

TAKING THE PULSE OF YOUR CHURCH

Seeking ways to
Transform/Strengthen/Revitalize
Your Church and its Ministry

GROUP EXERCISE # 1

- ⦿ Identify at least 10 characteristics of strong healthy churches
- ⦿ What is your first impression of how your church compares to the strong characteristics you just identified?
- ⦿ Is there a unique ministry niche it seems God wants your church to fill? What is it?

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

- ◉ Empowering Leadership
- ◉ Loving Relationships
- ◉ Gift-Oriented Ministry
- ◉ Disciple-making Small Groups
- ◉ Inspiring Worship
- ◉ Functional Structures
- ◉ Passionate Spirituality
- ◉ Relationship Evangelism

SWOTS ANALYSIS

- ◉ Strengths
- ◉ Weakness
- ◉ Opportunities
- ◉ Threats

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission of the local church
is...

**to make disciples of Jesus
Christ for the transformation of
the world.**

*(From The Book of Discipline of
the United Methodist Church
2008)*

VISION STATEMENT

- A vision is a picture (s) of God's preferred future for your congregation—a description of what you would be like if you were everything God intends for you to be.
- It factors in what is unique about your congregation that you bring to the task of making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

VISION STATEMENT

- **“A good vision statement paints a sensible and appealing picture of the future.” And gives “the general direction for change.”**
- **An effective vision statement will provide vision and the associated back-up strategies that help people to take action in the right direction, and help coordinate the actions of different people.**

A VISION STATEMENT ANSWERS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- ◉ **What type of organization is this?**
- ◉ **What audience/markets does it serve?**
- ◉ **What is the geographic scope?**
- ◉ **What are the target audiences?**
- ◉ **What are the key programs and services?**
- ◉ **How big will the organization be?**
- ◉ **What will revenues be?**
- ◉ **How many employees (paid and volunteer) will there be?**

THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS ARE CRITICAL IN DEFINING "WHO" YOUR CHURCH IS:

- ⦿ **The Goal is your Purpose Statement**
- ⦿ **The goal or purpose statement clearly states what your church seeks to accomplish**
- ⦿ **Why does your church exist?**
- ⦿ **What is the ultimate result of your ministry and work?**

GOAL/PURPOSE STATEMENTS USUALLY INCLUDE TWO PHRASES:

- ⦿ **An infinitive that indicates a change in status, such as to increase, to decrease, to prevent, to eliminate**
- ⦿ **An identification of the problem or condition to be changed.**

PREPARING TO REVIEW YOUR VISION, MISSION AND PURPOSE

- ◉ Is your vision in line with scriptural teaching?
- ◉ Does the vision that you have received lead to God being glorified and God's church taking a servant role in meeting the needs of God's people?
- ◉ Is there a consensus in the pictures, scriptures, and words of knowledge received?
- ◉ Do you, and others with you in the process; feel at peace with the vision in prayer?
- ◉ Does this fit with where God is already moving?
- ◉ When shared with other mature Christians in the conference and local church, does their prayer confirm it.

YOUR VISION STATEMENT SHOULD FILL IN THE BLANKS TO THE FOLLOWING

**Within the next _____ years, grow
the Church into a
\$ _____ budget, and a
membership growth of _____
providing (description of ministry,
programs and services) to (describe
target audience/customer).**

BENEFITS FROM ACHIEVING EACH GOAL



GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

Potential Obstacles

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Possible Solutions

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

ACTION STEPS FOR ACHIEVING GOAL

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- ◉ **Target Date**
- ◉ **Date Reviewed By**
- ◉ **Date Completed**

ASSIGNMENT OF COACH

TBD