

OPERATIONS COMMONIZATION
LOCAL CHURCH EXPERIMENT
ECUMENICAL PARISH PREPARATION TIMELINE

Summer '73
Research Assembly
Fourth Week

July 26, 1973
Team 33

IMPACT OF THE ECUMENICAL PARISH ON THE LOCAL CHURCH EXPERIMENT

Our task was to define a timeline for preparing a LCX church to initiate the Ecumenical Parish. The PSU discerned that it was necessary to develop a set of basic truths and also assess the implications of the Ecumenical Parish relative to the Local Church Experiment. A questionnaire was developed and distributed to Galactic Auxiliary to gather their intuitions on contradictions and steps to implementing the Ecumenical Parish. Based on this information, criteria were developed for preparation of a Galaxy church for initiating an Ecumenical Parish. Also, a six-month timeline was formulated for preparing a Galactic church to initiate an Ecumenical Parish by January, 1974. This document provides a view of the overall impact of the Ecumenical Parish on the LCX and the Galaxy role in the implementation process.

ECUMENICAL PARISH IMPLICATIONS FOR LCX

GALAXY

1. The Ecumenical Parish has definite implications for an LCX Galaxy. The intensification of training in social methods coming out of the 5th City model will be necessary for a Galaxy taking responsibility for an Ecumenical Parish. A Galaxy Church involved in an Ecumenical Parish will require other churches in the Galaxy for support in bringing off that signal parish. Involvement in an Ecumenical Parish will require a clarifying of the relationship of the Galaxy to the Metro structures in that parish. Where a Galaxy has one of its churches involved in an Ecumenical Parish, the primary task of the other Galaxy churches will be replication. Direct engagement in the social concerns as manifested in the parish is what will stimulate the Galaxy. An Ecumenical Parish with neighborhood-based congregations will provide the possibility of directly impacting the community in less than the prescribed LCX 4-year timeline. The re-evaluation of the parish tactics as they now show up in the tactical system will be necessary in order to move toward the Ecumenical Parish.

AUXILIARY

2. The Ecumenical Parish will result in the following implications for the Local Church Auxiliary: first, training in 5th City tactical methods; second, care structures intensifying practices; third, reordering the tactical actualization timeline, especially as it relates to the Guild; fourth, intensification of recruitment in the parish for basic course participation.

CADRE

3. The Ecumenical Parish will result in the following implications for the Cadre: first, a doubling of numbers participating; second, care structures intensifying practices; third, need for the Sanctification Course; fourth, taking on the primary task of transforming the congregation, plus creating the Guild Auxiliary and the Guild.

CONGREGATION

4. The impact of Ecumenical Parish implementation upon the Congregation will be multi-dimensional. First, the congregation will develop a clearer sense of mission to the world. Second, the congregation will experience an intensification of its relationship to other churches in the parish, as well as to others in the experiment throughout the globe. Third, the congregation will find a new sense of belonging to its turf and will be more aware of ongoing life within the parish. Fourth, special training in social and spirit methods, as are offered in LENS and the Sanctification Course, will be in greater demand.

In preparation for the launching of the Local Church Experiment in 1971, certain criteria were laid out to help determine the level of readiness of particular local churches for the experiment. These criteria are described in the Inclusive Designs Document, paragraphs 30-36. In considering the galaxies about to assume responsibility for an Ecumenical Parish, it was the opinion of our PSU that additional criteria needed to be developed that would reflect this stage of advanced preparation. The "Level B" criteria of the Inclusive Designs were used as the base line of preparation, with the additional criteria imaged as above and beyond those described under Level B.

CLERGY

5. In addition to the criteria described as "Level B" in the inclusive designs document, the following criteria are required of the CLERGY family: first, that they are graduates of the LENS course; second, that they make a self-conscious decision to participate in the Ecumenical Parish; third, that they recruit other clergy within their parish to attend PLC; fourth, that they have participated at least one year in the Local Church Experiment.

CADRE

6. The four additional criteria for the Cadre in terms of preparing for the Ecumenical Parish: first, the Cadre has a minimum of 12 persons, including 3 couples, half of them living in the parish; second, all CADRE members have participated in the LENS course; third, Six (6) Cadre members participate in the Local Church Auxiliary; fourth, the CADRE is training in social and secular spirit methods.

CONGREGATION

7. The four additional criteria for the CONGREGATION in terms of preparing for the Ecumenical Parish are: first, 5% or 50 people within the congregation be graduates of the LENS course; second, that 20% of the congregation live within the delimited parish boundaries; third, that the congregation have undergone self-conscious liturgical renewal; fourth, that an awareness of the Parish Grid has impacted the congregation.

MOVEMENT

8. The four additional criteria for the MOVEMENT forces in terms of preparing for the Ecumenical Parish are that: first, there must be strong movemental structures within the region, such as Metro Ecclesiolas, Metro Coordinators Net, etc.; second, there must be 25 non-galaxy iron men within the region who are willing to lend their support to the Ecumenical Parish; third, the region must have reached the level of tertiary penetration; fourth, the region must have raised up guardians within its midst who are willing to provide guidance and support relative to formation of the Guild.

DENOMINATION

9. Please note that no additional criteria have been added in the arena of Denominational Relations, beyond the "B-Level" of preparation. Rather, those criteria recommended in the inclusive designs have been: first, there is established support in the denominational structure; second, re-emphasized at the national level there is significant support of the congregation in its experimental decision; third, the congregation has sponsors of the decision to participate in the experiment at the regional denominational level; fourth, there is some sign of financial support at the denominational level.

GALAXY

10. An additional arena in which preparation for the Ecumenical Parish is required is the GALAXY. In this respect, four criteria are necessary: first, that there be a concrete plan for replication (LCX); second, at least two churches within the galaxy are actualizing the basic tactics; third, the auxiliary has made a self-conscious decision to do the Ecumenical Parish; fourth, that replication of the Ecumenical Parish be on the timeline.

CLERGY	LENS GRAD 1	SELF-CONSCIOUS DECISION 2	RECRUIT PLC IN PARISH 3	ONE YEAR IN LCX 4
CADRE	LENS GRADS 5	LOCAL CHURCH AUX. OF 6 6	SOCIAL & SPIRIT METHODOLOGIES 7	50% LIVE IN PARISH 8
CONGREGATION	5% OR 50 LENS GRADS 9	20% LIVE IN PARISH 10	LITURGICALLY RENEWED 11	CONSCIOUS OF PARISH GRID 12
MOVEMENT	STRONG REGIONAL STRUCTURES 13	25 IRON MEN IN REGION 14	TERTIARY PENETRATION 15	REGIONAL GUARDIANS 16
DENOMINATION	ESTABLISHED FRIENDS 17	NATIONAL SIGNAL 18	REGIONAL SFONSORS 19	FINANCIAL SUPPORT 20
GALAXY	PLAN FOR REPLICATION 21	2 CHURCHES ACTUALIZING 22	AUX. DECISION TO DO PARISH 23	T/L FOR E.P. REPLICATION 24

Summer '73
Research Assembly
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ECUMENICAL PARISH 6-MONTH TIMELINE
Local Church Experiment

July 26, 1973
Team 33

84-5

6	5	4	3	2	1
	GRID AND PROBLEMAT		→	COURSE PREP	INITIATE ECUMENICAL PARISH WITH
	FIELD VISIT	DEMONSTR. SIGN		LENS COURSE	LENS FOLLOW UP

TEN TRUTHS OF THE LCX & ECUMENICAL PARISH

1. The Local Church Cadre is trained in methods of social research and social change.
2. The Local Church, in the midst of moving on the Ecumenical Parish, continues to hold to its primary concern for the symbolic.
3. Disciplined churchmen must live in the Ecumenical Parish.
4. The LENS Course is a crucial tool for the congregation as well as the Guild to expose them to secular spirit and social methodology.
5. Metro "Spirit Men" (Self-Conscious Churchmen) and Guardians are necessary for making up the Cell dynamic.
6. The Local Church Experiment is The Vehicle of the Movemental (i.e., "Spirit Movement") dynamic within the parish.
7. The Local Church Experiment maintains a low profile within the Guild.
8. The self-conscious Cadre relates to global pressure points by developing methods which transform the local community.
9. A Local Church Auxiliary member must be assigned to Guild participation by the Cadre, and operates there on its behalf.
10. The focus of the Galaxy Auxiliary must remain upon the Congregation, minimizing direct participation in Guild Tactics, so that the Congregation may itself actualize the Ecumenical Parish.

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THE LOCAL CHURCH EXPERIMENT

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