Faith Plans
For people and planet

Contact Faith Plans: info@faithplans.org
Faith Plans Planning and Action Guide

This Guide helps you and your faith community create a long-term Faith Plan.

It is up to each faith group to decide what they will focus on in their Faith Plan, depending on their core beliefs and values, priorities, resources, time, and capacity. The purpose of this guide is to provide some simple pointers, some of which may or may not be relevant to your faith-group.

Guiding Principles

1. Take stock of the past and celebrate learnings.
2. Gain a clear understanding of the present.
3. Imagine and plan the future, using real world, measurable impacts to plan ideas.
4. Share the narratives, within faith traditions, within the laity, and to the wider world, with specific support and encouragement for participating groups to develop their Faith Plan.

Don’t forget to register your commitment to developing a Faith Plan: www.faithplans.org/sign-up

The Faiths Plans has four guiding principles, building on the foundations of the first programme of establishing Faith Long-term Plans. These are relevant to both individual organisations and the co-ordination of multi-faith working groups, which will enable groups to work together and deliver change at a greater scale.
Seven Key Areas of Faith Plans

1. **Faith-consistent use of assets**: e.g., Buildings, Healthcare, Land Management, Water, Financial investments.
2. **Education and young people**: e.g., School curricula, Informal education, Vocational training & entrepreneurship, School buildings and grounds, Conservations and recycling policy, Youth organisations.
3. **Wisdom**: e.g., Theological education and training, Crisis and adaptation, Liturgies, quotations and orders of prayer, Sacred places, Theology of nature, land, forests, water, Stories and practices, Prayer.
4. **Lifestyles**: e.g., Green audits, Simple Living, Families, Pilgrimage and tourism, Purchasing power.
5. **Media and advocacy**: e.g., Subject matter, Influence, Advocacy, Guides and handbooks, Materials.
6. **Partnerships, eco-twinning and new environmental departments**: e.g., Dedicated staff and funding, Lay people, Eco-twinning, Other partnerships.
7. **Celebration**: e.g., Traditional festivals, New festivals, New traditions, New beautiful places and developments.

The Faith Plans recognises that each faith community starts from its own unique position and needs to create a Plan that accords with its theology, context and capacity.

The programme focuses on seven key areas where the world’s major faiths can have a long-term environmental impact. For more specific guidelines on planning for the seven areas of the Faith Plans programme, visit [www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas](http://www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas).

In the context of stating your specific commitments and actions, please consider how you will apply gender equality, race and human dignity considerations into each area.

**TIP**: Visit [www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas](http://www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas) and explore each of the key areas as you complete this Planning and Action Guide.
Planning and Action Guide

This guide is to be used as a template to create your Faith Plan.

It focuses on two steps:

1. The first step will guide you to identify how your faith can be a tool for transformation, which of the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans are relevant to you, set a focus, and find out where action is needed and most suitable.

2. The second step will help you set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound) actions to ensure you can successfully turn your faith commitment into faith action.

We also provide tips on how to present your final Faith Plan.

Use this Planning and Action Guide alongside our specific downloadable prompts and questions for each of the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans. Visit: www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas

The Faith Plans team is available to support and encourage you during your Faith Plans journey. Get in touch by emailing info@faithplans.org
Step 1: Defining Goals, Outcomes & Focus

1. Exploring the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans, outline your Goals and what Outcomes you would like to achieve?

LET YOUR FAITH DRIVE YOUR AMBITION!

- What does our Faith tell us about how we need to care for the Earth and each other? What matters to our faith?

- What aspects of our theology/story do we need to revisit in light of the ecological crises?

- Have we applied our core beliefs and values to how we live faith community life?

- Which of the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans are applicable to our faith organization?

- How can we be ambitious? How can we go further? How can we use our Faith as a tool for Transformation?

- What would we like to achieve?
**TIPS:** Complete the Faith Plans [baseline survey](#) of environmental action your faith group has already taken in the past. This survey will help you identify environmental actions and activities to include in your Faith Plan.

Use creative and innovative ways to document our Vision by using pictures, timelines, moments of celebration, animations. Write a **Statement of Commitment** that you can use to ground your Goals and Desired Outcomes.
2. What steps or action points need to be taken to achieve these Goals and Outcomes?

How will we achieve our vision? Where can the most value and positive environmental and social impact be achieved? What worked well in the past? What processes should we engage in? e.g., Consultations? Dialogue?

*TIPS:* Watch the Faith Plans webinars on the Seven Key Areas, explore the Seven Key Areas for prompts, and visit the Faith Plans' library of resources for guidance on where and how to act! Read FaithInvest’s Developing Faith-Consistent Investment Guidelines for specific guidance on steps towards aligning financial investments with your belief and values.
3. Thinking about the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans programme, our Goals and Desired Outcomes, what is Realistic & Attainable, for us to do in the short-to medium term (1 – 3 years), but also has the possibility for continuation in the future (5 – 7 years)?
Step 2: Turning Commitment into Action

4. What does the specific action look like?

Focusing on our goals, what are the specific actions and activities we need to take? What are our short-to long-term targets? What steps do we need to take to achieve these targets? Who needs to be involved? What processes should we follow?

**TIP:** Develop an Action Planning Template to help turn commitment into action (see template provided below). Make sure to include activities that communicate and celebrate progress.
An example of an Action Planning Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faith Plans Key Area</th>
<th>Goals set</th>
<th>Action Points</th>
<th>Who is Responsible</th>
<th>Targets and Timeline</th>
<th>Resources needed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith: consistent use of assets</td>
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<td>Celebration</td>
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5. How can we measure these action points?

What information is needed to show that action is having a positive impact? Who will collect this information? How it will be collected? How will this information help measure impact for the identified Goals and Desired Outcomes of our Faith Plan?
6. Are our action points attainable?

Are the action points possible to accomplish within a certain timeframe, available resources, and the context of our faith group? What resources, time and skills are needed to make our action points attainable? What do we already have? What additional resources will be needed? How will we know that our activities are achieving their intended outcomes or are on track to make the impacts that matter to our faith?

Will we have to fund the implementation of our Faith Plan? If so, is funding available? Who needs to be involved in the implementation of our plan?
7. Are our action points relevant?

Do our action points make sense and reflect our Faith, Goals, Priorities and Desired Outcomes?
8. Are our action points time-bound?

What realistic time frame can we set to achieve our action points? Have we set immediate, to medium and long-term targets to achieve, review action points, and revise action points? Have we included information about how we will measure the progress towards achieving our action plan, and how changes will be made to the action plan if needed?
Step 3: Presenting our Faith Plan

This guide and template will have helped you create your Faith Plan.

You can use this template to present the final version of your Faith Plan, or you may choose to present your final Faith Plan as a narrative or statement document that lays out your commitments and actions for this decade. Consider adding pictures and visuals to portray the vision you want to realize and to inspire other faith organisations around the world to create a long term Faith Plan for People and Planet.

Upload your final Plan to www.faithplans.org/2022-plans or email the Faith Plans team at info@faithplans.org

Checklist for our Faith Plan

- We have registered our commitment to creating a Faith Plan on www.faithplans.org/signup
- We have explored the Seven Areas of the Faith Plans and have identified if all, or some of the Areas are relevant to our faith group.
- We have carried out the Faith Plans baseline survey.
- Our Faith Plan outlines how our members will be engaged or consulted to support the creation of our Faith Plan.
- The actions in our Faith Plan are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound).
- We have identified how our faith can be a tool for transformation. We have identified how we can go further in our commitment and response during this crucial decade for People and Planet.
- We have included targets and ways to monitor progress in our Faith Plan.
- Our Faith Plan includes actions that improve gender equality, race and human dignity in decision-making and in the implementation of our Faith Plan and supports the principles of environmental justice.
- We have uploaded our Faith Plan on www.faithplans.org/2022-plans