

St. Stephen Orthodox Church

Vision & Strategic Planning - WHY Discovery Part 2

Dr. Bill Marianes



StewardshipCalling.com

Stewardship Calling

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

Strategic Planning

Scroll down to St. Stephen page

WHY? STEWARDSHIP STRATEGIC PLANNING INTERNET RADIO & PODCASTS KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP RESOURCES

PERSONAL HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH OF UGANDA

We Invite You Orthodox Church ST. SOPHIA JEFFERSONVILLE, PA STRATEGIC PLAN

ST. STEPHEN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ACADEMY

St. Stephen Orthodox Church SAMPLE S.M.A.R.T GOAL & ACTION PLANS

By the grace of God, I am blessed to be a member of the parish of St. Stephen Orthodox Church in Longwood, Florida, through strategic planning. This is the first step in our journey.

BOSTON METROPOLIS –

<https://stewardshipcalling.com/st-stephen-orthodox-church/>



Why Are You Here?

The most critical question each person and parish must answer.



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

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky -

WHY Statement

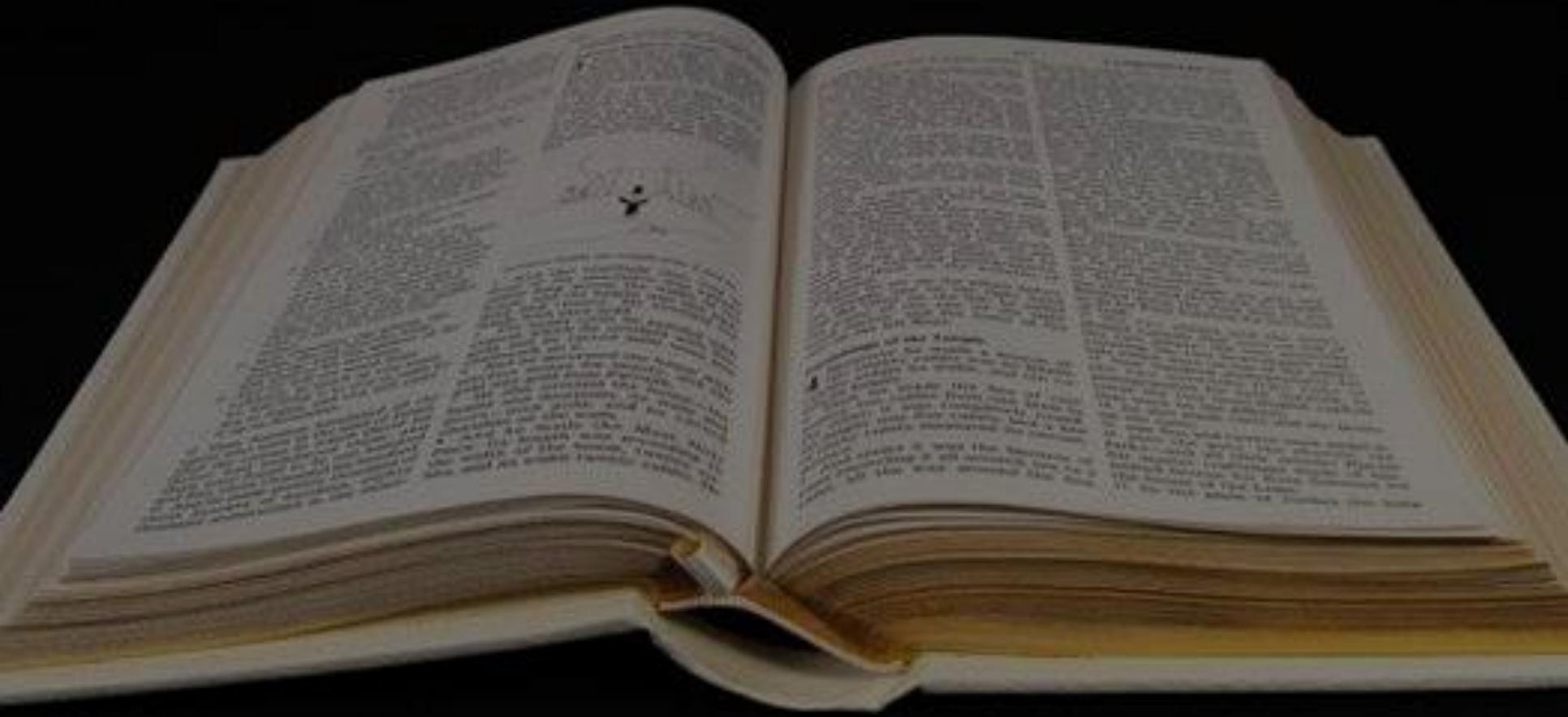
Answers strategic planning question #1:

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 27 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 easy to memorize and repeat

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



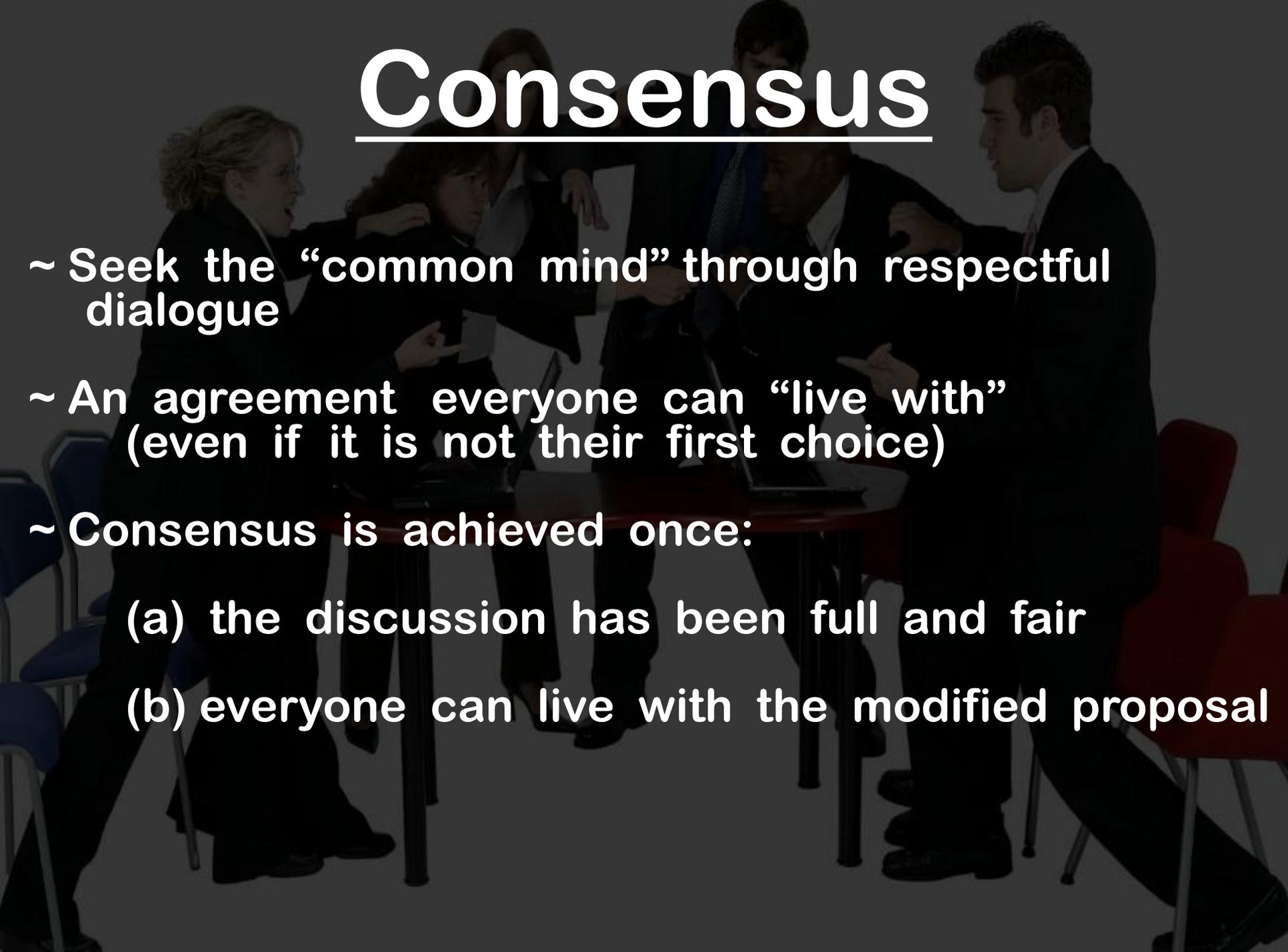


Guidelines



- ~ 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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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
By the grace of God, the transformational and collaborative work of Father Symeon Williams and an additional 40+ parishioners Strategic Planning Team

...IA, Ss. FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE
...RTHODOX CHURCH OF VALLEY FORGE
...a Greek Orthodox Church in Jefferson, PA. is undertaking a planning process. This incredible work is under the inspired leadership of a dedicated Core Team. This Core Team will be supplemented with an 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

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Part 2***

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STEWARDSHIP
CALLING

Two WHY Finalists

- 1. To be faithfully transformed in communion with God and others.**
- 2. Faithfully celebrating the Holy Trinity so we are transformed in communion with God and each other.**

(Final consensus decision to be made at the next Zoom)



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Join us Tuesday **February 10, 2026**
ZOOM to finalize St. Stephen Core
Values and Mission Statement
at 6:30 p.m. EDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4661132163>

Meeting ID: 466 113 2163

One tap mobile

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+16465588656,,4661132163# US (New York)

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