Diakonia Audit

1. Mission statement/tag line/key imagery

2. Look again at census data:
http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/zipstats.html
Research and Evaluation from the ELCA http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Research-and-Evaluation/Synod-Statistics.aspx
Income, ethnicity, age, gender, etc.
Take a tour: who is living around the congregation, who drives by, and what are the other congregations in the neighborhood

Correlate the intended audience/unchurched/needy that the congregation seeks to reach with the impressions you get from looking at the data and your own tour of the area:

2. How does the parish/congregation relate to its neighborhood?

Congregation's history of involvement within community
Note any major events that affected the community as a whole

'Silent history' – do you detect some gaps? whose story is not being told?

List diakonia efforts already underway for the congregation: some of these will be similar to the relationships you noted in the relationship audit:
here list only those happening in the 'parish' neighborhood/community:

3. Assess how diakonia efforts correlate with the needs and concerns of the congregation and community

What is the perceived (spoken) major concern of the congregation?
examples: Money? Membership loss? Old building? Sunday School?

What are the community's needs? Whose needs are being met within the community? Whose are not and why? - gather perceptions of the community from your interviews with people in the congregation

Then, identify any community leaders in the congregation and have an interview with them, or, try to arrange an interview with a school principal, police officer, real estate broker, local school board member, or other leader in the community **in this interview ask about the community's perceptions of the congregation:**

How is the church perceived by the community?

What stories are told (old & new) about the congregation and its people?

4. Ask positively: What excites members about ministry in this location? What would help move this ministry forward?

Or, Ask negatively: "What barriers do leaders encounter when they want to start a new ministry initiative?"

5. How can the "church" make a difference in this place? - assess the ecclesiology of the congregation and the mission opportunities in its setting