

Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, UCC

Congregational Issues for Generative Dialogue for a Spiritual Strategic Journey

The following ten issues may be the subject of generative dialogue in congregations as they seek to determine their readiness for transformation to reach their full Kingdom potential.

Please provide your personal rating of your congregation on a scale of 1–10 on each of the following statements. An answer as low as 1 would mean that your congregation is not reflective of the statement. An answer as high as 10 would mean that your congregation is highly reflective of the statement.

1. _____ VISIONARY LEADERSHIP: Our congregation has a strong, clear, and passionate sense of
 - Our identity involving mission and purpose (who we are)
 - Our core values (what we believe or highly value)
 - Our vision (where we are headed)
 - Our spiritual strategic journey as a congregation (how we are getting there)

2. _____ RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCES: Our congregation is doing well in
 - Inviting people to a Christ-centric faith journey (evangelism)
 - Helping people who are connected with our congregation to be on an intentional and maturing Christ-centric faith journey (discipleship development)
 - Deepening spirituality
 - Developing new leaders willing to get actively involved in congregational leadership positions and in places of ministry service within and beyond the congregation (lay mobilization)

3. _____ EMPHASIS ON MINISTRY: Our congregation has outstanding
 - Programs, ministries, and activities for which we are well known throughout our congregation and our geographic community or the target groups we serve
 - Our programs, ministries, and activities seem to be growing in numbers and quality
 - Our programs are meeting real, identified, spiritual, social, and emotional needs of people

4. _____ ACCOUNTABLE MANAGEMENT: Our congregation has
 - Excellent, flexible management systems (teams, committees, councils, boards, leadership communities) that empower the future direction of our congregation rather than seeking to control the future direction
 - Decision-making is open and responsive to congregational input
 - Finances are healthy and increasing each year
 - The management systems are supportive of the visionary leadership efforts by the pastor, staff, and congregational leadership

5. _____ CONTEXTUAL RELEVANCE: Our congregation is
 - Demographically similar to its geographic community or the target groups that it has served over the years
 - Little or no gap is developing between the persons attending our congregation and the geographic community or the target groups we have sought to serve in the past 10 years
 - We are demographically reflective of the people we seek to serve in gender, age, race/ethnicity, socioeconomics, and lifestyle

6. _____ PEOPLE OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP:

- Our pastor has a genuine commitment to transition and change for our congregation that may lead to transformation and the achievement of the full Kingdom potential of our congregation
- Our pastor is highly respected by our congregation, and they will proactively support our pastor's initiating leadership and vision casting as part of a spiritual, strategic journey toward reaching their full Kingdom potential

7. _____ PEOPLE OF PASSION:

- I can name at least seven people or 7% of the average number of active, attending adults in our congregation present on a typical weekend for worship who have a positive and passionate sense of urgency for transition and change that may lead to transformation and the achievement of the full Kingdom potential of our congregation
- They also have the spiritual, leadership, and strategic knowledge and maturity to appropriately initiate and champion transition and change within our congregation

8. _____ PEOPLE OF POSITION:

- Our key lay leaders have a genuine commitment to transition and change for our congregation that may lead to transformation and the achievement of the full Kingdom potential of our congregation
- While not always the people of greatest passion about the future of the congregation, by position and power they are competent and committed to lead us to fulfill our full Kingdom potential
- Our congregation highly respects them and will proactively support their leadership in a spiritual, strategic journey toward reaching our full Kingdom potential

9. _____ CHURCH GROWTH: Our congregation

- Has grown in membership and weekly worship attendance during the past five to ten years by a minimum of 10 to 15%
- Has sustained or achieved an attendance that could be legitimately called growing compared to our geographic community or target groups, especially compared to the change over the past five to ten years in population or size of the geographic community or the target groups we serve

10. _____ COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT: Our congregation

- Has clear, open, healthy communication channels that allow the congregation to identify and deal with any issues that might disrupt the sense of fellowship and unity, and perhaps produce unhealthy conflict
- Works hard at creating and nurturing healthy relationships as a Christ-centric faith community and uses its diversity to build a deep, qualitative sense of being on a common journey. We know how to disagree with one another without being disagreeable in a way that can destroy our relationship with God and one another

_____ Total Number of Points

Bullard Jr., George W. Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation (TCP The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series) (p. 72). Chalice Press. Kindle Edition.