

Letter to Community Leaders

Emailing this list of questions to your mayor, city council members, police and fire chiefs, school superintendent, principals of nearby schools, and your city's neighborhood services departments will reveal needs most church people do not think about. They will help you know the kind of spiritual leader you will need to make a true impact upon the community.

Dear Community Leader:

Our church is presently in a leadership transition and searching for a new lead pastor. We believe in community engagement, and you were among a short list of community leaders we wanted to reach out to for input. We feel confident we have a handle on the spiritual qualities we are looking for but would value your input concerning the city's current and future needs. Would you mind replying to this email with brief answers to the following questions:

- What is the most pressing spiritual, personal, and social needs people have in our neighborhood/community? *(select appropriate word(s): using both may be suitable for a large city while just using "community" is good for a small town)*
- What gaps need to be filled in our city that only a faith-based work can do?
- How would you describe the city as a culture?
- What are our city's greatest needs?
- What are the greatest dangers or threats our city is facing?
- What are our greatest strengths as a city?
- What are ways you have seen our city change over the past five years?
- What significant needs do you think our city will have five years from now?
- What are the different subcultures that exist in our city?
- What needs do most organizations in our part of town feel unqualified for or unable to meet?
- From your perspective, how can a community-minded church best help our city?

Thank you for helping us better serve our community.

Sincerely,

(Insert first and last name here)

Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee

(Insert your church name)