

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

Total Respondents:

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

128

VITALITY SCORE

Your congregation

72%

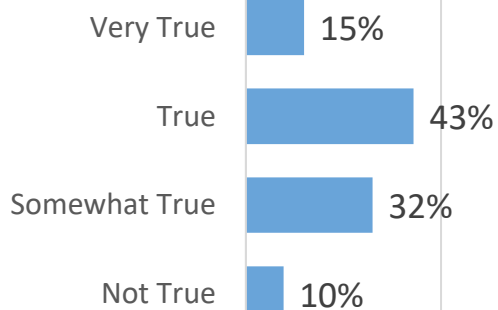
PC(USA)

77%

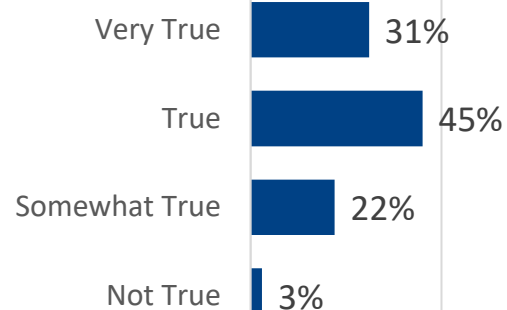
This score is based on an average of your congregation's ratings on each of the seven marks of vitality. The benchmark represents the average score of all PC(USA) congregations that have taken the survey so far.

"This church is spiritually vital and alive"

YOUR CONGREGATION



PC(USA)



Based on survey results

Your congregation's greatest strength is:

WORSHIP and CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Your congregation is least strong in:

EVANGELISM and OUTWARD FOCUS



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippeans 1:3–6)

We recommend sharing the results first with your leadership, during a leadership meeting. We pray that when you read these reports that you do not do so with either discouragement or pride, but instead find your center in a spirit of faithfulness that assures us all that Christ is not finished with any of us yet.

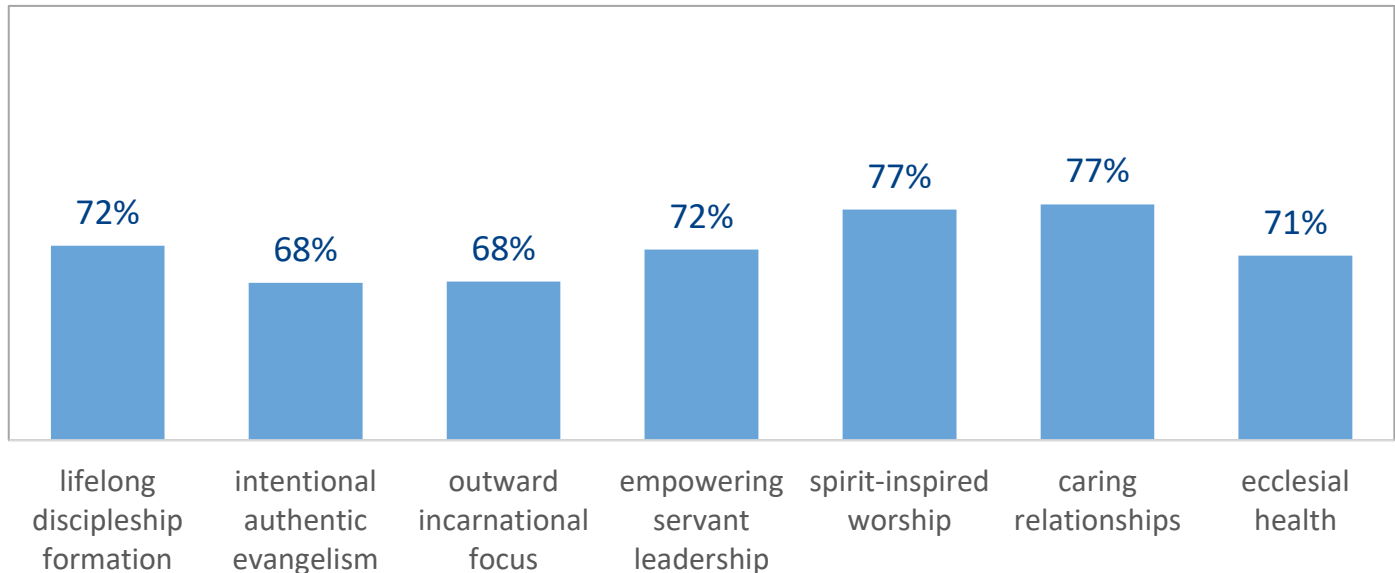
Consider this the beginning of discernment, not the end of it. This report provides you with information, which we hope will reveal where your congregation's energy and resources can be most effectively focused. Whether you decide to cultivate your strengths, or to build up your areas in which you are least strong, or to stay as you are, is up to you. Remember, this report is not a judgment of your congregation or its ministries. Rather, it is an assessment of its current state based on the perceptions of your worshipers.

The cover page of this report provides you with some key overall data. First, take note of how many respondents you had. What percentage of your worshipers took the survey? Next, identify your congregation's overall vitality score. How does it compare to the score of other congregations that have taken the survey so far? Are you pleased with this score? Surprised? Now turn your attention to how your worshipers responded to the question "This church is spiritually vital and alive." Do most of them consider this statement to be true? Finally, identify your primary strength and weakness as reported on the bottom of the first page. Do they surprise you? Why or why not?

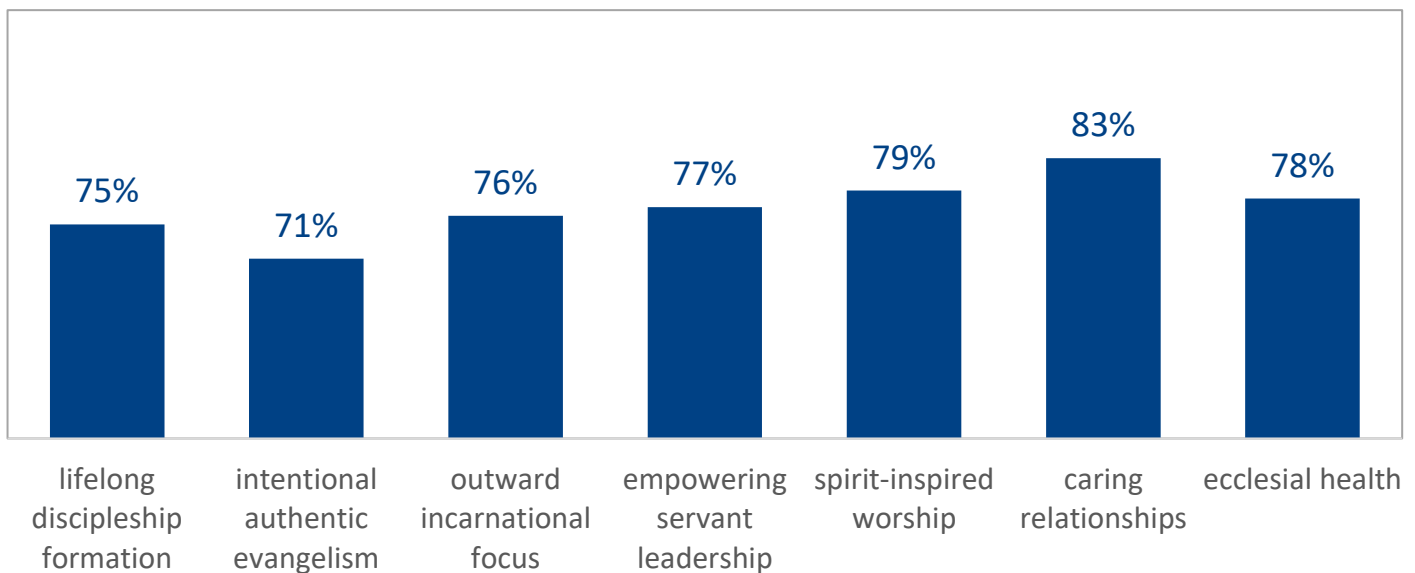
The following pages give you a deeper look into how your congregation scored on each of the vital marks. The first page contains your congregation's score on each mark. Spend some time with this general overview before getting bogged down in any particular mark of vitality. Then the seven subsequent pages dive deeper into each mark using the results from the survey. On this page, you can see how your worshipers responded to each question individually. This will give you an idea as to why your score is what it is.

Finally, there are two background pages: one regards your congregation and one provides some demographics of your worshipers. Do you have many people attending your church who have not joined? Is the reported political and theological diversity about what you expected? Why or why not? Are there any other responses in these sections that surprise

Below are your congregation's scores on the seven marks of vitality.



Below are your denomination's scores on the seven marks of vitality.



Pay attention not only to which scores are highest (your greatest strengths) and lowest (your possible areas for improvement), but also take note of any area where there is a 3% or higher difference in ratings between your congregation and your denomination. This could indicate an area where your churches stands out in relation to others in your denomination.

The percentage scores were calculated based on average responses to multiple items in the surveys, which have been combined into scales representing each of the seven marks of vitality.

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION



"The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith." Philippeans 3:96

From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.

Are your worshipers growing spiritually? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR DISCIPLESHIP SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
72%	75%

The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers grow as disciples.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church prioritizes faith formation and disciple making	12%	24%	48%	16%
<i>This church....</i>	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
Challenges me to become more Christ-like	5%	8%	48%	38%
Helps me apply my faith to everyday life	5%	8%	48%	39%
Nurtures my spiritual development	5%	15%	47%	32%

The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are growing as disciples.

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I know the Bible well	12%	64%	18%	6%
I see myself as a disciple	9%	38%	45%	8%
When I face a problem, I look to the teachings of Jesus for guidance	2%	34%	46%	17%
<i>How important is it that you make time to...</i>	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Read the Bible	7%	36%	35%	23%
Pray or meditate	0%	10%	53%	37%
Deepen my relationship with God	2%	7%	40%	51%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

INTENTIONAL AUTHENTIC EVANGELISM



"We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God." 2 Corinthians 4:7

Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.

Are your worshipers sharing the Good News? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR EVANGELISM SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
68%	71%

The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers engage in evangelism.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church engages in evangelism	19%	38%	34%	10%
<i>This church....</i>	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
Encourages and equips me to share my faith	8%	22%	51%	18%
Encourages and equips me to share God's love when engaging in mission work or community service	7%	14%	49%	30%

The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are engaging in evangelism.

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I try to ensure that visitors to my church feel welcome	5%	16%	51%	28%
I invite people who do not attend church to come visit mine	19%	31%	36%	14%
I try to spread the word of God through my actions, like serving the community or engaging in mission work	2%	15%	35%	48%
<i>How important is it that you make time to...</i>	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Seek opportunities to share my faith in everyday life	7%	41%	37%	15%
Discuss religion and spirituality with people who are not Christian	21%	43%	31%	6%
Build relationships with people who are not Christian	8%	35%	39%	18%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

OUTWARD INCARNATIONAL FOCUS



"The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:14

Outward exploration and awareness, as well as a focus on neighbors, neighborhoods, and those who may never step foot in church.

Are your worshipers being Jesus out in the world? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR OUTWARD FOCUS SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
68%	76%

The role of the church

The following items measure how well the church is helping worshipers be Jesus in the world.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Quite well
This church responds to the needs of people outside the church	3%	22%	46%	30%

<i>This church....</i>	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
Is working to alleviate suffering and eliminate its causes	3%	36%	43%	19%
Provides a moral voice for our community	6%	28%	43%	22%
Has a noted presence in the community	4%	12%	45%	38%
Fosters environments of diversity	7%	44%	36%	13%
Emphasizes mission over self-preservation	28%	39%	30%	4%

The role of the individual

The following items measure how well the worshipers are being Jesus in the world.

<i>How important is it that you make time to...</i>	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Engage in work with the lost, suffering, marginalized, and oppressed	7%	25%	45%	22%
Make specific efforts to form relationships of diversity	7%	29%	40%	25%
Learn about other cultures and faith traditions	13%	36%	37%	15%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

EMPOWERING SERVANT LEADERSHIP



"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers." Matt. 9:37-38.

Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve

Are your worshipers being servant leaders? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR SERVANT LEADERSHIP SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
72%	77%

Cultivating Spiritual Gifts

The following items measure how well the church is cultivating servant leadership within the church.

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church helps members find the best way they can contribute to the life of the church	8%	31%	44%	17%
<i>This church...</i>	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
Helps me to cultivate my God-given gifts	7%	15%	52%	26%
Involves me in the planning or leading of activities	15%	16%	43%	25%
Nurtures my leadership development	11%	23%	42%	23%
	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I am heavily involved in this church beyond attending worship	27%	27%	25%	22%
This church teaches or talks about stewardship (time, talent, treasure)	5%	19%	53%	22%

Modeling Servant Leadership

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true	Do not know
Staff and other leaders here model humility	2%	16%	35%	36%	11%
Our leaders are open to suggestions	4%	22%	41%	29%	4%
There is a good match between our congregation and our clergy	3%	6%	26%	61%	4%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

SPIRIT-INSPIRED WORSHIP



"These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote." Isaiah 29:13

Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter the presence of the living God, and are sent to live lives of wonder, love, and praise.

Are your worshipers being filled with the Spirit? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR WORSHIP SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
77%	79%

Personal growth inspired by worship

The following items measure how well worship services are inspiring personal growth

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church leads inspiring worship	5%	5%	34%	56%

Worship services at this church...	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
Challenge my assumptions and convictions	7%	13%	51%	29%
Help me understand scripture	4%	7%	51%	39%
Inspire me to action	5%	16%	49%	30%

Experiences felt during worship

The following items measure what experiences worship services are invoking

During worship services at this church I feel...	Rarely or never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
A sense of God's presence	3%	25%	44%	28%
Boredom	61%	31%	3%	5%
Connectedness	4%	24%	56%	16%
Energy	11%	25%	49%	16%
Frustration	53%	38%	7%	2%
Judgment	59%	28%	10%	3%
Renewal	4%	30%	56%	10%
Wonder	10%	44%	36%	11%

"By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.

Do worshipers feel a sense of community within the church? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR RELATIONSHIPS SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
77%	83%

Church Community

The following items measure what the church is doing to foster community

		Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church loves and cares for all its members		4%	7%	38%	51%
	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true	Do not know
There is serious conflict within this church	43%	36%	4%	6%	12%
There are members who have been and are still hurt by this church	10%	42%	18%	10%	20%

Individual Sense of Belonging

The following items measure whether the worshipers feel connected within the church

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
I feel a strong sense of belonging in this congregation	8%	18%	36%	38%
People would notice if I stopped coming to church	14%	27%	36%	23%
Sometimes this church feels cliquish and I feel left out	43%	33%	17%	7%
I have at least one close friend in this congregation	7%	6%	36%	50%
	Not at all	To a small extent	To some extent	To a great extent
This church supports me through prayers	4%	7%	37%	53%
This church makes me feel that my opinions are valued	9%	13%	44%	34%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

ECCLESIAL HEALTH



"The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another." 1 Cor. 12: 14, 24b-25

Clarity in mission, core values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church.

Is your church functioning well? Below you will find your congregation's responses to each of the individual questions that were used to calculate the discipleship score, as well as what that score is.

YOUR HEALTH SCORES

Your Congregation	PC(USA)
71%	78%

Mission and Future

	Not at all well	Slightly well	Somewhat well	Very well
This church stays healthy and strong	12%	26%	43%	19%
This church fulfills its mission	4%	16%	54%	27%
	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true
This church is resistant to change	18%	51%	23%	8%
This church has a healthy sense of mission or purpose	9%	29%	48%	14%
I am hopeful or excited about our future	10%	22%	45%	24%

Leadership

	Not true	Somewhat true	True	Very true	Do not know
I trust our leadership to make good decisions	8%	14%	53%	26%	0%
Our congregation manages conflict well	17%	41%	20%	10%	12%
This church avoids difficult conversations	25%	49%	15%	10%	0%
Leadership shares budget and financial information with members	0%	11%	33%	49%	6%

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

YOUR CONGREGATION AND YOU



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Research Services

Are you currently a member of this congregation?

- 90% Yes
- 1% No, but I am in the process of becoming a member
- 7% No, but I regularly participate here
- 2% No

How long have you been coming here?

- 4% Less than 1 year
- 9% 1-5 years
- 8% 6-10 years
- 79% More than 10 years

Are you any of the following? (Select all that apply.)

- 32% Elder
- 16% Deacon
- 8% Christian educator
- 5% Minister, pastor, or priest
- 1% On staff here
- 50% None of the above

Describe your involvement in this church.

- 21% It is increasing
- 52% It is staying about the same
- 27% It is decreasing

Select any of the following ways that you are involved in this church. (Select all that apply.)

- 19% I serve on the leadership council
- 45% I serve on a committee or task force
- 26% I engage in mission work
- 42% I attend or lead a class, Bible study, or small group
- 47% I attend many of the fellowship or special events
- 12% I am in choir or some other music ministry
- 10% I am a worship leader or help with worship
- 5% Other
- 26% None of the above

About how much of your annual income (before taxes) do you give to your church?

- 14% 10% or more
- 15% 7-9%
- 39% 4-6%
- 16% 1-3%
- 9% Less than 1%
- 6% I don't give

Over the past year, how often have you attended worship services at this congregation?

- 25% Every week
- 42% 2-3 times a month
- 6% About once a month
- 15% Occasionally or only for special occasions
- 13% Never

Do any of the following keep you from participating more in the life of the church? (Select all that apply.)

- 4% Work
- 16% Family
- 26% Health
- 25% Travel
- 1% Transportation
- 3% Distance
- 6% Lack of interest
- 31% None of the above
- 11% Other

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF WORSHIPERS



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Research Services

Age

5%	up to 17 years
0%	18-25
2%	26-35
19%	36-65
75%	over 65

Gender

44%	Male
56%	Female
0%	Non-binary

Race and Ethnicity

0%	Asian
1%	Black or African American
0%	Hispanic or Latino/a/x
0%	Middle Eastern
1%	Native American
98%	White
0%	Multiracial
0%	Other

Household

23%	Lives alone
70%	Couple
5%	Couple with children
0%	Single adult with children
2%	Adult with parents
0%	Live with extended family
0%	Roommates

Employment

21%	Work full-time
7%	Work part-time
0%	Self-employed
1%	Full-time homemaker
5%	Student
0%	Unemployed
69%	Retired

Education

5%	Some high school or less
10%	High school diploma
2%	Trade certificate
5%	Associate degree
39%	Bachelors degree
23%	Masters degree
15%	Doctorate or professional degree

Income (pre-tax)

5%	Less than \$25,000
14%	\$25,000 to \$49,999
20%	\$50,000 to \$74,999
22%	\$75,000 to \$99,999
19%	\$100,000 to \$149,999
20%	\$150,000 or more

Political Orientation

45%	More on the conservative side
25%	More on the moderate side
30%	More on the liberal side

Theological Orientation

28%	More on the conservative side
45%	More on the moderate side
27%	More on the liberal side



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Research Services

Q15 Select any of the following ways that you are involved in this church.

- Presbyterian Women, Prayer shawls
- Self-quarantined due to covid
- teach Sunday School
- Not as involved since covid
- Video, yard maintenance
- 88 yrs. Old
- I was very involved at times when I was attending
- Support Boy Scout Program
- I don't attend because of health issues.
- Youth

Q17. Do any of the following keep you from participating more in the life of the church?

- Age
- Covid
- Covid 19
- Marriage and their church
- Age
- Covid
- Covid
- Age
- COVID
- Covid19
- Covid issues
- COVID
- Covid
- Pandemic
- COVID
- COVID

Q20. What is your race or ethnicity?

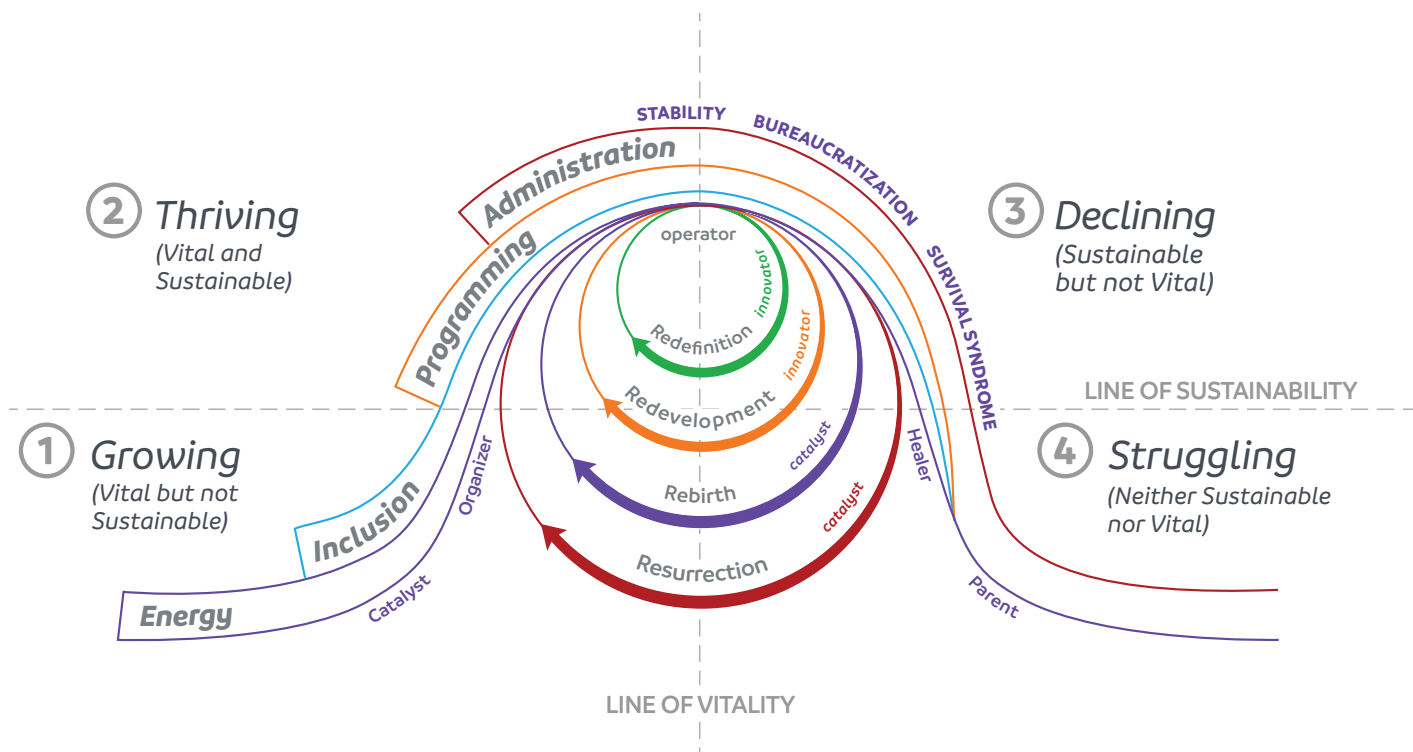
The Life Cycle of a Worshiping Community

The concept of a congregational life cycle has been around for a long time, and is typically illustrated with a diagram such as the one here, which is inspired by models developed and used by the ELCA, American Baptist Churches, the Episcopal Church, the Rothage Life Cycle, the US Congregational Life Survey, George Bullard and others. The bell-shaped curve shows the stages that a congregation can proceed through, from left to right. Note that as we move from left to right, we see the congregation growing and then eventually plateauing (the top of the curve)—but only for a short while—and then steadily declining.

But a gradual progression toward decline and even closure is not inevitable. Worshiping communities can, and often do, break out of this cycle. Note where the model shows a “circling back” toward the thriving stage. This is the result of intentional work on the part

of the worshiping community. Note that the further a worshiping community moves over the top of the curve and to the right, the more effort is required to move back to the thriving stage. The easiest, when caught early enough, is to redefine the worshiping community’s vision. But if the community has gone too far for mere redefinition to work, then they must redevelop. And finally, if it has declined too far to be redeveloped, it must birth a new community. We’ve also been experimenting with the idea of adding “resurrection” as a fourth loop at the bottom.

Using new surveys measuring components of spiritual health and financial health, we will be able to place each participating worshiping community at a location on this diagram, which will provide a basic assessment of where the community is currently located in this life cycle.



FOUR QUADRANTS:

Note that the diagram has two axes: vertical (representing the line of spiritual health) and horizontal (representing the line of financial health). A worshiping community that is located above the line of financial health exhibits traits that suggest it will be able to sustain itself for a long period of time. Below that line, it either hasn't yet achieved financial health (too new) or had it in the past but has lost it. To the left of the line of spiritual health, we have communities that are spiritually healthy; to the right, becoming less so.

Putting these two axes together suggests four different quadrants (beginning at the lower left and moving along the curved line to the right, or clockwise).

QUADRANT 1 — *Growing*: Worshiping communities in quadrant 1 are in the development stage and are new, excited and vital. They exhibit lots of energy and vision, hope and enthusiasm and a belief that the community has great potential. They are very change-oriented. However, they're not developed enough at this stage to be considered financially healthy. Perhaps there is not enough participation for financial viability, or perhaps they're just not yet organized and fully engaged in planning and strategizing. It's a good place to be, but not for very long. Without more organization and stable leadership, a worshiping community is very vulnerable at this stage. The type of leaders best suited to lead a worshiping community at this stage are catalysts (those with charismatic qualities and entrepreneurial skills, the visionaries) and organizers (those who can grab the vision and run with it, people who know how to get things done). Usually the most growth occurs while a community is in this stage. As they become more organized, newer worshiping communities in quadrant 1 tend to think a lot about inclusion: both inviting those outside of the worshiping community and intentionally including those who have started participating. They need to be thinking about how to draw people in and then how to assimilate them into the group, how to engage members in discovering and using their spiritual gifts and how to distribute and use power and authority.

QUADRANT 2 — *Thriving*: Worshiping communities in quadrant 2 have achieved financial health while remaining spiritually healthy. Although energy levels may not be as high as they were previously, energy is still there, and it may be renewed or increased by some of the worshiping community's activity. By now, it has developed a culture of mission and also some services that meet the needs of its participants, the surrounding community and beyond. Saarinen refers to this as programming, which serves specific functions such as worship, music, learning, serving, managing and witnessing. In this context, administration refers to mission statements, goals, objectives, budgets and planning. Worshiping communities in quadrant 2 tend to be higher on programming and administration, and lower on energy and inclusion than quadrant 1 communities, but all four of these "gene structures" are present. A lot of change can lead to conflict; but if well managed, small inevitable conflicts are not detrimental to the overall health of the worshiping community. At this stage, the community has developed plans for reaching people, assimilating new people and providing intentional spiritual formation. The goal is to get to this quadrant, and when the worshiping community inevitably drifts into quadrant 3 (Declining), through some redefinition of its goals, it can return to quadrant 2 without a great deal of effort. The type of leaders we typically see at this stage might still be the catalysts and/or organizers who got the worshiping community started, but they may have lost some of their enthusiasm and moved from organizers to operators. If they forget about the passion that they once had, they can lead the community into quadrant 3.

Or they may have left and been replaced with an operator type. Or a new visionary catalyst or organizer has moved in and is trying to convince the community to do some redefinition of its mission and purpose. If that doesn't happen quickly, the worshiping community may slide over the hill into quadrant 3 pretty quickly. Worshiping communities in quadrant 2 are still growing, though perhaps at a much slower pace. They are in a pattern of adding enough new members to offset annual losses that naturally occur, and until they slip over the hill, are adding more new members than they lose. Because the energy expended on growth in quadrant 1 shifts to ministry and administration as the worshiping community moves into quadrant 2, growth tends to slow. This is probably the best time for a congregation to consider birthing a new worshiping community.

QUADRANT 3 — *Declining*: Worshiping communities in this quadrant at first would argue that they have not ventured over the hill and are still in quadrant 2. Indeed, it's difficult to tell when that point happens. But at some point, a congregation moves from thriving to less thriving, and if not checked, will continue down the quadrant-3 slope towards quadrant 4 (Struggling). Worshiping communities located in this quadrant have typically stopped growing, and at first are in a pattern of maintaining, which slides into patterns of more losses each year than gains. The worshiping community may become bureaucratized to the point where some people begin questioning whether it's lost its sense of vision or purpose. The people and leaders may have lost their sense of urgency to be on mission, and yet may maintain financial stability due to a large endowment, or by keeping a large enough member base to be able to maintain for years, maybe even decades. Note in the diagram that some redefinition, if it occurs early in the community's time in quadrant 3, (requiring the leadership of an innovator, who is often not the "operator" leader who brought them here in the first place) the community can return to quadrant 2 without a lot of effort and monumental changes. If not, the community is at risk of catching "survival syndrome," which is characterized by some of the following: fundraising efforts to keep the doors open, letting staff go to keep functioning with a steadily decreasing budget, developing an attitude of scarcity thinking that replaces abundance thinking, as well as conflict and blame. A worshiping community at this stage needs a healer to lead them. The further the community continues sliding down the hill toward quadrant 4, the more work will be needed to redevelop the community back into a quadrant 3 community. Such work requires the leadership of an innovator who can help the community through the conflict that will inevitably come to move into healthier patterns.

QUADRANT 4 — *Struggling*: Worshiping communities in this quadrant generally know that they are in trouble, because, at some point, they recognized that they were in quadrant 3 and tried to do something about it. They may have been engaged in major conflict, have developed unhealthy responses to conflict and no longer have healthy systems in place. They may have slowly aged as a community, with their younger generations growing up and moving out. They are usually more engaged in maintenance than in mission at this stage. They are becoming less financially healthy, and as they move toward the end of the cycle, they may come to realize that they are no longer healthy, either spiritually or financially. Quadrant 4 worshiping communities are at a crossroads where they have to choose between doing nothing and inevitably closing their doors, intentionally closing their doors and using any remaining funds to help fund something else, merging with another congregation in a union or federated relationship, or completely rebirthing as something new.