

# 8 SIGNS OF A THRIVING CHURCH



**“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”**

– 1 JOHN 3:16

## COMMUNITY

Thriving congregations practice a common life in the way of Christ.

- People care for the widows & orphans
- People eat together
- People make every effort to keep the bond of unity
- People resolve challenges and conflicts
- People are developing healthy rhythms of celebration, work, rest and play

**What does it look like for us to foster a thriving congregational community?**



**“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”**

– JOHN 4:23-24

## WORSHIP

Thriving congregations worship the living Triune God as a way of life in God’s kingdom.

- God’s Word is proclaimed
- Prayer is a priority
- All generations are participating
- Worship is expressed diversely
- Worship gatherings are engaging, Spirit led
- Participants are invited to order their lives under the Lordship of Christ through worship

**Could God be inviting us to take another step towards making worship more diverse or incorporating kids or something else?**



**“...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”**

– EPHESIANS 4:13

## FORMATION

Thriving congregations are committed to making disciples of Jesus that are committed to making disciples of Jesus.

- People are pouring into the next generation
- People are committed to transformational discipleship
- People are practicing the way of Jesus together
- People are practicing spiritual disciplines

**How are we doing at developing disciples of Jesus who are committed to building disciples of Jesus?**



**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

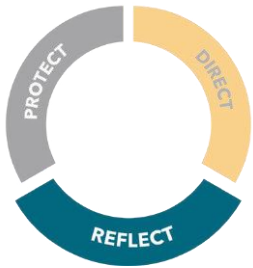
– LUKE 19:10

## MISSION

Thriving congregations are on a collective mission to bear witness to the love of Jesus and the reign of God both locally and globally.

- People are prepared to share the hope that they have
- People are using their gifts to serve and bless those in their neighbourhood and beyond
- People are sharing the Gospel through word and deed

**What does it look like for us to make missional living a priority?**



“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children”

– ROMANS 8:16

**A CONGREGATION THAT RESPONDS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Thriving congregations are developing spiritually mature disciples and leaders that study God’s Word and lead by the power of the Holy Spirit by facilitating generative conversations that keep the congregation committed to its mission.

- Leadership is developing spiritually mature disciples and leaders

Do we need to develop or refine our discernment practices for this next season of ministry?



“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them.”

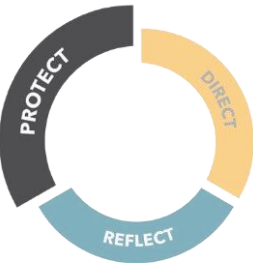
– 1 PETER 5:2

**A DISCERNING LEADERSHIP PRACTICE BASED ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Thriving congregations are continually discerning, articulating and operationalizing God’s mission as a congregation.

- Leadership is directing all activities out of the guiding values of the congregation

What does it mean for us to live on mission as a congregation?



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

– COLOSSIANS 3:23

**ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT MISSION**

Thriving congregations steward their people, facilities and financial resources to support the mission of the congregation.

- Leadership is building capacity for healthy structures, policies, procedures

Could God be asking us to steward our resources in a new way for this time?



“May they (the church) be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

– JOHN 17:23

**COLLABORATE**

Thriving congregations collaborate with other members of the body of Christ

- Congregations recognize their need to participate in mission with other congregations through associational living (i.e. - CBOQ, Baptist association, local ministerial, city-wide gospel movement, etc.)

How might God be inviting us to collaborate even more with sister congregations or other movements?