

PREPARING TO PARENT VALUES ASSESSMENT FOR CHURCHES*

The following is a qualitative assessment of congregational readiness to birth a new church. While birthing potential is latent in most any context, this tool is intended to assess and call attention to the values that tend to support the parenting of new churches.

Answer each question according to the following scale:

0

1

2

3

NEVER-----RARELY-----SOMETIMES-----OFTEN

1. Our church is characterized by investing resources into the lives of people who are not members.
2. Our ministry style is one that outsiders can quickly relate to.
3. Our church is often taking on new methods to share the good news of Jesus.
4. We have a history of raising up new leaders for ministry.
5. Our congregation has a pattern of making bold plans that depend on God's provision.
6. Leadership at our church seems to care less about who gets the credit so long as the job gets done.
7. We have a giving community. We often take up funds for those outside our ministry.
8. Our church has ministries outside our walls where the message and presence of Jesus is shared.
9. The teaching of our church engages seekers and speaks to their needs.
10. Our leadership often reminds us of the number of people yet to be reached in our community.
11. We have watched with joy as some of our best leaders move on to new ministry opportunities.
12. Our church has often had to rely entirely on God to reach it's goals.
13. Our congregation has partnered with other denominations to do effective ministry.
14. We have committed funds to help plant new ministries outside our walls.
15. Our congregation has mobilized to meet significant needs in the community.
16. The worship of our church is led in a way that engages seekers and speaks to their needs.
17. Our church never lets money stand in the way of making new disciples.
18. There is a "leadership pathway" at church whereby new leaders are mentored and trained.
19. We dream God sized dreams and worry about the resources later.
20. Our congregation is focused on people being followers of Christ, not on what denomination they are part of.
21. Our congregation has recruited funds and people to help start a new church.
22. We have a portion of our church budget that is devoted to making a caring impact on the community around us.
23. Our congregation is connected to the community needs around us in ways that are well received by outsiders.

24. We have a culture where making new disciples is expected and planned for.
25. Our pastors and staff are often empowering younger leaders and encouraging their development.
26. Our congregation has stories of how God met needs beyond our dreams.
27. We are not easily threatened by new church starts nearby.
28. Our church has a history of reaching funding goals for outreach efforts.
29. Our leadership gives considerable time to discern and strategize how to show the love of Christ to our community.
30. I have noticed dimensions of our ministry that attract new people.
31. In the last year there has been at least one class or sermon series on how to share our faith winsomely.
32. Our church has a ministry in identifying, training and releasing new ministry leaders.
33. We trust that were God leads, God provides.
34. Our leadership has an abundance mentality as far as ministry opportunities are concerned.
35. We maintain a percentage of our church budget that is committed for mission type efforts.

ANSWERS:

I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	6. _____	7. _____
8. _____	9. _____	10. _____	11. _____	12. _____	13. _____	14. _____
15. _____	16. _____	17. _____	18. _____	19. _____	20. _____	21. _____
22. _____	23. _____	24. _____	25. _____	26. _____	27. _____	28. _____
29. _____	30. _____	31. _____	32. _____	33. _____	34. _____	35. _____

TOTALS FROM COLUMNS and PARENTING VALUES THEY REPRESENT

I. _____ COMPASSION FOR THE UNCHURCHED: cares enough about lost people that significant amounts of time, energy and resources are invested to reach them.

II. _____ CULTURALLY RELEVANT STYLE: utilizes a style of ministry that attracts seekers and addresses their needs.

III. _____ GREAT COMMISSION ORIENTATION: sees ministry potential in terms of limitations of facilities and/or finances. Committed to make disciples and multiply.

IV. _____ DEVELOPING AND RELEASING LEADERS: activity seeks to stop, train and/or mentor potential planters; encourages giving away the best leaders to start new churches.

V. _____ CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S ABILITY: makes bold plans for the future, recognizing that our faith rests in God's resources and not our own.

VI. _____ KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE: encouraging new churches to start nearby even if it takes away from the local ministry. Views the total harvest to be important.

VII. _____ GENEROSITY: healthy churches will give people financial resources freely to help get new churches started.

TOTAL SCORE: _____

SCORING SCALE:

85-105 Your church is likely to be a good candidate to parent a new church having established the essential values in your culture to support the vision.

-85 Your congregation is on their way to parenting as you are becoming familiar with the values that support church planting.

55-70 Your congregation is early in the process of becoming a multiplying culture. Identifying a couple values to improve is your next step.

-55 Your ministry is exploring a major shift in values as you consider parenting. Working on one area at a time is your next step.

- *This assessment is based on the Values of Healthy Parent Churches as found in Churches Planting Churches by Robert E. Logan and Steven L. Ogne Published by Church Smart Resources 1995.*

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