**A circular logo with a cross and a church

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

Heritage Event Rundown Sheet

## Church History with Positives and Negatives Timeline

**Event Purpose:** Help congregation process church history through personal joy and woundedness experiences, leading to healing and Church Profile data

**Duration:** 2 hours **Participants:** 6-8 people per table, Table Group Leaders, Interim Pastor **Materials Needed:** Large wall timeline (butcher paper), bright yellow sticky notes, light green sticky notes, markers, pens, 2 standing microphones, communion elements

## PRE-EVENT SETUP

**Room Preparation:**

* [ ] Create large timeline on wall using butcher paper (full wall length)
* [ ] Mark decades from church founding to present
* [ ] Draw horizontal line across middle of timeline
* [ ] Post 1-10 scale markers above and below timeline
* [ ] Set up 6-8 round tables facing the timeline wall
* [ ] Place sticky note pads and markers at each table

**Materials per Table:**

* [ ] 1 pad of BRIGHT YELLOW sticky notes (for positive memories)
* [ ] 1 pad of LIGHT GREEN sticky notes (for difficult memories)
* [ ] Black markers/pens for writing
* [ ] Basic church history handout with key dates

**Opening & Icebreaker**

**Welcome & Prayer**

* Opening prayer for wisdom and grace in remembering
* Introduce Heritage Event purpose and timeline process

# Positive Heritage Activity

## "Sharing Our Joy" Table

1. **Round One (4 minutes)** Share your name and how many years you've been attending this church. (30 seconds per person)
2. **Round Two (6 minutes)** If there were no obstacles (money, time, health, world problems, etc.) where's ONE place in the world you'd like to visit—or revisit—and what you especially would want to see/do there? (45 seconds per person)
3. **Round Three (8 minutes)** What's one song you really like to sing, or hear sung, at church; and why/when did it become special to you? (1 minute per person)
4. **Round Four Setup (12 minutes)** Think of a happy memory for you from your time at this church. [Visitors can remember ANY church in their lives.] This could be a person who blessed you (X prayed for me and I was helped), a personal event (I met my spouse and got married here), or a church-wide experience (a revival we hosted where 10 bikers got saved). Prepare to share in next section.
   1. **Sticky Note Instructions** At each table there are a tablet of BRIGHT YELLOW sticky notes and pens to share. Get one sheet. Write the approximate year this event took place at the top of the page. In large letters, write a word or phrase that summarizes the event (Healing Prayer, Wedding, Big Revival) below the year. If you'd like, put your initials in bottom corner.
   2. **Table Sharing** Go around the table and share your joyful church experience. (1 minute per person)
   3. **Place on Timeline** With everyone finished at your table, don't wait for other tables, go stick your page on the timeline in the appropriate area ABOVE THE LINE. Those needing assistance can have someone at table place their note.
   4. **Congregational Sharing** Table Group Leaders will go from the timeline to 2 standing mics by the platform and line up to share one story selected by the leader to share with the whole congregation. Selecting your own story is totally permissible. Sharing will go back and forth between the two mics until completed. (30 seconds per person)

**Break (15 minutes)**

# Negative Heritage Activity

**"Sharing Our Woundedness"**

1. **Instructions for Difficult Memories** Again, think of a time since you've been at this church, but this time think of a low point: some time that made you mad, or sad, or disappointed. After this time, maybe the only reason you are still here is because God had told you to stay. This is a time you need to heal from, a time to let go. Visitors can share from any church experience.
2. **Sticky Note Process** Get one sheet from the LIGHT GREEN sticky notes, put the approximate year when this event happened at the top. Below it, write a word or short phrase in larger letters that names this event or time. Share what you feel comfortable sharing. Please do not name specific names.
3. **Table Sharing with Care** The table leaders will now guide you as you share this experience with the rest of your table group. (2 minutes per person)
4. **Place Below Timeline** When everyone at your table is finished, go and place your sticky note on the timeline, BELOW the line. For those with challenges, someone from the table can take your note.
5. **Congregational Sharing** Table Group Leader will go from the timeline to a standing mic by the platform and line up to share one story selected by the leader to share with the whole congregation. Selecting your own story is totally permissible, even for both share times. (30 seconds per person)

# Timeline Analysis (30 minutes)

**Visual Timeline Review**

* Full group stands and walks along timeline
* Observe patterns of highs and lows
* Notice clustering of positives or negatives in certain periods
* Identify cycles or repeated patterns
* Look for correlation between events

**Pattern Identification Discussion** **Key Questions for Full Group:**

* What positive patterns do you see repeated throughout our history?
* What negative patterns keep showing up across different time periods?
* Which decades show the most positive activity above the line?
* Which periods show the most struggle below the line?
* How do pastoral transitions correlate with positive and negative events?

**Heritage Lessons Discussion** **Debrief Questions:**

* What surprised you about our church timeline?
* What positive heritage should we celebrate and build upon?
* What negative patterns do we need to address before calling a new pastor?
* What does this timeline tell us about effective leadership in our context?
* What lessons from our history should guide our pastoral search?
* Are there unresolved issues from our past that need healing?
* What aspects of our heritage should be included in our Church Profile?

**Heritage Commitments**

* Identify top 3 positive heritage themes to celebrate
* Name top 3 negative patterns requiring attention
* Commit to addressing unresolved issues during interim period
* Thank God for faithful people throughout church history

# Healing

**Invitation to Confession and Repentance**

* Pastoral invitation to confess and repent of issues needing to be released
* Time for silent prayer and personal reflection
* Opportunity for corporate confession of church wounds
* Focus on healing and letting go of past hurts

**POST-EVENT TASKS**

**Immediate (Same Day):**

* [ ] Take photos of completed timeline for documentation
* [ ] Remove and organize sticky notes by decade/theme
* [ ] Schedule follow-up with anyone who raised sensitive issues

**Within 1 Week:** **Interim Pastor Tasks:**

* [ ] Compile timeline findings into Heritage summary report
* [ ] Identify patterns and themes for Church Profile
* [ ] Plan individual conversations for sensitive historical issues
* [ ] Prepare heritage section of Church Profile document

**Transition Team Tasks:**

* [ ] Review Heritage timeline findings with Interim Pastor
* [ ] Address any urgent issues raised during timeline activity
* [ ] Plan communication to congregation about heritage process
* [ ] Schedule next interim focus point event

**HERITAGE DATA FOR CHURCH PROFILE**

**Timeline Visual:** *(Attach timeline photos showing positive and negative events with impact scales)*

**Positive Heritage Patterns:** *(List repeated positive themes and their decades)*

**Negative Heritage Patterns:** *(List recurring negative patterns requiring attention)*

**Historical Leadership Lessons:** *(Record insights about effective pastoral leadership in this church context)*

**Unresolved Issues Requiring Attention:** *(List sensitive matters needing healing before new pastor arrives)*