

# The NLI Process



**Ministry Focus Event**  
This is the first official NLI event for the whole church.



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## Phase 2: Self Study & Innovations Weekend

**Self-Study**  
The purpose of the self-study is to introduce your church to the Weekend Innovations Team. Information is gathered by the church NLI team and lay leaders.



### Intentional Prayer

The church begins and then continues intentional prayer for the NLI process. The church prays for their clergy who are learning via CPLG, the NLI team, the Weekend Innovations Team, and for the movement of the Spirit throughout the process.

### Clergy Peer Learning Group

Clergy meet together monthly as a CPLG for training and NLI process guidance.

### NLI Orientation

NLI staff provides orientation on the entire NLI process to the church NLI team and clergy. NLI mentors are introduced.

## 1 Phase 1: Training & Resourcing

### Invitation Banquet

Invited churches learn about the NLI process and begin prayerful discernment.

### Pre-Process Begins

The District Superintendent prayerfully searches for good churches who can become great churches. Invitations are sent and mentors are chosen.

## Phase 3: Living Out Innovations

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**Innovation Work Begins**  
Church, Clergy, Mentors, and NLI staff resources work together to accomplish innovations outlined in the Innovations Report. This process continues for ~18 months.



### Congregational Vote

In order to continue in the NLI process, the church must vote to move forward at a church conference. To pass, the entire report must be approved by 70% of the members present.

### Town Hall Meetings

The church engages in a series of Town Hall meetings to intentionally discuss, offer questions or concerns, and process the Innovations Report.

### Prayer & Discernment

The church processes the Innovations report and prays about continuing in the process.

## The NLI Innovations Weekend

The 3-day process where the Weekend Innovations Team (WIT) meets with leaders and the congregation as a whole to listen and understand the church culture and context.

### Friday

On Friday the WIT gets familiar with the church building, interviews the pastor, and meets with key leaders. Church newcomers (1-5 years) and youth also spend time with the WIT.



### Saturday

Saturday's all-day listen, lunch, & learn session provides the WIT the opportunity to hear from the congregation. Mystery worshiper reports and other findings are presented.



### Sunday

The weekend concludes with the presentation of the Innovations Report during Sunday morning worship. Typically, churches with multiple reports and other findings hold one single, combined service.

