

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The nine qualities of a disciple-making congregation usually do not occur unless there is intentional reflection, intentional planning and intentional action on the part of any congregation. In order to help with the reflection, we offer the following questions which help raise important issues to stimulate your reflection. For intentional planning, your congregation may want to invite a Discipleship Partner from your Region to help you plan specific steps for addressing one or more qualities. For intentional action...that is where you step out in faith by the power of the Spirit to do what you understand is God's call to faithfulness at this time. Please give us feedback about other questions which you have found helpful in your journey toward becoming a disciple-making congregation.

- Describe the normal worship experience in your church.
- Do the words you use to describe worship suggest life, vibrancy, enthusiasm, depth?
- What worship resources do you use in preparing and carrying out worship?
- How frequently do the worship leaders in your congregation go to training events to expand their skills and awareness of trends?
- Who participates in planning and leading worship? Clergy and laity? Adults and youth? Is youth participation only on Youth Sunday?
- Describe worship experiences in your church beyond the Sunday morning service.
- How and where do you include teaching about worship in your discipling process?
- What proportion of your church members participate in hands-on mission activities or events?
- What are you doing to increase that number?
- How many would you like to see involved?
- How does your church describe the budget process— money language or mission language?
- How do you help people move from giving money and things to engaging with people who need ministry?
- How do you measure the growth from giving money and things to engagement with people?
- What are the spiritual gifts of your members? Of your leaders?
- How are your people using their spiritual gifts in ministry?
- How is gift discernment incorporated into the discipling ministry of your church?
- How do you nurture the gifts of the people so that they mature into skilled ministers?
- How do you use continuing education funds?
- Is there a budget line for continuing education funds?
- Who seeks learning opportunities for those being asked to serve?
- Who recruits people to be equipped for ministry?
- Describe the disciple-making curriculum in your church. Does it include Bible study, spiritual disciplines, evangelism skills and specialized skills for ministries?
- Describe how your church decides who does what.
- How many lay persons are engaged in what we have in the past thought of as “the minister’s job”?
- How many members have gone through a gift discovery process?
- What is your pastor’s primary role in the church?
- How much time and encouragement do you give the pastor to take personal spiritual retreats or other deepening of his or her spiritual life?
- What percentage of members serves on committees, boards or other internal groups?
- What percentage of members is engaged in mission outside the doors of the church?
- When did you last change the constitution and bylaws to reflect a focus on mission?
- How long does it take for a new proposal for mission to gain approval?
- How many small groups do you have in your church?
- What is the focus of small groups in your church?
- What percentage of your members participates in small groups?
- What training do you provide for small group leaders?
- What ongoing mentoring or coaching do you provide for small group leaders?
- In planning your local mission engagement, how does your congregation talk about opportunities for evangelism?
- What training for identifying and developing evangelism gifts does your church provide when that spiritual gift is discerned in a member?
- How do your church’s spiritual growth ministries, including Christian education, equip members for evangelism?
- How do you prepare and encourage members to speak authentically and clearly about the Gospel?
- Specifically, how do the leaders of your church model evangelism?