



Developing our 'statement of intention' (Cards 21, 22 & Facilitator Card 38)

Bridges the best of 'what is' (Discover) and 'what might be' (Dream)

Your 'statement of intention' is meant to be a short statement that describes the desired future. Its purpose is to focus activity, to help you stay on track by saying 'we feel called to be this so that we become 'a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world'. Here's some guidance:

- Make sure it connects with the core life-giving factors, the 'data' and values from the Discover stage.
- Use active rather than the passive words
- Avoid words like 'should', 'try to' and 'seek to'
- Make it easy to remember.
- Use simple, evocative words so that they form pictures or tell stories.
- Let it describe the destination, where you are hoping to get to, rather than specifying how to get there.
- Notice where the statement is taking you beyond your current limits or leading you into new insights and need for learning.

Examples of 'Statements of Intention'

If you look on-line you will find appreciative inquiry often refers to these statements as 'Provocative Propositions' and sometime 'statements of aspiration'. In this resource, they are the same thing and have the same purpose.

Ensuring a safe space for all – St Brides Church, Liverpool

every church a place of hope and confidence in God and in themselves – the statement of intention discerned when writing this resource

We are a welcoming, vibrant, loving community of followers of Jesus' – Church of Scotland resource on Appreciative Inquiry

We are growing daily as followers in our love for God – a church committing to its discipleship

We open doors for children to fall in love with Jesus. – another example from the Church of Scotland

We are easy to get to know (from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver) – a simple and not necessarily evocative statement, but in practice this became a deep and challenging step for this church

'..achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.' President John F Kennedy, 1961. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon in 1969.