

THE ECUMENICAL PARISH
STRATEGIC ECUMENICAL
PARISH IMPLEMENTATION

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TEA: 32

METRO/PARISH SELECTION CRITERIA

INTRODUCTION

1. In order to launch a comprehensive, coordinated sociological experiment, it is essential that objective criteria be established and employed in the selection of geographical locations in which the experiment will be conducted. The Ecumenical Parish Experiment will be initially implemented in signal metros on the North American continent on behalf of the globe on January 1, 1974. It is essential that these be selected with utmost care. Every parish (216) in each metro will be symbolically launched simultaneously by implementing one Ecumenical Parish Experiment in each of the six polises. The selection criteria are divided into two classes, constants and variables. The constants are those minimum essential criteria for the selection of a metro or parish and the variable are those criteria which will enable the experimentation with a variety of community compositions. It is in this context that the following categories of criteria have been established.

SIGNAL METRO

2. The signal metros will be selected at the global level. The careful selection of these metros will be crucial as the metro is the staging level of the experiment. Furthermore it is important that the initial metros be symbolically significant. Selection of the metros therefore will be based upon the criteria of both the class of constants and the class of variables.

METRO CONSTANTS

3. The CONSTANTS CLASS OF CRITERIA is made up of those criteria which are essential in the selection of the signal metros, and are held in three categories. The first category of criteria is SIGNAL VALUE, which is the metro's potential for standing as a visible global sign based on its existing global impact. The second category of criteria is MOVEMENTAL STRENGTH, which is the movement's practical potential for bringing off the E.P.X., based upon the existence and strength of a religious house, a replication galaxy, metro colleagues and LEMS graduates. The third category of criteria is that of METRO READINESS, which is the potential for moving through the social structures in the metro, based upon movemental image, establishment authorization and the practical possibility of winning. These criteria indicate that which will undergird and unify the continental Ecumenical Parish Experiment.

METRO VARIABLES

4. The VARIABLES CLASS OF CRITERIA is made up of those intentional elements of allowance which enable the experiment to be conducted in diverse types of community thus insuring the universality of the experiment. These criteria are also held in three categories. The first category of criteria is that of CULTURAL DIVERSITY, which is the manifestation of differences in the cultural profile of the metro, such as by spread, population density and economic level. The second category of criteria is that of CHRISTIAN PRESENCE, which is the intentional variation in both the numerical and symbolic presence of Christians and the Church in the metro. The third

category of criteria is that of SOCIAL STRUCTURES, whether these be present or absent, effective or ineffective within the metro. By intentionally structuring this variable into the experiment the effectiveness of the model can be representationally tested for every metro.

SIGNAL
PARISH

5. The signal parish will be selected at the metro level. The careful selection of these parishes is crucial as the parish is the level at which the experiment is actualized. This selection should include diverse parishes in order to validate the assumption that the Ecumenical Parish is a form that is comprehensive. Both constant and variable criteria will also be used in the selection of parishes.

CONSTANT
CRITERIA

6. Essential in the selection of the parish are the three categories of constant criteria, SIGNAL VALUE, MOVEMENTAL STRENGTH and COMMUNITY READINESS. The first, SIGNAL VALUE, is the potential of the parish to stand as a visible sign, based on its historical, economic, cultural and political impact. The second criterion is MOVEMENTAL STRENGTH, which is the number of colleagues and the strength of structures within the parish. The third criterion is COMMUNITY READINESS, the susceptibility of the parish toward a new form.

VARIABLES

7. The VARIABLES CLASS OF CRITERIA, those intentional elements of allowances which enable the diversity of the experiment, are held in three categories. The first category is CULTURAL DIVERSITY, which allows for the differences in population density and stability, or spread and economic levels. The second category of criteria is that of LOCAL CHURCH which allows for differences in the number of galaxy churches, the percentages of Christian churches amidst the presence of other religions. The third category of criteria is SOCIAL STRUCTURE, which allows for differences in previous community projects, the presence of social agencies and political climate. The variable criteria test the ability of the project to be reduplicated in any parish.

CONCLUSION

8. The selection of the metros and parishes are the first two implementation steps of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment. As this will be at the foundation of the formulation of all ecumenical parishes, the intentionality with which these are selected will set the stage for the entire experiment. It is in this context that these selection criteria have been established and it is in the same context that these criteria are to be employed. In this way, both the global commonness and the universal applicability of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment will be preserved.

METRO SELECTION CRITERIA

| | SIGNAL VALUE | MOVEMENTAL STRENGTH | METROPOLITAN READINESS |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| CONSTANTS | Global Historical Value | Religious House in Metro | Positive Movement Image |
| | Global Cultural Impact | Existing Movemental Colleagues | Political Authorization Allowance |
| | Global Economic Impact | Site of LENS Course | Available Communication Means |
| | Global Political Impact | Six Local Churches Actualizing Tactics | Possibility of Winning |
| | CULTURAL DIVERSITY | CHRISTIAN PRESENCE | SOCIAL STRUCTURE |
| VARIABLES | Population Density | Denominational Spread | Social Agency Effectiveness |
| | Ur Spread | Social Influence | Concentration of Political Power |
| | Economic Level | Ratio of Christians to Other Religions | Economic Effectiveness |
| | Population Stability | Religional Relationships | Political Climate (Authoritarian Participation) |

PARISH SELECTION CRITERIA

| | SIGNAL VALUE | MOVEMENTAL STRENGTH | COMMUNITY READINESS |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| C O N S T A N T S | Historical Impact | Presence of RS-1 and PLC Grads | Political Receptability |
| | Cultural Impact | Presence of LENS Grads | Favorable Movemental Image |
| | Economic Impact | Presence of Galaxy Church | Ability of Grass Roots Participation |
| | Political Impact | Presence of Movemental Colleagues | Possibility of winning |
| | CULTURAL DIVERSITY | LOCAL CHURCH | SOCIAL STRUCTURE |
| V A R I A B L E S | Population Density | Number of Galaxy Churches | Previous Community Projects |
| | Ur Spread | Percentage of Christian Churches | Presence of Social Agencies |
| | Economic Level | Other Religions Present | Economic Base Type |
| | Population Stability | Denominational Spread | Political Climate (Authoritarian Participatory) |

LEVELS OF PREPARATION CRITERIA

| LEVELS | | ARENAS | LOCAL CHURCH PREPAREDNESS | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | CLERGY | CADRE | CONGREGATION |
| LEVEL B Dynamic of Becoming A | A Objective | 1 Prepared Couple | 5 12 or more 3 Couples | 9 Galaxy Criteria | |
| | B Training | 2 Advanced Training | 6 Academy Schedule | 10 5% or 50 Grads | |
| | C Decision | 3 Direct Invitation | 7 Decision to Participate | 11 Signal of Authorization | |
| | D Support | 4 Financial Support | 8 Financial Support | 12 Financial Support | |
| LEVEL C Dynamic of Becoming B | A Objective | 1 Willing Cleric | 4 Six Persons | 7 Galaxy Development | |
| | B Training | 2 Impacted PLC Grad | 5 Advanced Course Plan | 8 2% or 10 RS-1 Grads | |
| | C Decision | 3 Movement Colleague | 6 Decision to Mature | 9 Sense of Readiness | |
| LEVEL D Dynamic of Becoming C | A Objective | 1 Concerned Cleric | 3 Cadre of Four | 5 Galaxy Possibilities | |
| | B Training | 2 RS-1 or PLC Grad | 4 RS-1 Grads | 6 2 or More RS-1 Grads | |

LEVELS OF PREPARATION CRITERIA

| GENERAL CHURCH RELATIONS | | COMMUNITY | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| MOVEMENT | DENOMINATION | GUILD | PARISH |
| 13 Regional Leadership | 17 Established Friends | 21 Prepared Guild Visioning Cell | 25 EPX Criteria |
| 14 Council Participation | 18 National Signal | 22 Guild Academy | 26 100 LENS Grads |
| 15 Movement Approval | 19 Regional Sponsors | 23 Decision to participate | 27 Signal of Authorization |
| 16 Financial Support | 20 Financial Support | 24 Financial Support | 28 Financial Support |
| 10 Movement Involvement | 13 Developing Friends | 16 Ten Persons | 19 EPX Development at Metro Level |
| 11 Active Recruitment | 14 National Possibilities | 17 Advanced Training Plan | 20 Fifty LENS Grads |
| 12 Regional Relationship | 15 Regional Support | 18 Decision to Mature | 21 Sense of Anticipation |
| 7 Movement Awareness | 9 Discovering Friends | 11 Core Group 2 Parish Colleagues 4 Local People | 13 E.P. Possibility |
| 8 Renewal Concern | 10 Establishment interest | 12 LENS Grads | 14 2 or more LENS Grads |

GLOBAL PROJECTION

INTRODUCTION

9. The globe contains 419, 904 parish-sized human settlements needing to be renewed. Such an awesome assignment requires method and time, and thus the following schedule of parish renewal is proposed for the Ecumenical Parish Experiment.

FIRST YEAR OF
ECUMENICAL
PARISH
EXPERIMENT

10. At the beginning of the first year of the experiment, each of the 47 metros that has a Religious House will begin moving directly on the actualization of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment. Among those metros, 12 will be selected for special emphasis because of relative readiness and signal value. Beginning the experiment in this fashion will make possible the kind of control that is essential to insure that there is one experiment and that wisdom gained in practical field experience is shared in such a way as to produce a simplified, workable model for parishes across the world.

SECOND
YEAR

11. With the implementation model being shaped by actual parish engagement, the Ecumenical Parish Experiment will then be expanded to include the formulated Area cities of SEA-PAC, Sub-Asia, and Europe. These include Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Majuro in SEA-PAC; Bombay in Sub-Asia; and London in Europe. These cities have a strong Movemental base, will have galaxies in process and are powerful signs to the Movement and to the world that local man has picked up the task of building the earth.

THIRD
YEAR

12. At the beginning of the third year of the experiment, the remaining metros in which Religious Houses are located will begin the process of Galaxy/Guild implementation that would move into the Ecumenical Parish Experiment.

RESURGENCE
DEMONSTRATED

13. The times which the Spirit Movement faces are those of obviously rising crescendo of global resurgence. Local man is standing up in local communities around the world and signaling his resolve to take responsibility for his parish and the world. The teaching of LENS around the world has demonstrated both the reality of resurgence and the power of a concrete image of effective engagement in sparking human motivity.

METRO MOBILIZATION

IMPACT
ARENAS

14. In order that the Ecumenical Parish Experiment become grounded in a community it is essential that it identify and establish contact with structures that are already existing within the community. Such structures would come under the broad headings of SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES AND CLUBS, SOCIAL AGENCIES, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, POLITICAL STRUCTURES and THE CHURCH.

SOCIAL
SERVICES

15. In the field of SOCIAL SERVICES, it will be necessary to impact those arenas where the life blood of the community emerges. The welfare department and employment bureau are essential in maintaining community stability and would be an important impact arena. However, we must also take into consideration, the social clubs which provide and encourage self expression and a sense of community, such instance would be, the Masonic Lodge, the Y.M.C.A., Youth Clubs, and Senior Citizen Clubs which are often present in the community.

BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL
GROUPS

16. In the field of BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, it would be necessary to contact the organizations in which the power in the community is held. Such organizations determine the structure of the community, not only in its physical status, but its self image, in respect to the possibilities of the present and the future. For example, the distribution of industries, the power of the unions; the newspapers and the educational structures; the trading community, and real estate business. All of these determine the conditions under which people live, and the image out of which they will operate. Thus contact with the key men of power in each of these fields is necessary to determine the structure and the future insights of the community.

POLITICAL
STRUCTURES

17. The POLITICAL STRUCTURES of the community must also be impacted. Within each community, these structures point to the basics of the individual's engagement with life. From these emerge the leaders of the community which are invaluable to any experiment. For example, block clubs, local governments, political parties, and police administrations; these are the nuclei out of which the needs of the community can be readily discerned.

THE CHURCH

18. The CHURCH within each community is of utmost importance, as it has the means of knitting together the people under a common bond. The church gatherings which defy denominational boundaries in order to deal with the problems of the populace, would be a vital impact arena for the experiment of an Ecumenical Parish. As the political parties deal with the problems of all irrespective of creed, the church groups are a means of breaking into the establishment itself from the local church base. For example, the Federation of Women, ecumenical church groups, ministerial alliances, church social departments, and fund raising bodies such as Christian Aid.

PRE-VISIT PLANNING

The first step in the mobilization of the metro in preparation for the Ecumenical Parish Experiment would be to call a meeting of galaxy auxiliaries, assignable metro colleagues and religious house personnel. This meeting would do the initial groundwork for the Ecumenical Parish Experiment Field Visit. Along with Spirit Life, the meeting would have the following agenda:

1. Contexting Ecumenical Parish Experiment
2. Griding metro to parishes
3. Prioritizing polises and parishes
4. Drawing up a battle plan for metro
5. Listing
 - a. grads to reactivate
 - b. people from whom authorization is needed
 - c. potential galaxy congregations
 - d. LEMS sponsors
6. Assigning follow-up to lists in 5b and 5d
7. Recruiting for initial Ecumenical Parish Experiment Field Visits
 - a. church related grads for Galaxy Field Visit
 - b. church and non-church related grads for Guild Field Visit

STRUCTURAL ROLES

INTRODUCTION

19. The nature of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment requires the close cooperation of the Religious House, Galaxy cadres and Metro structures. With each picking up its unique role, the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the task is assured.

RELIGIOUS
HOUSE

20. The role of the Religious House is to maintain the comprehensiveness by guarding the global dimension and being a link between all aspects of the experiment. Moreover, its role would be that of training and nurturing the troops, contacting churches and planning courses. As this dimension of the work is carried out effectively the globality of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment becomes a reality.

GALAXY

21. The Galaxy Cadres embody the religious dynamics of the Ecumenical Parish Experiment and are the guardians of the symbolic. Members of the congregation provide a concrete link to local man and would enable his key insights and wisdom to be used in the geo-socio analysis of the parish and contact arenas to be impacted.

METRO

22. The roles of Metro Structures and colleagues is the fusing of secular sphere of life with that of the religious. Moreover, it is the base from which the troops are provided for the ongoing work of the experiment, and thus embodies within itself the recruitment role. Through its recruitment and troop mobilization, the metro is the key in unifying and enabling the church's work within the experiment: through its scope of contacts and in particular in its secular link with the local situation, the metro structures prove themselves to be invaluable.