

Important points to remember

Once the Outreach Leadership Team has developed the church's final assessment action plan, it should present its findings to the church elders and board for approval. Be sure to include any costs involved with implementation. Once the board has approved the action plan, it should be presented to the church.

It is a good idea to place the assessment action plan, including major milestones and dates, in the church bulletin so members can familiarize themselves with it.

The Outreach Leadership Team will also need to give the church regular updates of its progress in the implementation of the assessment action plan. It is important that members see positive changes being made—it will help to keep the momentum going. When a goal has been reached, communicate that milestone to the church and publicly thank those who helped the church reach that particular goal.

The team should monitor the pace of change in the church. At times the action plan will need to be adjusted to ensure that the desired results are obtained. It is better to make one or two well-planned changes that positively impact the church than to make many changes that make little difference.

It is important that the Outreach Leadership Team works very closely with the church board in implementing any needed changes. It is counterproductive for the team to attempt to force the church into doing something it is not prepared to do. The church needs to see the likely benefits of proposed changes and be willing to get involved. Without this "buy-in" from the church, all efforts by the Outreach Leadership Team or church board will certainly fail.