

Types of Planning

What are your congregation's planning goals?

Type 1: Problem Planning

- Short-term planning
- Problem-solving methodology designed to fix things
- Goal: to return things to the way they were before the problem.
- Timetable: immediate and short-term

Type 2: Developmental Planning

- Long-range planning
- Asks the questions: "What's next?" and "What do we do now?"
- The assumption is that things are good. What we are currently doing in ministry is faithful and appropriate.
- Goal: to determine the next steps, building on what is presently being done
- Timetable: takes 3 to 6 months to complete; commonly revisited or revised every 1 to 2 years

Note: Type 1 and Type 2 planning are continuous. They are examples of gap planning, which proceeds according to the following steps:

- Here's where we are in the present.
- Here's where we want to be in the future.
- Here's the gap between the two.
- Here's what we have to learn or do in order to get there.
- Here's our action plan: *Who* will do *what* by *when* at *what* cost?

Type 3: Frame-Bending Planning

- Strategic planning
- Asks essential formation questions: "Who are we?" "What are we called to do?" "Who is our neighbor?"
- The assumption is that things are not working. What we are currently doing in ministry is not faithful and effective.
- Goal: to go back to the beginning and examine our purpose and call from God
- Timetable: takes 12 to 18 months to complete, commonly revisited or revised every 3 to 5 years

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