

# Vital Signs



Yes    No    In process

## CHECKLIST A Brethren in Christ resource in support of healthy congregations

Name of congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual completing form: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The following chart identifies a number of commonly agreed upon indicators of a healthy church. Rate your church's status in each area by placing a mark in a box labeled "yes," "no," or "in process."

### We have strategies, approaches, or ministry patterns for:

#### Loving God

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraging people to testify about God's working in their lives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Intentional discipling of new believers                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fostering a passion for world missions                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promoting personal evangelism                                    |

#### Loving People

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Managing conflict                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing crisis care                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing pastoral care and counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing benevolent care              |

#### Empowering Leadership

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Identifying and promoting the giftedness of every participant            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraging risk-taking and stepping outside individual comfort zones    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rotating leadership opportunities to maximize involvement by many people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing for the ongoing development of new and/or experienced leaders  |

#### Compelling Mission

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Assimilating newcomers into the congregation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Equipping for personal evangelism            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Outreach/ministry to the local community     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Outreach/ministry to specific target groups  |

#### Life-giving Worship

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Actively drawing in and engaging God's people                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraging fervent prayer                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nurturing faith through biblically-based preaching           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Connecting worship to the everyday experience of congregants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Moving people to follow Christ                               |

#### Joyful Generosity

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Linking budget discussions to ministry priorities                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promoting tithing and/or sacrificial giving as a spiritual discipline  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraging openness about personal finances and stewardship practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing financial counseling for church families                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promoting estate planning as an extension of everyday stewardship      |

#### Effective Approaches

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Matching governance structures to ministry plans                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Annual performance evaluations of staff and key volunteers         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Periodic evaluation of the church's various ministry programs      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing the tools and resources needed to advance ministry plans |

Yes      No      In process

### Organizational strategies in support of healthy congregations

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have a mission, vision, or purpose statement that guides the programs and outreach activities of the church.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have a strategic plan that clarifies the church's ministry priorities for the years immediately ahead.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have up-to-date ministry job descriptions for staff and/or key volunteers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have knowledge of the temperaments and work styles of key leaders.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Our congregation seeks to be connected with the wider BIC Church.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We participate in BIC Cooperative Ministries at a level that makes it a significant priority for our congregation.

### Discussion Questions

1. In which two or three of the areas listed on the chart above do you feel your church is especially strong? Discuss with other leaders what past strategies and activities have contributed to these strengths.

2. As you consider your church's immediate future, toward which two or three of the above strategies or approaches is it most important that you direct the congregation's attention? Who needs to be involved in planning new approaches or strategies in these areas? What are the anticipated outcomes from focusing the congregation in these directions?

*The aim of the church health initiative is to offer every Brethren in Christ congregation the opportunity to realize the Spirit empowered functioning of church life as God intended it to be—alive, dynamic, and fruitful.*



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