

Visioning Forum 1

Establishing PURPOSE

3 Key Questions for Churches to ask

1. Do we have an honest picture of who we are?
2. Do we have a shared vision of where we are going?
3. Do we have a clear understanding of the next steps necessary to take in this journey?

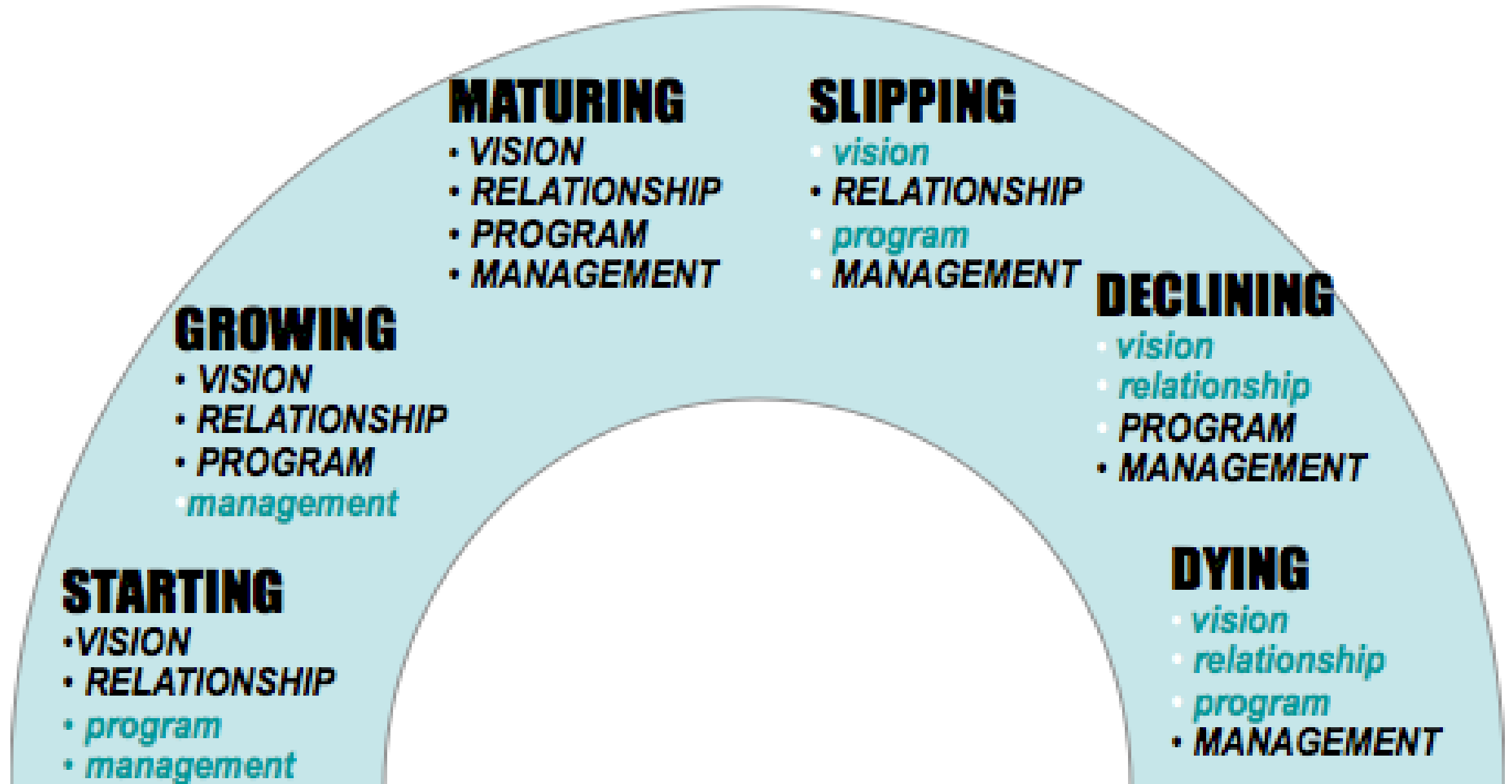
3 Basic Assumptions

1. Growth is desired by God & a natural outcome of healthy churches.
2. It is the Holy Spirit that causes churches to grow.
3. Prayer is foundational for any healthy church.

**Good
Memories**



Lifecycle of a Congregation



Upward Lifecycle

Critical Needs

Downward Lifecycle

Critical Needs

Later Upward

*Articulate the
Next Vision.*

Early Downward

*Restore Vision
thru Renewal.*

Middle Upward
*Advance Vision with
Sustained Momentum.*

Middle Downward
*Restore Vision thru
Restructuring.*

Earlier Upward
Activate Vision with Critical Mass

Later Downward
Restore Vision thru Rebirth.



Critical Issues

Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE why we exist

Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE why we exist

VALUES drive the way we do things around here

Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE why we exist

VALUES the way we operate – the way we do things around here

VISION our future destination – a word picture of what we think the future might look like under God

Purpose, Values & Vision

Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE determined Biblically

Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE determined Biblically

VALUES uncovered not created

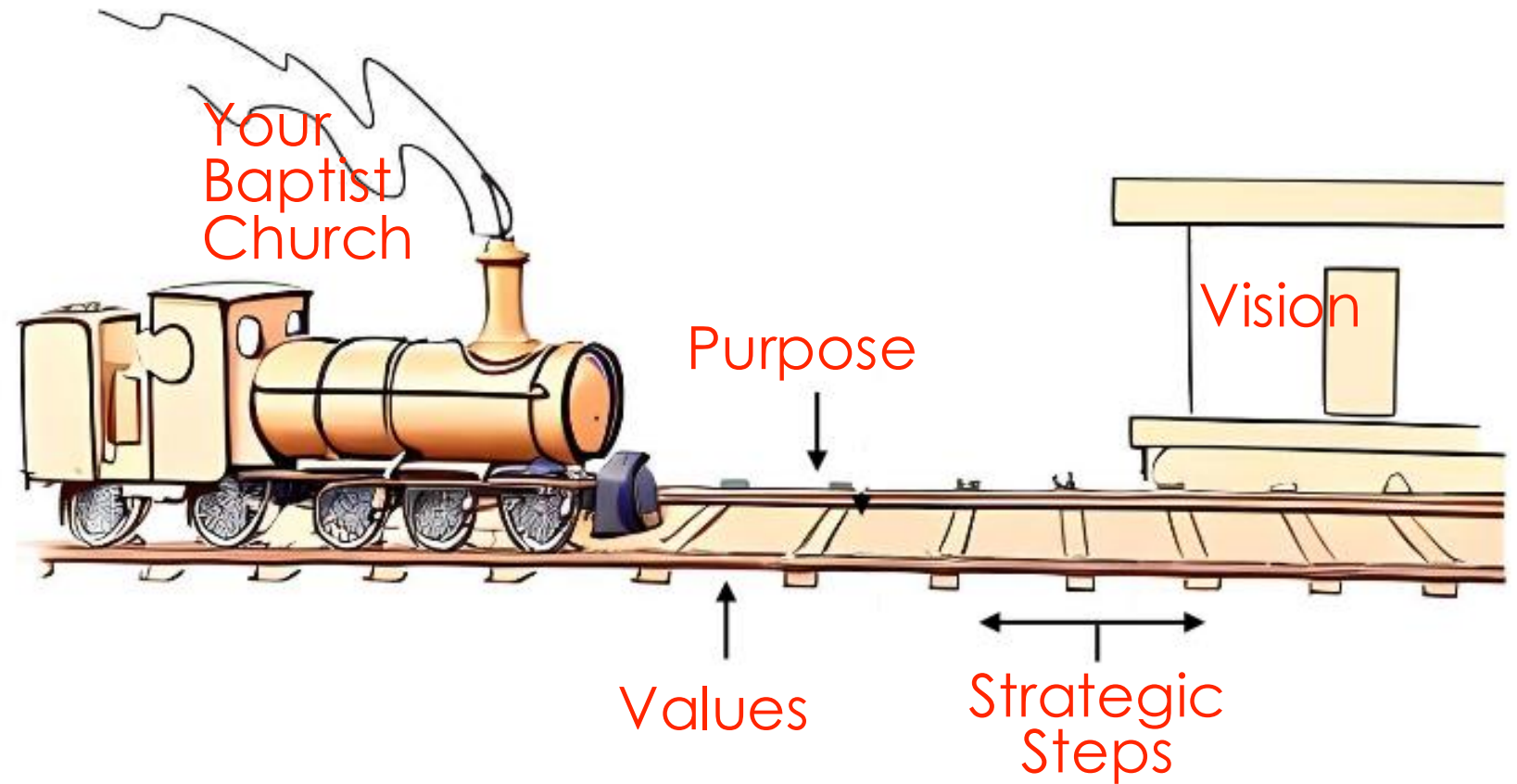
Purpose, Values & Vision

PURPOSE determined Biblically

VALUES uncovered not created

VISION imparted by God, discovered
through prayer, acknowledged by
the church body

The importance of Purpose, Values & Vision





Checking our Purpose Statement



*Remember:
Purpose is
why we exist*

Is our purpose statement:

1. Biblically based?
2. One sentence?
3. Over-arching rather than specific?
4. Applicable to most churches?
5. Timeless? ie. it will never go out of date



**Checking
our Values
Statement**



***Remember:
Values drive the
way we do things
around here***

Are these values:

- 1. Evident in the history / life of the church?**
- 2. Do they feel like they 'fit'?**
- 3. Do they evoke a 'gut reaction'? (an emotive response)**
- 4. Are they 'realised' or 'aspirational' values?**




Checking our Vision Statement



*Remember: Vision is
our future destination
- a word picture of
what we think the
future might look like
(under God)*

Has this vision statement:

1. Been given by God?
2. Been the subject of significant prayer in the life of the church?
3. Been acknowledged & affirmed by the church Body?
4. A future aspect? (not describing things presently)
5. A specific nature? (progress is measurable)



“The purpose is part of
the ministry’s
congregational heart
and soul. It is why the
ministry exists...”

Malphurs, *Advanced
Strategic Planning*, 105



Establishing PURPOSE

- could apply to any church in any place
- still value in formulating own clear statement
- usually the most straightforward, but fundamentally important, nonetheless
- complements a vision statement that is a more concrete picture of a 'future destination' that looks forward for this church at this time in this place



Purpose Reflection

- individually: read & reflect on passages
– what should be included in our church purpose statement – list ideas (not about how we ‘word’ it)
- small groups: share list with each other
- one group member records any ideas that arise more than once amongst the group members
- large group: facilitator has each small group share one point (until the list is exhausted) noting how many groups had the same answer



VALUES Identification Exercise

End of Forum 1

Establishing PURPOSE