

Bodylife Traits of a Healthy Congregation

Mission and Vision

- ◆ Knows and affirms its biblical mission
- ◆ Understands clearly God's vision for the congregation
- ◆ Shares a common interpretation of God's vision
- ◆ Feels an urgency to respond to God's vision
- ◆ Focuses on the future

Boundaries

Physical

- ◆ Meets at an accessible location

Group

- ◆ Affirms an identity that is distinct from other congregations
- ◆ Resists undesirable influences from its environment
- ◆ Works enthusiastically to reach new people.
- ◆ Expresses clear expectations of members and participants
- ◆ Assimilates new members well
- ◆ Tries to reduce "drop outs"

Context

- ◆ Responds properly to changes in its context

Local community

- ◆ Knows the characteristics and needs of the persons with whom it is called to minister
- ◆ Recognizes the social structures and dynamics in its community

Broader culture

- ◆ Understands the implications of cultural changes for ministry

Religious networks

- ◆ Cooperates actively with other churches and Christian groups

Heritage

Spiritual and relational journey

- ◆ Celebrates the memories of God's faithfulness and blessings
- ◆ Has reconciled with God for any past unfaithfulness
- ◆ Has healed from past conflict among the membership

Organizational history

- ◆ Affirms specific strengths that the congregation has developed in recent years
- ◆ Draws from its history in positive ways that enhance learning and high morale

Interaction with the context

- ◆ Has a good reputation with its community

Leadership

Spiritual and relational vitality

- ◆ Encounters God in life-changing ways
- ◆ Displays a spirit of humility and service
- ◆ Cultivates a strong sense of unity and belonging
- ◆ Models Christian community that contrasts with the culture
- ◆ Manages conflict well

Change processes

- ◆ Demonstrates readiness to make personal changes in light of God's vision
- ◆ Is guided by a group of trusted leaders
- ◆ Agrees on how it will achieve God's vision for the next few years
- ◆ Make continuous changes in the church that are necessary
- ◆ Aligns short-term plans and activities with long-term goals

Learning disciplines

- ◆ Habitually learns helpful new ways of thinking and acting

- ◆ Facilitates many ways for peoples' lives to be changed by God
- ◆ Improves the quality of life for persons in its community

Ministry implementation

- ◆ Develops faithful disciples of Christ who develop other faithful disciples
- ◆ Experiences inspirational worship together
- ◆ Has high-quality ministries and programs
- ◆ Offers effective ministry with persons who aren't members

Organizational structures and processes

- ◆ Defines clearly the roles and responsibilities of leaders and groups
- ◆ Distributes authority in satisfactory ways
- ◆ Communicates well with each other
- ◆ Makes decisions effectively
- ◆ Provides many forms of small groups and organizations in which people participate

Stewardship of Resources

- ◆ Inspires members to be good stewards of their time, money and abilities
- ◆ Involves members in service for which they are gifted, skilled and called
- ◆ Has adequate places for meetings and activities

Feedback

- ◆ Gathers and uses information on a regular basis about progress toward God's vision
- ◆ Provides leaders with on-going feedback that affects their actions

Ministry