



Church Certification

FAST TRACK is very simple way to get your church certified. You simply, select one program to implement per month and tailor it to fit your church's vision. Your goal is to become certified within 6 months. The programs offered should be available to the community and offered at least once per year. Most of the work for the suggested programs listed below are done by the experts you will invite except in the Family area. If you begin your first program in February and conduct one program in each initiative per month you will be eligible to be certified in 5 months. FAST TRACK promotes networking while working towards certification. Our goal is to get as many churches certified as possible prior to the Holy Convocation this year.

Education

1. Contact educators (principals, teachers, counselors college professors) in your community and agree on a time to conduct a 1-2 hour session on a topic that is needed in your community:
 - Using good study habits
 - How to prepare for exams
 - Handling bullies
 - Teaching parents and children to play chess
 - Parental support
 - Inspiring adults to further their education

OR

2. Offer Mentoring
 - Create a simple informal mentoring program that fits your church's vision. You may use exiting mentoring programs as a guide.
 - Allow 4 or 5 business people to sign up to be informal mentors, then allow mentees to be assigned to one of them.
 - Establish clear guidelines that work for your church. Use existing programs like the Justice Day program (Google) to create guidelines.
 - Mentors should meet with their mentee 1 hour per month.
 - This program could go on for 1 year, and then assign mentees to a different mentor.

Economic Development

1. Solicit members for a Human Resources contact that may agree to a date and time to offer 1-2 hour work related session like:
 - a. Resume Writing
 - b. Interviewing
 - c. How to excel on your performance review
 - d. Handling corporate politics – **OR**
2. Offer an Entrepreneurial session using the Small Business Administration toolkit.
<https://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/search/training>

Crime Reduction

Contact your local police captain to schedule a time to conduct a 1-2 hour session with parents and/or children on:

- Police interactions
- Safety in homes and churches
- Other topics of need for your community

Family

1. Family Movie Night

Preview a religious movie and select the most appropriate. Then select an evening that you feel would be the best for your community. Providing free popcorn and punch is a plus. Adding a hotdog brings a bigger smile to your participants. Ask each member to bring a guest from the community. Suggested movies that others have enjoyed:

- War Room
- Blessed and Cursed
- God is Not Dead
- Courageous

Projection systems are great but large screen TVs can be effective as well.

OR

2. Family Bible Trivia Night

- Select a night or a Saturday and play Bible Trivia or create a bible game and invite families to participate.

Financial Literacy

1. Contact the Community Reinvestment Officer at your bank and ask them to conduct a 90 minute seminar on a needed topic in your community:

- a. Credit repair for adults
- b. Teaching children to save (request piggy banks)
- c. Refinancing
- d. First time home buyers

2. Use Mymoney.gov

- a. Select person in your congregation to facilitate a 1 or 2 hour session.
- b. Identify what areas your community may find helpful.
- c. Use the tips on mymoney.gov for group discussions and help people understand how to create a budget using the tool section.

Advertising your event

- Always place a notice in your church bulletin 2-3 weeks before the event.
- Announce the event often in your church and jurisdiction.
- Consider adding the announcement as an insert so members can use it to invite others.
- Post the announcement on your social media site and ask members to share.
- Encourage and remind your members to invite at least 2 people from the community to attend.