



FRAMING THE PATH: PRACTING THINGS NEW Making Change Happen Discernment Worksheet

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*The purpose of this handout is to accompany the **Framing the Path: Practicing Things New** presentation. Below are the seven Faith Practices¹ that the Evangelical Lutheran Church lifts up as practices to guide our discipleship. These practices provide a framework for making change happen.*

PRAY

Prayer opens us to the presence of God. We are called to thank, confess, intercede and listen during this time. Take time to discern where and how God might be calling you to make a change. It's helpful to think about the mission and vision of your community and discern how well actions line up with stated values.

1. What issue is present in your community?
2. What idea are you wondering about introducing to your community?
3. What is the Holy Spirit up to in your context?

INVITE

As people of faith, we are called and sent to tell people what God has done for us and invite them to know the God who loves them and has redeemed them in Jesus Christ. Invitation is a key practice as we identify others into the change process who are passionate about making change. Make sure that invitation is preceded by relationship.

1. Who should be a part of this conversation? Take time to think about Malcolm Gladwell's *Law of the Few* (connectors, mavens and salespeople) highlighted in this lesson.
2. What gifts are you looking for in those who make this change happen?
3. Who are the people that have power within your community? Think strategically about your community and the systems at play. Who can influence the system?

¹ For more information, visit <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices>.

STUDY

Scripture study informs discipleship. Exploring the Word of God opens us the story shaped world and offers us a way to understand who and whose we are. This practice leads us to be aware of what has happened before that has led us to where we are and might help or hinder where we want to go.

1. What has worked and what has failed?
2. What is the congregation/community/leadership's relationship to this issue/idea?
3. What examples of positive change can you life up from your community? What were the characteristics of these changes?

GIVE

What we have is not ours to begin with and we are called to be good and faithful stewards of all that God has abundantly provided. Giving a portion of what we have received is a responsibility of our calling. Change requires that we give of our time, our resources and ourselves.

1. What resources currently exist?
2. What is needed from the leaders, community and other partners to make this change happen?
3. How does the change being explored seriously invite others to think about giving – their time, resources and selves?

SERVE

God meets us in relationship and our relationships should be characterized by reciprocal service. Not only are we God's hands in the ongoing work of creation, but we are also invited to be receivers as we live into mutually serving relationships.

1. How are you called to serve within your community as you think about the change being introduced?
2. How does the change that is being considered serve the needs of the neighbors?

ENCOURAGE

We are challenged to offer the Good News to another in speech, comfort, friendship and the lifelong task of faith formation. We are called to encourage one another, especially those who have been tasked with leading change.

1. How do you uplift those involved in making change happen?
2. How is the community encouraged to be a part of the change process as it unfolds?

WORSHIP

Worship offers a unique way to come into the presence of God and to praise the God who called and gifted all of creation. Worship is a celebration and a way of life.

1. How do you celebrate together as change unfolds?
2. How is God being uplifted and praised through the change that is being considered?
