



Church Health & Vitality Indicators

Based upon our research and anecdotal experience from working with Baptist Churches in NSW & ACT, we have identified the following as the primary indicators of vital, healthy and growing churches. Most churches are strong in some areas but need development in others. It would appear, that the more areas of strength a church has the healthier and more vital a church appears to be.

Internal Indicators

PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

The congregational members have a genuine passionate relationship with Jesus. They are open to the spontaneous, creative, intuitive promptings of the Holy Spirit. Prayer, the embracing of God's Word as the final authority for life and ministry, and waiting upon God are essential spiritual disciplines. The faith of individuals is vibrant and growing with evidence of the Fruits of the Spirit. Such spirituality may be diverse but is observable.

AUTHENTIC COMMUNAL WORSHIP

Communal worship is an inspiring and life-changing experience for those who participate. It draws people to God (Trinitarian focused) rather than to the leaders or the participants themselves. It is an extension of our daily walk with God in which we express our spirituality together. Worship is both Spirit-led and well-considered.

DYNAMIC CARING COMMUNITY

Genuine love, concern and care are marks of the congregation and are expressed in practical ways. Members feel welcomed, included, and have a sense of belonging as they share common positive values. All generations and people of differing backgrounds are embraced. This may include being part of a small group with others who journey together in faith, as well as a sense of being connected to the larger congregation. There is also a climate of openness and trust where the church is able to respond and manage conflict well when it arises.

Missional Indicators

EFFECTIVE MISSION-SHAPED FOCUS

Mission is seen as the primary priority and heartbeat of the whole church, rather than that of just a church evangelism/mission committee. The church is active in both announcing and demonstrating the Lordship of Christ, by doing mission in the way of Jesus both locally and globally. God's heart is to see people's lives transformed and that they come to faith in Him. Evangelism focuses on people's needs and is culturally relevant.

STRONG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The congregation and its members look beyond themselves to also serving the needs of local, national and global communities. This includes offering practical action for justice, especially for the disempowered. This practical action is motivated by love.

WILLING SERVICE TO ONE-ANOTHER

Congregational members identify and then utilise their gifts and talents in ministering to one another as the Body of Christ, and as a natural outworking of discipleship. People serve in their areas of passion and giftedness, with training being able to be accessed in these areas. Ministry strategies are flexible and culturally relevant, while being linked to the vision of the church.

Strategic Indicators

CLEAR DIRECTION AND PURPOSE

The church embraces God's vision (God's desired outcomes) for the transformation of lives, communities and nations and recognises that the church is His agent. The congregation has a clear, developing, understanding of where God may be taking them and the values that underlie this vision. This vision ignites their passion, grabs their hearts, minds and bodies and is worked out in the life of the church. This means being open to change.

EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

Leaders are appointed and given appropriate responsibility, authority and accountability. Godly character is a pre-requisite, in company with appropriate competencies and influence. The leader/s invest in the growth and development of others, empowering them to become what God has gifted them to be. The leaders equip, support, motivate and mentor other leaders and potential leaders.

FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE FOR SIZE OF CHURCH

The organisational structures serve the mission and ministry of the church. The structures need to be simple. They effectively support the purpose and vision of the congregation, and promote the health and vitality of the life and ministry of the church. The structures are life-giving, flexible, and open to ongoing review. The church facilities are also multi-functional.

Fruitful Indicators

DISCIPLESHIP MAKING CULTURE

The command of Jesus to "make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19) is more than a purpose statement that is printed on the church bulletin or hung on a wall. Making Disciples is a core focus and value of the church that sees women and men regularly raised up as followers of Jesus who are equipped to serve, lead and ultimately become disciples who make disciples.

CULTURE OF MULTIPLICATION

The church and its leaders intentionally cultivate a fruit producing culture that results in the sending, and releasing of people and leaders for the purposes of church planting, church multiplication or revitalisation in their own right or in partnership with other churches.

CULTURE OF PRAYER

That the Church embraces and exhibits a culture of prayer that underpins all aspects of life, mission and activities. Encourages and facilitate varied prayer opportunities and resources in which Church members can regularly engage, encompassing both a local and global focus. There is a strong reliance on the work of God and power of the Holy Spirit in the life of individuals and Church community that is regularly evidenced by answered prayer.



Diagnostic Tool

- Read and think through the twelve church health indicators listed above and reflect on how they relate to or reflect your church.
- Rate each health indicator in relation to your church on a scale of 1-5:
 1. The church has no connection to this indicator, it is not present at all.
 2. The church has spoken about this indicator but it's not discussed or discernible in the life of the church.
 3. The church has an aspirational relationship to this indicator. It is spoken about or included in plans but nothing is done about it.
 4. There is partial or occasional evidence of this indicator in the life of the church. It's not consistent and there is room for improvement.
 5. There are clear signs that this indicator is present in the life of the church that are evidenced based. You can point to them.
- Comment or list the reason you gave each particular rating in the space provided.



Church Health Indicators

	Church Health Indicator	Score	Comment
Internal Indicators	Passionate Spirituality		
	Authentic communal worship		
	Dynamic caring community		
Missional Indicators	Mission shaped & faith sharing focus		
	Strong community engagement		
	Willing service to one another		
Strategic Indicators	Clear direction and purpose		
	Empowering leadership		
	Functional structure for size of church		
Fruitful Indicators	Discipleship making culture		
	Culture of multiplication		
	Strong prayer focus		



Use this Pie Chart to map the indicators of your church.

- Leave any wedge blank that corresponds to the indicators you marked with 1
- Shade in 25% of each corresponding wedge if you rated the indicator 2
- 50% for 3
- 75% for 4
- 100 % for a 5

Marks of a Healthy Church

