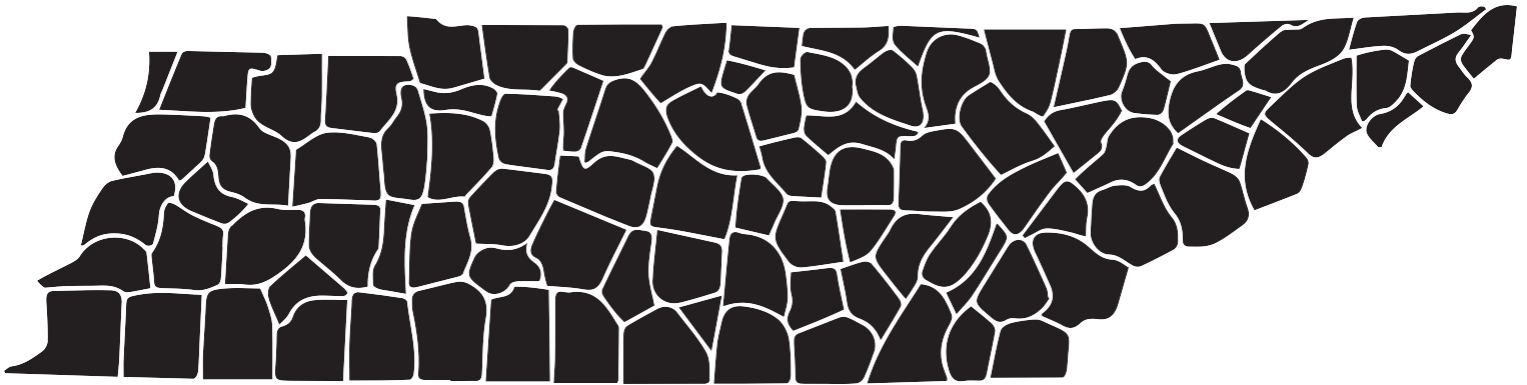




CHURCH VITALITY ASSESSMENT



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We Serve Churches

NETWORKING | RESOURCING | EQUIPPING

CONGREGATION ASSESSMENT

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:22-24

The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board has developed this assessment instrument to assist you in determining the areas of strength as well as areas needing attention as you seek to engage unreached and unchurched people more effectively. It is our hope and prayer that this tool will enable you to identify your strengths and build upon them as well as identify areas needing attention and perhaps one of two areas that may be hindering your progress.

Instructions

- Each page consists of ten (10) statements to help you gauge your church’s activity in this particular area.
- Assign a number between 1 and 4 to each statement based upon your opinion of how your church is functioning in each area. There are no wrong answers.

To help you determine the number you feel best describes your church, see below:

4 = my church does this with excellence

3 = my church is progressing in this area

2 = my church is weak, but functional in this area

1 = this is a mountain for my church

All ten statements need to be scored. Total each page and record your score on the last page. Transfer the total score from each page at the bottom.



PRAYER

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in this area?**

1. We are encouraged to pray regularly for our “one” lost person
1 2 3 4

2. My church corporately prays for the lost
1 2 3 4

3. My church encourages us to pray for the lost by name
1 2 3 4

4. We are encouraged to Pray for lost people as part of our time with God
1 2 3 4

5. My church provides us with names of people who need prayer
1 2 3 4

6. Our church encourages us to keep track of the people and needs in my life
1 2 3 4

7. Our church regularly sees new believers remain and grow in their faith
1 2 3 4

8. Our church recommends an app or website to help us pray for the lost
1 2 3 4

9. Our church offers a system to help me identify who my neighbors are
1 2 3 4

10. My Small Group incorporates prayer into each meeting
1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

EVANGELISM

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in leading people to faith in Jesus Christ?**

1. Our church hosts events where a clear gospel presentation will be offered

1 2 3 4

2. Our pastor regularly encourages us to share the gospel with others

1 2 3 4

3. There is evidence that a majority of our members share their faith on a regular basis

1 2 3 4

4. My church has taught me how to succinctly share my personal testimony of salvation

1 2 3 4

5. My Sunday School/Small Group teacher encourages us to invite people to class

1 2 3 4

6. I have utilized training provided by my church to share my faith this past year

1 2 3 4

7. My pastor regularly gives a come forward invitation

1 2 3 4

8. Our church trains spiritual decision counselors who are available at each service

1 2 3 4

9. Our church sees baptism occur at least quarterly

1 2 3 4

10. Our pastor/staff offers evangelism and outreach training each year

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

SMALL GROUPS

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high) how would you rate your church in growing your Sunday School/Small Groups?**

1. I see new people attending my Sunday School class

1 2 3 4

2. My pastor regularly encourages everyone to find a Small Group

1 2 3 4

3. Our church uses Sunday School/Small Groups for outreach and evangelism

1 2 3 4

4. My Small Group keeps a list of prospects

1 2 3 4

5. My church encourages us to invite friends and neighbors to Small Group fellowships

1 2 3 4

6. My church has regular training for Sunday School/Small Group teachers

1 2 3 4

7. Our church encourages us to celebrate changed lives because of group membership

1 2 3 4

8. Our church assigns names of new church members as potential prospects for our group

1 2 3 4

9. Our Small Group organization is built upon continually starting new groups

1 2 3 4

10. Our church encourages us to be willing to help establish a new class or group

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

MINISTRY

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in ministry?**

1. My church regularly offers service projects I can join in on

1 2 3 4

2. My church is currently partnering with the local school(s) in the area

1 2 3 4

3. My church has a missions committee that arranges local projects

1 2 3 4

4. If my church was gone, the community would miss what we do for them

1 2 3 4

5. My church has an active disaster relief team

1 2 3 4

6. My church encourages me to ask my neighbors/friends how I can pray for them

1 2 3 4

7. Our church gives faithfully through the Cooperative Program

1 2 3 4

8. Our church gives to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions

1 2 3 4

9. Our church budget tells me how much we give to missions

1 2 3 4

10. My church does not retreat from benevolence ministry due in gratitude or misuse of our assistance

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

DISCIPLESHIP

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), rate your church in its effectiveness at making disciples of Jesus.**

1. My church has a system in place to teach students how to follow Jesus

1 2 3 4

2. My church's disciple making process is easy to explain

1 2 3 4

3. My church regularly offers a new member class

1 2 3 4

4. My church encourages me to always be involved in a disciple making relationship

1 2 3 4

5. My church offers a thru-the-Bible in a year reading plan every new year

1 2 3 4

6. My church equips every member to be involved in a disciple making relationship

1 2 3 4

7. My church values ongoing spiritual growth after salvation as much as baptisms

1 2 3 4

8. My church teaches us how to be intentional in forming disciple making relationships

1 2 3 4

9. Older believers knowing and investing in young believers happens regularly in my church

1 2 3 4

10. New believers would get a firm foundation for discipleship by joining one of our Small

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

GENERATIONS

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), rate your church's effectiveness in reaching out to and ministering to all age groups.**

1. My church budgets resources to engage and reach each generation

1 2 3 4

2. My church has a person(s) dedicated to serving students on staff or volunteering

1 2 3 4

3. Our church has a great online and social media presence

1 2 3 4

4. One of my church's priorities is reaching and teaching the next generation

1 2 3 4

5. My church is actively engaged with at least one school in our community on a regular basis

1 2 3 4

6. Senior, median, young adults, and students often interact and serve together

1 2 3 4

7. Our nursery and preschool area's are easy for first-time guests to find

1 2 3 4

8. Our nursery and preschool department are always adequately staffed with volunteers

1 2 3 4

9. Guests from older and younger age groups regularly join my church

1 2 3 4

10. families with children & teenagers often return and eventually join my church

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church's existing systems and structures effectiveness in fulfilling the great commission?**

1. Our church has a strong and active base of volunteers

1 2 3 4

2. The structure of our church enables the growth and health of our church

1 2 3 4

3. There is a clear and intentional pathway to develop new leaders

1 2 3 4

4. It is clear how, when, and by whom decisions are made

1 2 3 4

5. My church has a system in place to recruit, train, and empower leaders

1 2 3 4

6. My church is more focused on accomplishing the mission than meeting the budget

1 2 3 4

7. Our church adequately communicates information in a timely manner to all members preceding events or major decisions

1 2 3 4

8. Our church by-laws, policies, and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to meet current ministry needs

1 2 3 4

9. Decision-making is done in a bureaucracy-free, transparent matter

1 2 3 4

10. My church has a process in place for addressing sinful or destructive behavior within the congregation

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

FELLOWSHIP

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in establishing and building relationships with God and His people?**

1. Our church would be considered a “judgment-free” church

1 2 3 4

2. My church has a culture that promotes forgiveness

1 2 3 4

3. My church’s reputation in the community is one of unity and kindness

1 2 3 4

4. Divisive people who threaten our unity are lovingly but swiftly neutralized

1 2 3 4

5. There is a clear and easy pathway for new or disconnected persons to get connected

1 2 3 4

6. People linger after the service in the Sanctuary, in the hallways, and even the parking lot

1 2 3 4

7. I can invite anyone to church with confidence

1 2 3 4

8. Our church has a strict “no gossip” policy

1 2 3 4

9. My church encourages us to have a partner(s) in the church with whom we can regularly pray

1 2 3 4

10. It is rare for someone to move their membership to another local church

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

VISION

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate the clarity of your church's vision?**

1. Our church rarely has strong disagreements about what we should be doing as a church

1 2 3 4

2. Our church has a vision statement which guides all we do

1 2 3 4

3. Our church has a clear, shared, and compelling vision that motivates us as we move forward

1 2 3 4

4. Our church refuses to adopt a "maintenance mindset" trying to survive year-to-year

1 2 3 4

5. My church is comfortable with new people joining and serving in our church

1 2 3 4

6. My church looks forward to the day when people I do not know yet assuming leadership in our church

1 2 3 4

7. We know where we are going, and the future of our church is bright

1 2 3 4

8. Our church easily overcomes fear and doubt when changes need to be made.

1 2 3 4

9. Our church leadership is constantly developing a clear and compelling vision for the future of our church

1 2 3 4

10. I am unaware of any competing agendas within our church

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

WORSHIP

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in worship?**

1. The worship experiences show evidence of fostering change in individuals who regularly attend

1 2 3 4

2. The sermon usually provides a clear direction of what God expects us to do in response

1 2 3 4

3. The worship services help attendees experience the presence of God and respond in praise

1 2 3 4

4. I have no reservations about inviting any unchurched person I know to my church

1 2 3 4

5. The music in the church services helps me worship God

1 2 3 4

6. The worship at this church is so inspiring that I like to invite my friends

1 2 3 4

7. Worship leaders plan and use a variety of creative elements in worship services

1 2 3 4

8. The caliber of musicianship in our worship service is consistent and does not detract from the worship experience

1 2 3 4

9. Our church examines how well our worship style and schedule best serves our members/prospective members and makes changes where necessary

1 2 3 4

10. My church offers age-appropriate worship opportunities for small children through adults

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

STEWARDSHIP

Directions: **On a scale of 1 to 4 (1 being low; 4 being high), how would you rate your church in stewardship of all church resources?**

1. Our church allows the use of our facilities for community events

1 2 3 4

2. Our church is known in our community as a generous church

1 2 3 4

3. Our church sometimes struggles to meet the general budget because of “designated” giving

1 2 3 4

4. It is unusual for our church to discuss financial shortfalls in our business meetings

1 2 3 4

5. Our church never experiences conflict centered around church savings or expenditures

1 2 3 4

6. Our church practices transparency regarding how our financial resources are managed and spent.

1 2 3 4

7. Our pastor or finance team often asks the congregation to give more generously to meet budget

1 2 3 4

8. Our church is a generous church when it comes to giving to local and foreign missions

1 2 3 4

9. Our church budget increases incrementally each year to allow for expanded ministry and new opportunities

1 2 3 4

10. Our church offers biblically based teaching and training in stewardship, finances, and budgeting

1 2 3 4

TOTAL _

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS: Beside each section, fill in the total score from the corresponding page. Feel free to write in one or two key questions that would warrant further attention regarding the vitality of the church. Once you have identified the areas needing attention, use this assessment to inform your team's strategic plan for addressing obstacles, or mountains, that need to be removed for your church to function at full capacity and to achieve its mission & purpose.

PRAYER

EVANGELISM

SMALL GROUPS

MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP

GENERATIONS

ORGANIZATION

FELLOWSHIP

VISION

WORSHIP

STEWARDSHIP

AREAS OF STRENGTHS: SCORE OF 31-40
List the areas of strength you can build upon

AREAS OF ADEQUATE FUNCTIONALITY: SCORE OF 21-30. List the areas where you need to make further progress

AREAS POSING AS A MOUNTAIN: SCORE OF 11-20. List the areas revealed to be obstacles to vitality

AREAS WITH NO DEMONSTRATED VITALITY: SCORE OF 10.

List any areas revealed to be dormant or nonfunctional.

