



WORKSHOP 4: GATHERING THE KINGDOM

Purpose: To gather all identified community organizations/resources into one space to:

- Validate the community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)
- Validate community needs assessment
- Begin to establish the church as the hub in the community

Audience:

- Contacts from research -Resource Agencies, Educators, Administrators, Politicians, Social Organizations
- Police Chief, Local Council, Mayor, Fire Chief
- Health Department

Invitation:

- Invitation via email or mail.
- Clarify purpose and explain what will take place and how long.
- If time permits a verbal invitation with written follow-up or with friendly reminder.

Types of Gatherings:

- Informal lunch, dinner, coffee hour, etc.
- Join an existing meeting like Board of Education SIAC meeting, Health Department meeting of department heads.
- Meet as a cluster of churches together with identified resources.

Gathering Agenda Example:

- Welcome and purpose
- Eat and greet
- Review S.W.O.T., and Community Needs
- You may want to give opportunities to community organizations to introduce themselves

Follow-up:

- Thank you sent.
- Include church information sheet (see sample)

Invitation to possible second gathering:

- Social, Movie, Bowling, Football or other sporting events.





WORKSHOP 4: Example of Invitation Phone Call or Email Text

Hello,

During the past seven months, with the goal of partnering with other community partners to meet the needs of Bestplace residents, of Any AME Church members, have interviewed multiple community leaders and representatives of community resources to understand community needs, resources addressing community needs, and gaps in resources.

Through this process, we met incredible people who are excited about the future of Bestplace, while also recognizing that there are unmet needs. Building on this momentum, I would like to invite you to a dinner where Any AME Church members and I will share with you the results of our interviews and obtain your feedback and your suggestions about how our church may partner to address the gaps in resources.

The dinner will be on Monday, February 14, 2025, at 6 pm in our fellowship hall located at 123 Main Street, City, MD 12345. Your response by January 31, to jd@aachurch.org, would be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions, I would be glad to speak with you by phone. I can be reached on 410- 222-3333.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you on February 14th.

Jane Doe or John Doe

