Schedule time to meet with community leaders such as the city manager, social services coordinator, and mayor. Create a list of questions to ask leaders that provide insights on what’s happening in your community along how your church might serve the community in ways that make a difference. Listed below are sample questions:

1 | What positive changes do you see occurring in our community, and how might faith communities support and build upon these “bright spots?”

2 | In what ways do you anticipate that our community will be different 5 years from now?

3 | What challenges, needs, and opportunities will arise due to these changes?

4 | What are your hopes for our local community?

5 | What do people in this community need most from faith communities like ours?

6 | How could you envision our church being a transforming presence in this community?

7 | Are there individuals or groups that would appreciate being welcomed or befriended by our church?

8 | Who (individuals/organizations) is doing transformational work right now? How might we partner with them?