

CHURCH VITALITY



**VITALITY IS THE STATE OF BEING STRONG,
ACTIVE AND HAVING THE CONTINUANCE OF LIFE.**

CHURCH VITALITY PURPOSE:

Church vitality exists to help EFCA East fulfill the Great Commission by developing and maintaining the Healthy Vital Signs of the local church and its leaders, ensuring that we live well, lead well and multiply disciples.

INDICATORS OF CHURCH VITALITY:

We understand that there are many indicators of a church that maintains healthy vital signs. We've narrowed our search down to eight leading indicators of church vitality. We trust that they will help our churches and leaders maintain a vibrant pulse that reverberates and reproduces itself by the transformational work of the Holy Spirit throughout all generations for the glory of God.

HOW TO USE THESE INDICATORS:

- Print them out and pray over each one.
- Share them with your elders, leaders and key influencers.
- Go through the [**21 Day Devo and Reflection Guide**](#).
- Consider teaching a [**Vitality sermon series**](#) based on these 8 indicators.



LEADING INDICATORS OF CHURCH VITALITY

1. FRUITFUL AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING:

We desire our churches to help fulfill the Great Commission by maintaining a disciple making environment that focuses on reaching all nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 14:23; Luke 15:3-7;
1 Corinthians 15:1-4

2. PASSION FOR PRAYER:

We desire our churches to become houses of prayer who are sensitive to the power of the Holy Spirit and His ability to lead and transform lives through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 63:11-14; Romans 8:14, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11;
Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; Philippians 4:6; Matthew 21:13;
1 Thessalonians 1:4-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

3. CENTRALITY OF GOD'S WORD:

We desire our churches to be a place where the authority of Scripture is the centerpiece of its vision, mission, teaching/preaching, and remains the sole source of how to live life displaying the authentic character of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 1:1

4. HIGH IMPACT WORSHIP (GOD DEPENDENT & FOCUSED):

We desire our churches to have an inspirational worship experience specific to its environment that glorifies God, engages the total person, and causes people to desire more of Him.

John 4:21-24; Revelation 4:8-11; Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 86:9-10;
Psalm 100:1-5; Hebrews 12:28-29

5. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

We desire our churches to intentionally discover, develop and deploy leaders who model the love and leadership Jesus Christ displayed; and who can continue multiplying the same in future generations.

2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:2-4

6. LOVING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

We desire our churches to nurture and embody the genuine love of Jesus Christ within itself and within the communities they serve.

John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 16:14;
Ephesians 4:2-3; 1 Peter 3:8-9; 1 John 4:21-22; Matthew 5:43-48;
Philippians 2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:12; Romans 12

7. FAITHFUL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY:

We desire our churches to maintain healthy financial stewardship and a sincere spirit of generosity to help care for the needs and advance the Great Commission both locally and abroad.

2 Corinthians 8-9; James 1:27; Matthew 25:40-45; Acts 32-35

8. REPRODUCTION (LIFE GROUPS AND CONGREGATIONS):

We desire our churches to reproduce themselves or be a part of the reproduction of the local church to advance the Great Commission through future generations.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16

**HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE
INDICATORS OF CHURCH VITALITY?**

USE THE CHECKLIST BELOW.

CHURCH VITALITY CHECKLIST

1. FRUITFUL AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE MAKING:

- Our people understand what is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We are DRIVEN to see the Gospel impact individuals (family, friends, co-workers, neighbors), our local communities and the entire world.
- The Great Commission is a normal conversation among our leadership/influencers thus tethered to every ministry of our Church.
- We desire all nations to be reached and transformed through the Gospel.
- We EXPECT significant, transformational conversion growth.
- Our church measures its disciple-making effectiveness by the Great Commission of Christ rather than any other source.
- We have a clear path for disciple-making: a process from new life to spiritual maturity that is built into the fabric of our church.

2. PASSION FOR PRAYER:

- Prayer is obvious throughout our congregation, demonstrating our deep dependence on God.
- Our leadership and influencers model prayer and a Holy Spirit led life.
- Our congregation emphasizes in practical ways the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live transformed lives.

- ❑ There is plenty of evidence that people are maturing in their faith and are being transformed through a growing intimacy with God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. CENTRALITY OF GOD'S WORD

- ❑ The Bible is the focal point of our church's mission statement, overall vision and core values.
- ❑ The authority of Scripture guides our decision-making, is the centerpiece of our teaching/preaching, and the ultimate way we do things.
- ❑ The people are being equipped to apply the Bible to their everyday lives.

4. HIGH IMPACT WORSHIP (GOD DEPENDENT & FOCUSED)

- ❑ Our VITAL worship experience inspires people to focus on God and glorify Him alone. Thus, moving our people from spectators to participators.
- ❑ Our public worship engages the heart, mind and emotions of people with God. It reaches the totality of man.
- ❑ Our public worship is offered to God in a spirit of excellence with what He has given us to offer Him today.
- ❑ A spirit of joy characterizes our worship of God, inspiring our people to want more of Him.
- ❑ People often comment on meeting (experiencing) Jesus in public worship.
- ❑ There's a clear and unified sense that the Holy Spirit of God is with us.
- ❑ People naturally return for more of Him without being provoked by man.

5. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- The love and leadership characteristics of Jesus Christ are already being displayed and clearly modeled by our current leadership.
- There is an intentional path for discovering and developing leaders for Christ's ministry.
- There is a consistent path for EVERYONE to discover and exercise their spiritual gifts.
- We have developed or we are intentionally developing a healthy bench of leaders who are helping to carry the leadership load of the church.
- We are intentionally developing our next generation of leaders.
- We seldom have empty slots for leadership in our ministry.
- We have regularly seen mature leaders deployed into full-time ministry and church plants.

6. LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

- We model and provide a meaningful experience of COMMUNITY.
- Major interpersonal conflicts are rare and biblically reconciled.
- Our congregation is vitally involved in pastoral care for each other.
- We know our neighbors and we know how to love them.
- We willingly, creatively, and lovingly serve our surrounding communities.
- Our congregation reflects the community context where God has placed us, a place where all feel like they can belong.
- Our communities wouldn't be the same without our existence.

7. FAITHFUL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

- A mark of discipleship in our congregation is the willingness to be generous and share.
- We are willing and eager to take care of the household of faith.
- Faithful stewardship of all of our resources, possessions, money and time is systematically modeled and taught in biblical and practical ways.
- We maintain a healthy balance of being internally vs. externally focused.
- There is a balance in the use of our resources so that our budget reflects fulfilling the Great Commission, congregational care and considering the needs of others.
- We do our best to be led by the Holy Spirit in how we use our resources rather than our own personal plans.
- When we can, we do our best to invest in the financial needs of other churches who are not as fortunate as us.

8. REPRODUCTION (LIFE GROUPS & CONGREGATIONS)

- Our church is growing numerically.
- Life groups (small/home groups) and ministries are multiplying.
- Church planting is one of our core values and can be seen in our strategic planning, our financial stewardship, and our leadership development.
- We have a measurable commitment to reproduce our church or another healthy church.
- We have a measurable commitment to reproduce leaders.
- We already have relationships and partnerships beginning in order to explore where God is at work so we can join Him.
- Reproduction is a natural part of our church life and conversation.