



TENDING THE VINEYARD

Stewardship of Religious Property

Educational Sessions for Strategic Property Planning

SESSION 1

Ten-item Checklist Leadership Can Use to Determine an Institute's Readiness for Strategic Property Planning

A religious institute may be ready for a strategic property planning process when institute leadership:

- 1. Has a general understanding of critical realities the institute faces for the future.
- 2. Understands that these realities bring with them a need for major decisions about the institute's future.
- 3. Is ready to make and then follow through on the implications of potentially difficult decisions, such as:
 - a. A decision to let go of a long-held and dear property,
 - b. The potential need for relocation of members to address their care needs,
 - c. Downsizing or closing sponsored ministries,
 - d. Reducing staffing levels, or
 - e. Actions to reduce major expense.
- 4. Has a good idea of the commitment of time, effort and energy strategic property planning will require within the institute.
- 5. Thinks enough members have a general understanding of realities the institute faces for the future.
- 6. Is ready to either invest institute resources strategic property planning will require or to seek outside resources.
- 7. Believes that a significant number of members seem ready to make major decisions about the long-term future of the institute.
- 8. Decides the level of member engagement that is appropriate for the decisions the institute needs to make.
- 9. Concludes that membership as a whole has the interest and energy required to engage in strategic property planning.
- 10. Understands that difficult decisions mean that unanimity is probably not possible and that some members will likely disagree with the decisions made.

