

Congregational Readiness Inventory

These questions are adapted from the Congregational Inventory utilized in "Does Your Church Have a Prayer: In Mission Toward the Promised Land", Marc Brown, Kathy Merry, and John Briggs, Discipleship Resources

NAME: _____

Does Your Church Have A Prayer?

1. Would you consider your church to be a praying church?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
2. Is your church a joyful place?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
3. Does a common vision that glorifies God unite your church?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
4. Do people believe in Jesus because of your church?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No

What Reality Do You Choose?

Soon after leaving captivity from Egypt, Moses heard of "murmuring" among the Hebrew people. Even with God's presence, the future felt uncertain, and some Hebrews wanted to return to slavery in Egypt.

5. I have observed murmuring in our church and have found it to be:
 - a. _____ Significantly detrimental.
 - b. _____ Somewhat detrimental.
 - c. _____ Minimally detrimental.
 - d. _____ Not at all detrimental.
6. Does your church have a history of honestly assessing its current reality?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
7. Your church's past experience and history:
 - a. _____ Hold you back.
 - b. _____ Move you forward.
8. Which question would generate the most discussion at your church?
 - a. _____ Who has the keys to which doors at your church?
 - b. _____ How can we open the doors of our church to our community?

Overcoming Challenges

We remember well the Old Testament Story of the Hebrew's first perceptions of the holy land. Spies were sent by Moses, and they returned to tell the Hebrews that while the promised land was extraordinarily rich, the land was filled by giants. Contemplate this story from scripture as you answer the next set of questions.

9. Can your church name the giants that are preventing you from entering God promised land of joy and unity?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
10. Does your church focus more on the giants that are facing it than on God's vision for the future?
 - a. _____ Focus more on the giants
 - b. _____ Focus more on God's vision for the future
11. Has your church demonstrated the courage to make intentional choices that will empower it to overcome the giants that are facing it?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
12. Would our community consider your church to be relevant to the present challenges of life?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
13. What are the current giants that are facing your church?
 - a. _____ Lack of age diversity in the congregation
 - b. _____ A changing neighborhood
 - c. _____ Financial challenges
 - d. _____ Aging facility
 - e. _____ Changes in the number of church members
 - f. _____ Worship attendance
 - g. _____ History of conflict
 - h. _____ Other (List responses below)

14. What are strengths within your congregation that can help your church to overcome the giants it faces?
 - a. _____ Worship
 - b. _____ Location
 - c. _____ Spiritual formation opportunities
 - d. _____ Mission
 - e. _____ Church facility
 - f. _____ Financial strength
 - g. _____ Communication

15. Does your church understand that it stands on the edge of God's Promised land for Jesus' disciples?

- a. _____ Yes
- b. _____ No
- c. _____ Don't know

Asking the Right Questions

16. Would you say that "hallway conversations" at your church are usually meant to:

- a. _____ Gain understanding?
- b. _____ Complain?
- c. _____ Resolve conflict?
- d. _____ Accuse and blame

17. Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing on the way?" (Mark 9) What does your church spend time discussing? (Pick four.)

- a. _____ Present ministries
- b. _____ The past
- c. _____ Future ministries
- d. _____ Who Jesus is
- e. _____ Who's right or who's wrong
- f. _____ Spreading the Good news
- g. _____ What happened on Sunday
- h. _____ Finances
- i. _____ Lay Leadership
- j. _____ Staff Leadership
- k. _____ Concerns of your community
- l. _____ Defining your church's ministry
- m. _____ Long-term survival
- n. _____ Disappointing ministries
- o. _____ Successful ministries
- p. _____ How to get more people involved
- q. _____ Worship attendance

18. What labels have you heard in your church? (Pick three.)

- a. _____ Those new members
- b. _____ Those old timers
- c. _____ Us
- d. _____ Them
- e. _____ Involved
- f. _____ Uninvolved
- g. _____ Committed
- h. _____ Non-committed



19. Does your congregation focus on:
- a. _____ Power struggles
 - b. _____ Ministry
20. Do questions in your church tend to:
- a. _____ Build community.
 - b. _____ Destroy relationships.
21. Does your church have questions about its future?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
22. Do questions in your church invite dialogue from diverse opinions?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
23. Does the history of your church reflect power struggles that it continues to repeat?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
24. Is there agreement or disagreement about what your congregation values most?
- a. _____ Agreement
 - b. _____ Disagreement
 - c. _____ Don't know

Beyond and Within

25. Does your church have a vision and/or mission statement?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
26. If your church has a vision and/or mission statement, do you think it reflects the Great Commission and the mission of the UMC to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
27. Your church's approach to ministry is focused on:
- a. _____ Beyond the walls of the church
 - b. _____ Within the walls of the church

28. Is your church united in its vision?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
29. Does your congregation clearly understand its mission?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
30. Disagreements at our church are usually:
- a. _____ Resolved quickly by consensus.
 - b. _____ Resolved quickly by one or two key leaders.
 - c. _____ Resolved quickly by the pastor or church staff.
 - d. _____ Avoided and unresolved.
31. Disagreements in your church tend to:
- a. _____ Linger.
 - b. _____ Be discussed openly.
 - c. _____ Cause hard feelings.
 - d. _____ Help your congregation to understand more clearly its mission.
 - e. _____ Polarize your congregation.
 - f. _____ Lead to new ways of thinking.
 - g. _____ Lead to new ministries.
 - h. _____ Result in blaming and frustration.
 - i. _____ Result in God's love being seen.
32. Do current ministries in your church invite people to see beyond self-focused concerns?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
33. When our church has to make a choice, we:
- a. _____ Are guided by unified vision
 - b. _____ Get bogged down in details
34. Most of our church programs focus on:
- a. _____ The needs of our members.
 - b. _____ The needs of our surrounding community.
35. Our church makes intentional choices about its ministries and mission:
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know
36. Our church is able to intentionally shut down ineffective ministries:
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know



37. Once the church makes a decision, the tendency in our church is for people to:
- a. _____ Harbor hard feelings.
 - b. _____ Work behind the scenes creating discord.
 - c. _____ Support church decisions they may not personally agree with.
 - d. _____ Create faction of self-interest.
 - e. _____ Define decisions as winning or losing.
38. Are there new expressions of ministry in your church?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No
 - c. _____ Don't know