

# Civic Action Plan Workbook

- [1. Core Values for Action](#)
- [2. Self-Reflection on Values](#)
- [3. Values](#)
- [4. Interests](#)
- [5. Your Community](#)
- [6. Desired Outcomes](#)
- [7. Mission Statement](#)
- [8. Approach](#)
- [My Plan](#)

# 1. Civic Action Plan Workbook: Identifying Your Core Values for Action

## Introduction

Welcome to the Civic Action Group at Trinity Church! This workbook is designed to help you reflect on your values, identify your passions, and discern where to focus your efforts in serving our community. Through thoughtful exercises and guided reflections, you'll gain clarity about the issues that matter most to you and how you can contribute to meaningful change.

## Purpose of the Workbook:

As followers of Christ, we are called to see the world's brokenness and respond with love and action. This workbook will guide you in aligning your values with your organizing efforts, ensuring that your work is purposeful and impactful. By identifying your top areas of focus, you'll be better equipped to join God's healing and reconciling mission.

## The Call to Action:

At Trinity Church, we are inspired by Jesus' example of radical love and prophetic action. We believe in standing with and for our neighbors, addressing injustice, and building a community that reflects God's Kin(g)dom. Paul reminds us that when one member of the body suffers, we all suffer, and when one rejoices, we all rejoice. Through this workbook, we invite you to explore how you can live out this sacred calling by engaging in intentional, loving, and transformative work within your community.

Let's begin this journey together, as we discern how to make a meaningful impact and bring God's vision for justice and reconciliation to life.

## 2. Self-Reflection on Values

“You don’t know where you’re going until you know where you’ve been.” This saying holds true for directing your efforts toward meaningful change. Reflecting on where and why you’ve acted in the past reveals the values and experiences that guide you. By understanding these, you can clarify your priorities and determine how to support your community in the future. This section will help you uncover those guiding values as you discern where God is calling you to act.

### Personal Reflection

What breaks your heart in your community or the world?

What brings you the greatest sense of purpose and fulfillment?

When do you feel most connected to God’s mission for the world?

## What Drives You?

In the left column, list any contributions you've made over the past few years—big or small. These could include financial donations, volunteer time, or other forms of support. Then, use the checkboxes in the adjacent columns to categorize each contribution. A single contribution may align with multiple categories, so feel free to check all that apply. This exercise will help you identify patterns and priorities in how you've supported your community.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Friend Driven</b> (special requests or social events)	<b>Life Driven</b> (daily life experiences; church, school, work, kids)	<b>Impulse Driven</b> (Unplanned, made to address immediate needs)	<b>Mission Driven</b> (personal values or purposeful plan)

### Considerations

Which contributions were directed toward organizations you know well and feel confident in, both in terms of leadership and financial stability?

Are you personally involved with any of these organizations? Would you like to deepen your involvement?

Do any of these organizations address issues or areas that strongly align with your personal values and interests?

### 3. Identify Your Values

Values are shaped by a blend of life experiences, personal characteristics, and faith traditions. They may be influenced by career paths, personal challenges, or significant events. These values act as guideposts, shaping daily decisions and driving our actions. Your values might differ from those of your family due to unique life experiences or perspectives, but they remain a powerful motivator for our behavior. Identifying these values provides a foundation for creating a focused action plan for impact.

Review the list of values below and select your top five. Write them on the next page, then narrow the list to your top three. If your key values aren't listed, add them in the blank spaces.

Acceptance	Self-reliance	Power
Leadership	Courage	Innovation
Responsibility	Personal	Recognition
Adaptability	Spirituality	Integrity
Loyalty	Effectiveness	Relationships
Risk	Growth	Justice
Community	Sustainability	Resilience
Obligation	Faith	_____
Security	Pleasure	_____
Compassion	Tradition	
Opportunity	Freedom	

List your Top 5 Values

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	

List your Top 3 Values

_____	_____
_____	

Considerations

Why are you so motivated by these values?

What Decisions have you made in your life that reflect these values?

## 4. Identify Your Interests

While values are deeply rooted-inherent beliefs-interests often change over time. We've categorized a list of interests that work together to create a healthy, thriving community. By identifying your interests, you're one step closer to focusing your overall giving strategy.

Which of the interests on the next page invoke an emotional response-good or bad? Listen to your gut as you choose your top five, then your top three interests.

List your Top 5 Interests

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	

List your Top 3 Interests

_____	_____
_____	

### **Arts & Culture**

- Arts Advocacy & Support
- Arts & Music Education
- Museums
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Writing, Television, Radio & Web

### **Civic & Community Improvement**

- Civic Education & Engagement
- Cultural & Ethnic Relations
- Economic Development
- Historic Preservation
- Philanthropy & Volunteerism
- Faith Communities & Faith-Based Organizations
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Community Building & Revitalization

### **Education**

- Early Childhood Education
- Education Advocacy & Support
- Higher Education
- K-12 Academic Preparedness
- Libraries
- Adult Education
- Literacy

### **Environment**

- Conservation, Protection & Beautification
- Animal Welfare & Companionship
- Environmental Ed & Advocacy
- Parks, Greenspaces & Trails
- Sustainable Development & Transportation
- Wildlife Conservation & Protection
- Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

- Environmental Equity & Justice

### **Health & Human Services**

- Violence Prevention & Intervention
- Child Welfare
- Youth Development
- Crime, Legal & Civil Rights
- Disability Support & Services
- Financial Education & Asset Development
- Food & Nutrition
- Health & Wellness
- Homelessness
- Housing
- Medical Conditions & Research
- Mental Health
- Neighborhood Centers & Multi-Service Agencies
- Public Safety & Disaster Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention
- Workforce Development
- Access to Affordable Health Care
- Adoption & Foster Services
- Seniors & Long-Term Care
- Veterans
- Disaster Relief & Recovery
- Empowering Women & Girls
- Infant & Maternal Health

## **5. Define Your Community**

As you refine your action focus, it's important to consider the community you want to support. A community is more than just a physical location—it's about connection and shared identity.

Some people define community by shared characteristics, such as ethnicity, religion, culture, or sexual orientation. Others focus on specific populations, like senior citizens or young adults. Community can also be defined geographically, encompassing a neighborhood, city, region, or even an entire country.

Reflect on the communities you identify with, are in proximity with or feel passionate about supporting. Write down a few that are most important to you or that you want to engage with.



## 6. Determine Desired Outcomes

The most exciting part of creating an action plan is defining goals around the result you hope to see. This helps determine where you invest your gifts and to measure impact.

Answer the following questions for each **interest** area. You've identified to help define your impact goals.

What do you hope to increase in the world?

Interest 1:

Interest 2:

Interest 3:

What do you hope to decrease in the world?

Interest 1:

Interest 2:

Interest 3:

What do you hope to preserve, protect, or carry on in the world?

Interest 1:

Interest 2:

Interest 3:

## 7. Create Your Mission Statement

You've put a lot of thought into where and how you want to make a difference, and now you know the impact you'd like to make. Now it's time to compile it and write a mission or purpose statement.

Write down the relationships you see between your values and interest areas, keeping in mind the outcome goals, and the communities you indicated were important.

My Top 3 Values

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My Top 3 Interests

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My Mission/Purpose Statement

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## 8. Define Your Approach

### The Three Approaches to Effecting Change

When striving to make a meaningful impact, it's important to determine which approach resonates most with your values and the areas you care about. These approaches can be categorized as Prevention/Primary, Intervention/Secondary, and Systems Change/Tertiary, each addressing different stages of need and transformation.

1. **Prevention (Primary)**

This approach focuses on stopping harm or decline before it occurs. It involves creating and promoting environments, actions, and systems that proactively prevent problems from arising. For example, in healthcare, this might include education and outreach to encourage healthy behaviors, while in social services, it could involve programs that reduce risks before they materialize.

2. **Intervention (Secondary)**

Intervention steps in when harm or disruption has already occurred. This approach aims to stabilize, heal, and rebuild in ways that prevent further escalation or recurrence. In this stage, the focus is on responding to immediate needs, addressing damage, and supporting individuals or communities in regaining balance and resilience.

3. **Systems Change (Tertiary)**

Systems change focuses on addressing the long-term consequences of harm and working toward systemic transformation. This involves analyzing and reshaping the structures and systems that allowed harm to occur, holding responsible parties accountable, and implementing policies or programs to prevent future occurrences. The goal is to move forward in a way that reduces harm, promotes equity, and fosters lasting positive change.

By understanding these approaches, you can align your efforts with the type of impact you want to make, whether it's preventing issues, addressing immediate challenges, or driving systemic reform.

# My Plan



TOP 3 VALUES:

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TOP 3 INTEREST AREAS:

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MISSION STATEMENT:

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GEOGRAPHICAL COMMUNITY:

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POPULATION COMMUNITY:

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APPROACH:

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OUTCOME:

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