

# Step 4: Annual Ministry Reflection

## Looking Back to Move Forward

Community Care Ministries is built on relationships, and relationships grow over time.

This annual reflection is an opportunity to pause, celebrate what has happened, learn from your experiences and prayerfully discern where God may be leading next.

You do not need perfect records or impressive numbers to complete this reflection. Instead, focus on what you have observed, experienced and learned throughout the year.

Set aside time with your ministry team and work through the following questions together.

---

### Part 1: Celebrating the Year

Before considering challenges or improvements, take time to celebrate.

What are you most thankful for this year?

#### **Think about:**

- New relationships formed
- Volunteers who stepped forward
- Moments of connection and belonging
- Stories of encouragement or support
- Unexpected blessings

#### **Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**What moments best captured the heart of this ministry?**

These may be small moments that would never appear in a report:

- A meaningful conversation
- A new friendship
- A volunteer going above and beyond
- Someone feeling welcomed for the first time
- A person receiving support during a difficult season

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**Part 2: What Did We Learn?**

Every ministry teaches us something.

What worked well?

**Consider:**

- Programs or activities
- Volunteer engagement
- Communication
- Partnerships
- Ministry rhythms
- Reflection Notes

---

---

---

---

**What challenges did we encounter?**

Consider:

Volunteer capacity

Participation levels

Scheduling

Communication

Sustainability

Unmet needs

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**What surprised us?**

Sometimes our greatest insights come from unexpected experiences.

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**Part 3: Reflecting on Impact**

Community Care Ministries is ultimately about people.

How have people experienced care, connection or belonging through this ministry?

What evidence have you seen that people feel:

More connected?

More supported?

- More included?
- More hopeful?
- More engaged in the life of the corps?

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**How have our volunteers grown?**

- Consider:
- New skills developed
  - Increased confidence
  - Spiritual growth
  - New relationships
  - Greater understanding of the community

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**Part 4: Three Words for the Year**

Sometimes a few words capture a year better than a lengthy report.

As a team, reflect on the ministry journey and identify the words that best describe what this year has been like.

**Looking Back**

What three words describe this past year?

---

---

---

**Looking Ahead**

What three words do we hope will describe the year ahead?

---

---

---

**Reflection**

What do these words reveal about where we have been and where we believe God is leading us?

---

---

---

---

**Part 5: Looking Ahead**

As you reflect on the year, consider where God may be leading next.

What should we continue doing?

What is clearly bearing fruit?

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

What should we do differently?

What adjustments could strengthen the ministry?

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

What opportunities are emerging?

Are there new needs, partnerships or possibilities worth exploring?

**Reflection Notes**

---

---

---

---

**Part 6: Our Intention for the Year Ahead**

Rather than creating a long list of goals, identify one simple intention that will guide your ministry over the next year.

A strong intention is:

Clear

Realistic

Relational

Focused on growth rather than activity

**Examples:**

Deepen relationships with isolated seniors.

Strengthen volunteer support and encouragement.

Create more opportunities for belonging.

Expand community partnerships.

Welcome and connect new participants.

**Our Ministry Intention**

This year, we believe God is calling us to:

---

---

---

**One Practical Step We Will Take**

What is one action we can commit to in the next three months that supports this intention?

---

---

---

---

**Closing Reflection**

Take a moment to pray together.

Give thanks for the relationships, experiences and lessons of the past year.

Ask God for wisdom, courage and compassion for the year ahead.

Remember that success is not measured only by numbers, attendance or activities.

Success is found in faithful presence, meaningful relationships and lives touched through acts of care.

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:9)

**Annual Reflection Summary**

Three words that described this year:

---

---

---

Three words we hope will describe next year:

---

---

---

Our ministry intention for the coming year:

---

---

Our next practical step:

---

---