

Facilitating an Open Options Meeting

Source; Tim Dyer – The Johnmark Extension

Start with reminding participants of the three purposes;
(self-awareness of their own thinking, awareness of what others are thinking, getting a picture of where the whole group is at)

This is not a vote but an opportunity to discuss and explore the options and get a feel for members' thinking.

1. Agree to ground rules or commitments to good listening
2. Allow the group to generate (or if clear, simply present) the options
 - a. Prepare the options or draw them out of the group. Put these on large pieces of paper on the floor. These options may include among others:
 - b. Options List (Specific to current Assembly Issues)
 - i. Our church should support this motion
 - ii. Our church should not support this motion
 - iii. Our church should propose an amendment to the motion
 - iv. Our church should abstain from voting
 - c. Outline the options generally without speculating on detail
 - d. Allow members to all gather on each square (or sit around it) and reflect on what this would look like. Where has it come from? How would it feel? What appeals to members in each option? What concerns do members have?
3. Facilitate a preferences session
 - a. Options on still on the floor (or on mentimeter), let people indicate (1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences)
 - b. Open discussion on what people have learned by participating in the exercise.