



# ECC Church in a Box

## Naming Your Community

At some point your group will perhaps want to give itself a name. This can be a great community-building moment for a group. Giving some one person the “naming rights” is probably not appropriate if you want to achieve a sense of group ownership. There are various ways to go about this. Here are some tips:

- It may be that the group has already named itself informally and everyone is good with that. For instance everyone may spontaneously call it the “Sunday Morning Community.” You might just want to talk about the pros and cons of such a name and decide if that’s what you want for the future.
- Here’s one process for group discernment of a name; “try this on,” and see how you like it.
  - You could ask everyone to pray about a name for a period of time, say a month.
  - You could ask people to let names “bubble up” (i.e., emerge from) inside themselves over that course of time. Notice what name seems to stay. It’s better if people don’t talk with others about what is coming up for them.
  - The name that stays with each person is written in large letters on a letter size piece of paper and collected. No person’s name should be associated with name for the community, so that the voting is about the name not the person who came up with it.
  - Each piece of paper is taped to a wall (with easy to remove painter’s tape) around the room.
  - Everyone considers the choices in silence.
  - Participants are asked to stand by the name that they most desire to pick.
  - The name on the wall with the fewest persons standing by it is removed. The persons who had been in front of the name (now removed) go stand by a different name.
  - The process is repeated until everyone is standing by one name. That is the name the group chooses.