

Annual Church Health Check-Up

Introduction

Do you ensure that your car is given a regular service and tune? If you attend a gym, you probably have an occasional fitness test. Perhaps you visit your GP for an annual check-up? We recognise the value of regular check-ups in many areas of life. They help us to see how things are going and to address minor issues before they escalate. They also encourage us to celebrate what's going well. Similarly, it is good for church leaders to review how their church is going.

Why use this tool?

The statements below are designed to encourage reflection and stimulate discussion on how the church is going.

Not everyone will have the same understanding of the meanings of the words. This is an opportunity to develop a common language and understanding of these terms.

This is intended to be general set of statements to use as a guide. Not all the questions may be relevant to your particular church. Feel free to adjust these questions to suit your unique situation.

Who is this guide for?

It is for church leadership teams wishing to do a quick annual church health check-up. If you would like to do a more in depth and thorough health check, contact our BUV's Church Health and Capacity Building Team.

How to use this tool

Have each of your leadership team download and fill out the health check statements on their own.

For each statement and following sentences, circle the number that you think best applies to your church – 1 meaning, "This is not at all true of our church" and 5 meaning, "This is completely true of our church." Write a short explanation for your rating.

Have an extended time together as a leadership team discussing individual answers to the statements and what you could or will do in response to the discussion.

Ratings: 1 = This is not at all true of our church to 5 = This is completely true of our church

1. We have a clear and common vision.

Is it widely known, and owned by our people?
Articulated with clarity and regularity by leadership?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. There is purposeful direction to our activities.

Our leadership concentrates on focused and purposeful programming rather than, "We've always done it this way."

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Our services inspire true worship.

The music, liturgy and sermons point people to Christ. The emphasis is on authentic connection with God. People are engaged and inspired.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Our church presents a positive gospel message.

The brokenness and messiness of life is addressed, but there is an emphasis on grace and forgiveness.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. There's a balance between evangelism & discipleship.

Spiritual growth is as important as numerical growth. People are being added to the church by conversion growth, then disciplined in spiritual formation and ministry skills.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Corporate prayer saturates the life of our church.

Prayer is modelled in public services by leaders.
Special corporate prayer gatherings are held during the year.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. We really reach out to people who visit.

Our people work to make guests feel at home. There are systems whereby visitors are followed up.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Our church is aware of the world at its door and beyond.

We are having a positive impact on our neighbourhood and have good connections with our community. We have active local mission projects. We reflect the cultural diversity of our community.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ratings: 1 = This is not at all true of our church to 5 = This is completely true of our church

9. We develop leaders.

We involve people in training, both formal and informal. There are structures for discipling and caring for leaders. We are intentional about developing and empowering emerging leaders.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Our church has appropriate structures and wise administration.

There is a clear understanding of the role of the pastor, the leadership, the staff, the congregation, and the denomination. Our governance fits our size.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Our congregants have a sense of community.

Despite personal differences there is an undergirding sense of unity. Despite our diversity there is an undergirding sense of belonging and unity. Many linger after a service in order to connect with one another.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. We practise redemption love.

We accept and love people as they are and at the same time challenge them to be transformed as they follow Christ.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. We live as people of hope and expectation.

We are convinced we are making a difference in our community. We communicate to people that their ultimate hope is in Christ.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. We have new people joining our church community.

We are seeing people come to faith for the first time and new people join our church. We are baptising a number of people.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. We have a generous spirit as a community.

We are meeting our budget and a sufficient number of people are volunteering to run the ministries of the church.

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scoring: Total your circled answers.

60-75 - You see your church to be in good health.

50-60 - You see your church as well on the road to good health.

40-50 - You see healthy aspects of church, but you have things to work on.

25-40 - You see there is work to be done, but you've begun. What's the next step?

< 25 - You see an unhealthy church. Time to rethink how you do things.

Some questions to consider

Which of these areas of church life are the most important to start work on NOW?

What actions need to be taken NOW to build the health and capacity of the church?

Who will be responsible for following up on individual action points?