

Mapping Exercises in Consultations

It is worth having a few 'experiential' processes available to use in consultancy as these can sometimes allow a group to explore issues collectively in quite a different way than simply talking. Some of these work better with small groups rather than larger ones.

1 Timeline

Using 10+ pieces of paper, work with a group to record the key events that occurred over a period of time. On each piece of paper record both the event and the day, month or year as appropriate. This maybe a complex event in church life, a conflict, a specific period, often the whole story of the church. Place the pieces on the floor with plenty of room between them to allow the members of the group to slowly up and down the line.

Sample questions:

- *Where did you personally join this story?*
- *As you look back over these events - Where is the most painful place? Happiest moment? Where is God in these events? The moment of truth? Are there any patterns that you pick up? What is missing? What don't you understand in this journey?*
- *What is happening for you as your view this laid out?*

2 Priorities / Alternatives

Again using a number of pieces of paper, document the range of concerns, issues, competing situations, priorities or questions a group is dealing with. As the group comes up with these write them down and place them randomly on the floor. Give the group an opportunity to stand on their first, second and maybe third area of priority.

Sample questions:

- *Come and stand on an issue, tell me about why you have chosen this? What is on your heart as you focus on this issue/question/priority?*
- *Where is the most discomfort for you? Where is your heart drawn? Is there one that stands out?*

3 Pros and Cons

Write on pieces of paper all the individual pros and cons of a particular decision. Allow the group to arrange them under the two headings.

Sample questions:

- *Walk and talk me through each of these*
- *If you need to make a choice now, which way would you go and why*

4 Levels of Intensity

Using a 1 - 10 scale on the floor, ask members to stand at the point which reflects their feelings, level of emotion, response, commitment, fear, anxiety.

Sample questions:

- *Give me three words which indicate your feelings at this point*
- *Walk back 2 steps.. what would need to occur for you to move 2 steps back on this line?*