





## PIEDMONT NORTH CAROLINA

### **Question #1 – How can faith communities create transformative food ministries that build long-term food security in both urban and rural communities?**

- Fields of Hope
- Community Farming and Gardening - Organize “Master Gardener” volunteers
- Congregations push to have local markets accept food stamps and/or speed the payment and paperwork process
- Congregations in food deserts establish or bring in mobile food markets
- Community supper to teach how to cook good seasonal food.
- Find communities between rural and urban groups
- Identify real not perceived needs, networking, communication
- Identify resources: partners are key - county and state, other churches and funders, social and community organizations
- Rather than just give food away, participate in community gardens (sense of ownership)
- Restoration ministries, not just food ministries
- Food production as a way (a vehicle) to build sustainable community
- Everyone relates to food –use food to relate to each other
- Food security is linked to economic security
- Create permanent systems of hunting (sourcing) and gathering
- Share resources equally
- Connect communities to improve food security
- Employ individuals to work on food insecurity
- Promote action and education
- Present issues as a way to bring communities together rather than combat each other
- Find truth in all perspectives
- Find strength in community to create long term change
- There is flexibility in a community based model
- Create partner ships
- Empower people with resources
- Renew connection with food and food production-
- Access (direct or purchased)
- Nutrition
- Safety
- Involve those in need in early stages – planning etc. Location/transport
- Community gardens at churches –urban or rural
- Skills training facility in food growing (rural)
- Promoting, education about comm.. gardens that already exist
- Teaching kids about how food is grown
- Making church kitchens available for cooking classes, canning, preserving
- Churches support local growers for church events –bolster local sustainable agriculture from demand side
- Education on financial topics, also nutrition, job seeking, budgeting –Connect food pantry programs to this.
- Take advantage of time people waiting for other services to teach about health, food, nutrition, etc. - food pyramid, health recommendations
- Partner with cooperative extension
- Community gardens –which definition
- CSA: bring business into the equation as distribution location
- Gleaning: St. Andrews society
- Donation Station at Farmers Markets: donate @ \$5 more
- Healthy Food Cooking and Preserving Classes
- Engage Food Distributors to donate to kitchens to repackage

- Educate
- Chicken coups for migrant farm workers – catch the fever from the NCCC
- Crock-pot cooking classes- raise funds for crock-pot purchases, collect recipes, educate cooks
- Food canning
- Interfaith collaboration on shared values / fundamental principles
- Marketing food security ministries and services outside the immediate walls of the house of worship – communicating that the ministry is for everyone
- Articulating and hearing what the community needs really are – instead of assuming what they are, asking “what do you need?”
- Sensitivity to the cultural mores that shape perceptions about food
- Partnering and researching pre-existing services and ministries instead of reinventing the wheel → evaluating the assets and resources that already exist
- Sustained education paired with the outreach – for example: how do I cook this ingredient once I have it?
- Creation networks to glean unused produce from local gardens and gardeners
- Recognizing the link between food and community
- Involving local governments in the food security issues – county health departments
- Utilizing pre-existing kitchens in faith communities
- Finding other sources of funding that are not primarily grant-based
- Making education a two-way street, i.e. learning about food from the people you serve
- Addressing transportation limitations and opportunities
- It's about community. Food ministry is secondary. The real issue is who we are in community with.
- Donation stations at farmers' markets and grocery stores
- Transportation services to farmers' markets and grocery stores
- Teaching food insecure about growing their own and how to find resources
- Health and nutrition education
- Educate congregations to look outward. Start with special events to create buy-in – moving towards lifestyle transformation
- Curriculum development in churches. Start with children → youth → adult. Social justice issues and age-appropriate activities
- Gardening together – churches, community members
- Focus on stewardship of creation
- “Who owns the pond?” (Teach a person to fish) -→ Empower people.
- Produce food locally
- Community garden
- Raise awareness – this is “us”
- Nutrition education
- Reduce waste
- Increase access (e.g. CSA pick-up or market site)
- Shape moral imagination
- Mobile farmers markets
- Connect the dots (obesity, marketing, health, nutrition)
- Encourage community gardens and provide support for these projects
- Provide education on hunger and food injustices
- Address social injustices that contribute to poverty and hunger – address root causes
- Lead trips such as gleaning to provide youth with hands-on experience – all ages as well
- Empower communities through dialogue on shared visions on how to move forward to address issues of food justice
- Faith communities provide a grassroots means of creating positive social change and can exercise their voice in order to bring that change about (public policy change) –

however, faith communities do not always see food sustainability as a major issue and this needs to change

- Faith communities should expand their reach beyond just “taking care of their own” and hold a more inclusive notion of community that expands beyond their congregations – then sustainability becomes more of a local issue to churches and congregations
- Make / create good food to bring people together
- Create spaces where people can bring their whole selves
- You are what you eat. Food is a bridge and a celebration.
- Food as a commonality, shared connection, spiritual
- Food is a right – food security
- Food movement / food justice – should provide a variety of ways to plug in
- Youth as leaders – young and older – elder wisdom as a teaching opportunity
- We need to know our whole community. (Many hidden issues here at home.)
- Cooperative organization: food production / *skill sharing* / shared values
-