

HMEC 2017 Preliminary Program Ideas (rev 6/12/17)

Temple Management

Technology Enabled Temple

1. Best software solutions for front and back office applications
2. Customer Relationship Software (CRM) ie Salesforce, Microsoft Dynamics, SAP, what it can do and strategies for implementation.
3. Kiosks and self-service stations for improving temple efficiency

Board & EC Functions

1. Effective Bylaws, Drafting , Implementing and Revising.
2. Temple Policies and Procedures Examples of Best Practices
3. Bylaws modifications to ensure diverse representation in temple governance especially younger members (<50).
4. Pros and cons of different models for temple governance.

Public Relations

1. Importance of the Temple Spokesperson, Dealing with the media, print, television and radio do's and dont's.

Social Media

1. Using social media to effectively engage the temple membership (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, live streaming)
2. Educating the local and regional non-Hindu community through social media.

Security and Theft Prevention

1. Preventing a Temple Disaster, Developing a Plan and Drills
2. Purchasing and Installing a Security/Video Surveillance System
3. After the disaster, developing a plan for dealing with tragedy
4. Working with law enforcement to develop mutual understanding and improving temple security

Human Resources

1. Employment rules all Temples should follow.
2. Employee benefits, managing rising costs of health care.
3. Sponsoring priests and other temple employees from India. Immigration rule changes that may effect temples.
4. Salaried professional administration of the temple, getting beyond just priests and janitors.

Financial Management

1. Importance of independent auditing of accounting procedures.
2. Temple endowments for long term temple maintenance
3. Life insurance and estate planning tools for supporting temples.
4. Successful fundraising for temples and non-profit institutions.

Temple Construction and Renovation

1. Single sect or diversity in new temple construction pros and cons of both models in the future.
2. Evaluating and choosing the right temple architect
3. Renovating the aging temple, techniques and costs involved.

Lawsuits & Legal Matters

1. Most common legal issues temples face and how to deal with them.

Insuring the Temple

1. Property, Casualty, Auto, Umbrella Liability and Officer's Insurance.
Understanding the institutions need's and choosing the right policies.

Temple Programs

Youth Engagement Programs

1. Developing curriculum for the next generation of Hindus
2. The world outside the temple, engaging our youth through community service.
3. Second generation 25 to 40 y/o Hindus, bringing the missing generation back to the temple.
4. Understanding the youth perspective of temple management, suggestions for improvement.
5. Training teachers, what it takes to make a committed, motivated group, ready to meet the educational and spiritual needs of children.

Senior/Retiree Engagement

1. Developing Hindu senior centers, plans and possibilities.
2. Retired Hindus as untapped potential, engaging them to volunteer.

Priests and Technology

1. Best mobile apps for improving priests services
2. Overcoming resistance to adopting new technology

Hindu Chaplaincy

1. Meeting the mental health needs of Hindus in crisis (marital, stress, substance abuse, suicide, domestic abuse)
2. Understanding the psychological impact of conversion from Hinduism to other faiths through force and coercion
3. Pathways to Hindu chaplaincy, education and certification programs.

Seva Projects

1. Community involvement and visibility connecting the temple to the local community.
2. Hindus serving mankind globally through international volunteerism.
3. Encouraging volunteerism, recognition programs for youth and adults.

Temple of the Future, Fulfilling Our Hopes and Needs

1. Making temples a center of learning for the community through yoga, meditation, music, dance, language, art, and other dharmic based programs.
2. Temples as a center of community life. Function halls, career/financial counseling, job placement, sports courts, day care, and other possibilities.

Swadeshi Indology

1. Igniting an interest in the academic study of India and Hinduism from the native rather than foreign perspective.
2. Correcting the biases and mistakes made in the study of India so they are not disseminated and perpetuated in class rooms and textbooks.
3. Developing and supporting research opportunities and endowed chairs to encourage Swadeshi Indology.

Spiritualism

1. Encouraging satsang (community) through spiritualism at the temple.
2. Spiritualism and ritualism in the 21st century, balancing the needs of past and future.

Social Issues

Womens participation

1. Leadership opportunities (Board EC etc)
2. Participation in Rituals, religious program

Non-Indian Hindus

1. Outreach and Welcoming into Temple
2. Overcoming Language Barriers to encourage participation
3. Celebrating the acceptance of Hindu faith. Development of a formal ceremony for those who embrace a Hindu way of life.

Interfaith Outreach

1. Developing Ambassadors for Hinduism
2. Connecting with Interfaith Groups and Programs
3. The Hindu “brand” what are the traits of the faith that we want to develop and market.
4. Hate crimes, understanding causes, developing solutions

LGBT

1. Pathway to Understanding and acceptance in the Hindu Community
2. Participation in Temple Life and Rituals

Hindu Customs and Morality

1. Negotiating Hindu values with modern realities
2. Sex education for Hindu youth, what is the temple’s role?
3. Best techniques for developing an open and honest dialogue with youth
4. Death of a Hindu, Understanding the legal issues and formalities regarding handling of the body and last rites.

Hindu Activism

1. Acting as one force--coordinating responses to issues effecting Hindus through rallies, protests, congressional visits, and other non-violent actions.
2. Speaking with one voice--developing a central coordinated response to national issues and defamation effecting Hindus through official spokespeople, press releases, etc.
3. Political engagement for promoting Hindu interests, how to have the most impact without violating rules pertaining to non-profit status.