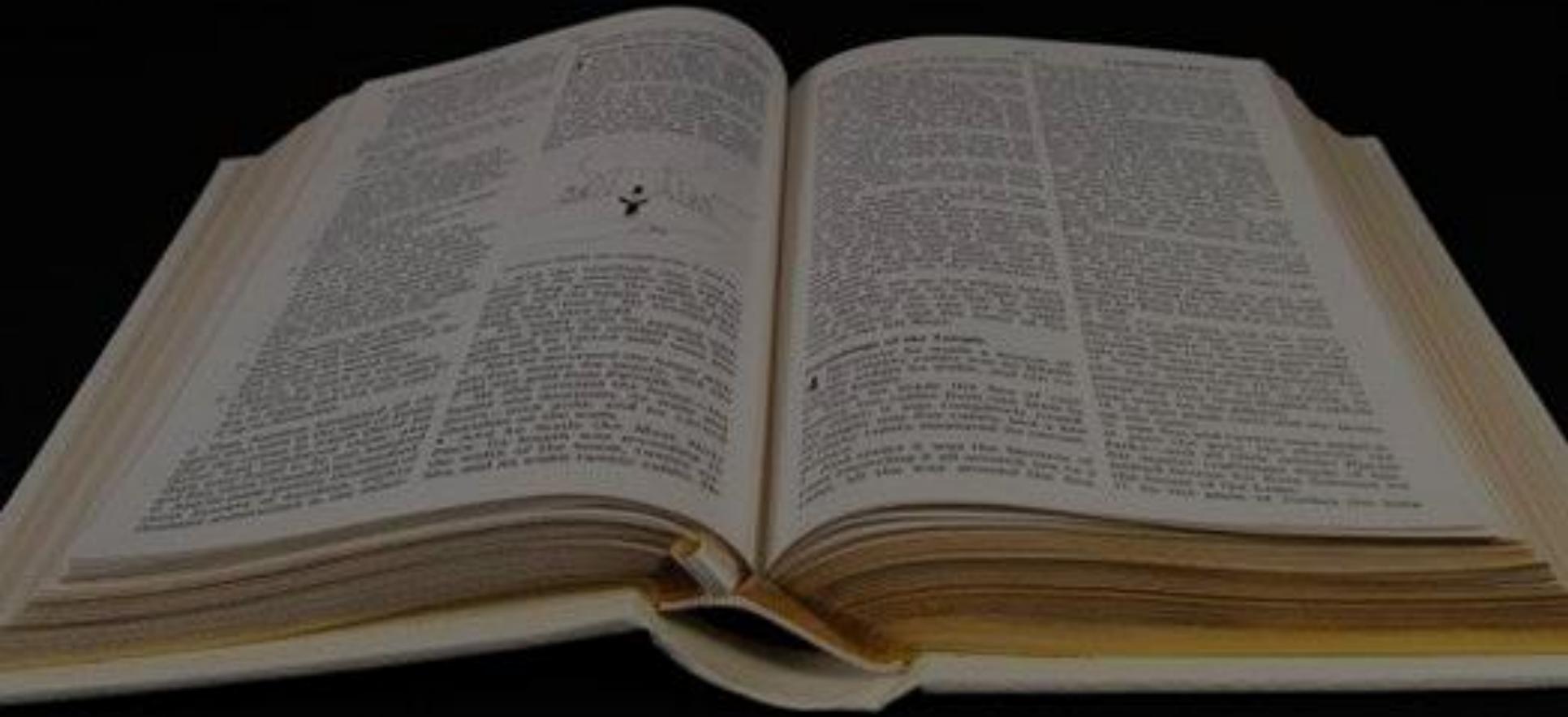
Acts 14:15

We are living in exponential times...

... the speed of change is
unimaginable and accelerating



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.)**

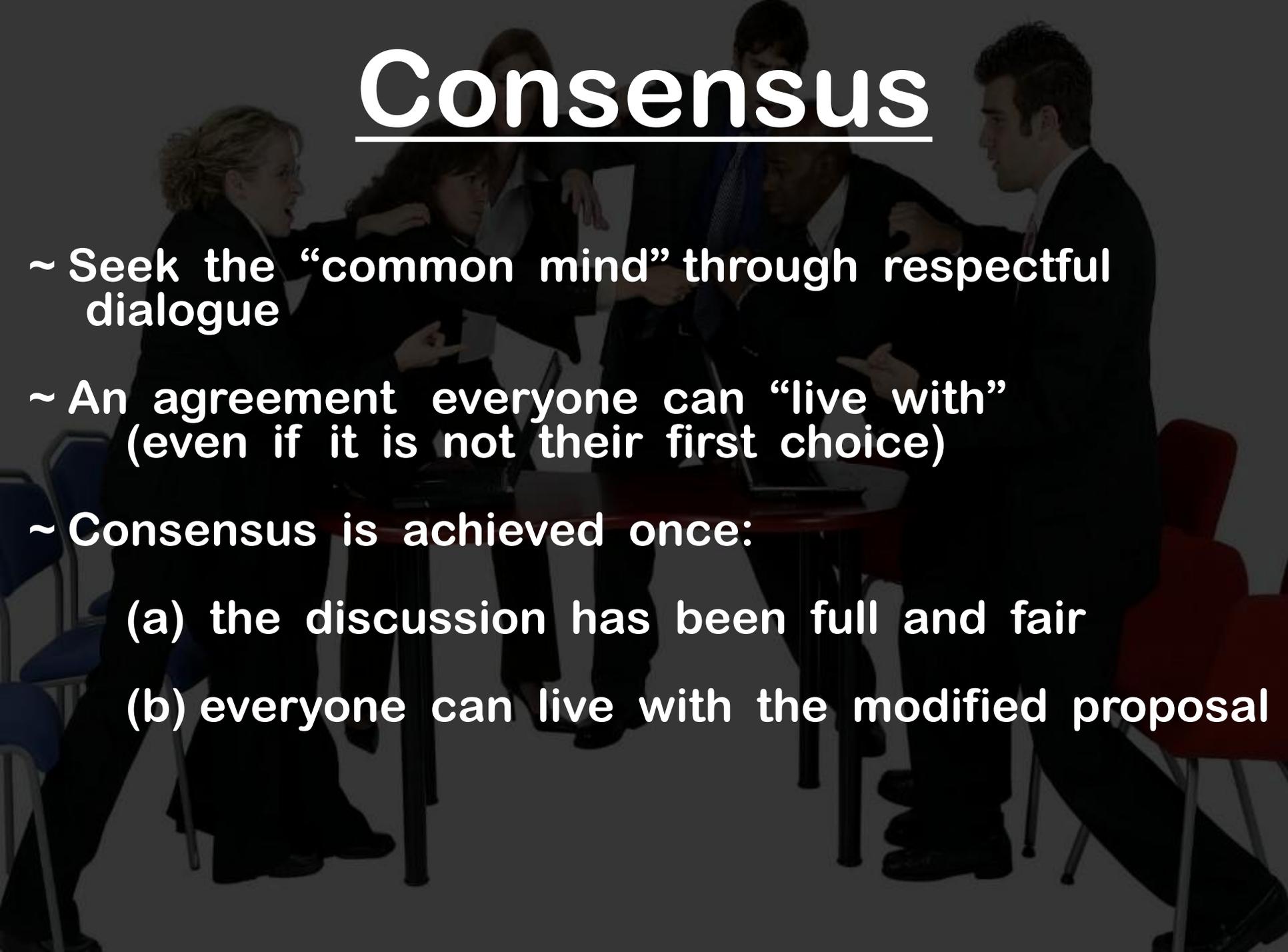


Guidelines



- ~ 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

**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



[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

By the grace of God, the congregation of St. Sophia is undertaking a transformational and collaborative strategic planning process. This incredible work is under the inspired leadership of Father Symeon Williams, with the support of a dedicated Core Team. This Core Team will be supplemented with an additional 40+ parishioners and a Strategic Planning Team.

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

St. Sophia Ukrainian Seminary

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

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



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

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

Dr. Bill Marianes



STEWARDSHIP
CALLING

WHY Suggestions

1. To share our faith and our love of Jesus Christ so that His light may shine through all of us in all that we do.
2. To serve God's people so that we can show everyone how they can experience salvation and live a spiritually fulfilling life in Christ.
3. To embrace all seekers of the truth in Christ by providing them the tools to forge their own path towards spiritual healing.
4. To bring people to The Great Church of Christ and its message of repentance and salvation, so they may experience God's unimaginable love through proper worship.

WHY Suggestions

5. To be the sanctuary of the light and love of Jesus Christ, that shows us the way from emptiness and towards a life of purpose and salvation
6. To reflect the radiant Light of Christ and strive to perpetually bring closer together the intersection of Heaven and Earth.
7. To offer an active sacramental life so that the Valley Forge community might encounter the living God.
8. To be a community rooted in an ancient faith that serves the Valley Forge of today.
9. To welcome all to experience Christ's love so that we may live a purposeful life.

WHY Suggestions

10. To worship Jesus Christ and bring Heaven on Earth.
11. To be a united, loving family in Christ, living with purpose and sharing His eternal life with the world.
12. To unite all who seek to love and serve Christ, growing in faith, and journeying joyfully together toward salvation and eternal life.
13. St. Sophia is here to bring the community together, from all different backgrounds and to introduce the Orthodox faith to those who have never experienced it before. It is here to keep alive the Orthodox Faith, the faith of those who have witnessed it, felt it, appreciated it, love it and have seen God work countless miracles over the years.

WHY Suggestions

14. St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church is a Christ-centered community that is known by their faith, hope and love where everyone has a purpose and sense of belonging so that we may reflect the image and likeness of God.
15. St. Sophia exists from the desire of Greek immigrants who possessed the same Hellenic background and faith to form a community here in America. Its purpose is to pass down our rich culture and Christian values to future generations so that they will know the word of God as it is interpreted by the Orthodox faith.
16. To preserve and live the Orthodox Christian faith and traditions, so that we may grow together in Christ and share His love with our community and the world

WHY Suggestions

17. To enlighten all people to Christ's authentic teachings of love and peace for all mankind.
18. Saint Sophia is a parish of those who serve our Lord Jesus Christ by not only teaching but living the Gospel, by serving our community at large and by being a welcoming and loving home to its Church family.
19. To be a warm, welcoming Christian community so that we can share The Faith of the Apostles with all and be a beacon of Christ's love. Come and see!
20. To serve as a beacon of faith and hope so that we may attract others to Him.

WHY Suggestions

21. To be a loving home for all who want to receive our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ so that we may do His work as we all find eternal life in Him.
22. To nurture and fortify the core of our Orthodox Christian faith so that we can spread Christ's love and compassion for humanity.
23. To glorify God in faith, hope, and love as the Body of Christ through worship and servant leadership so that all may belong, be transformed, and share His love with the world.
24. To glorify God through faith, hope, and love by worshiping together, serving with compassion, and sharing Christ's love with all.

WHY Suggestions

25. To be a welcoming community for likeminded individuals so that we may worship God and come together through our Orthodox Faith.
26. To strengthen our inner connection with Christ so that he may lead us throughout our lives to be able to experience the miracles of Christ.
27. To learn and strengthen the power of our faith so that we experience the everlasting peace and love of God and Christ.
28. To create a community of true acceptance, love, spiritual growth, and religious education that will cultivate spiritual growth and unity, and preserve the timeless doctrines and practices of the Greek Orthodox Church.