A Church Leader's "Healthy Church Assessment" Tool

Churches who are living God's vision for themselves are healthy. A healthy congregation is one that is alive and pursuing the purpose for which God created them - making disciples for the transformation of the world. Congregational health is one of the fruits of redeeming souls and circumstances. The questions below are intended to help you assess the current health of your congregation and to point to areas where some intentional interventions should be considered as you seek to be faithful, fruitful and bold.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

1. **LOW SPIRITUALITY**
   God seems distant and uninvolved. Most people in our congregation have little expectation that God will be active in their life or through our church.
   - 1 - 5

2. **LOW QUALITY OF MISSION**
   Only a few people understand God's reason for the church existing. Church is mostly a social place for us and our kind of people. Church meetings deal with routine "business" of fellowship and maintenance.
   - 1 - 5

3. **LOW QUALITY OF WORSHIP**
   Worship lacks energy and seems perfunctory or lacking preparation. We come to worship out of habit - expecting little to happen.
   - 1 - 5

4. **LOW FAITH FORMATION**
   Few classes or groups exist with none recently stated. Most classes are not serious about deepening one's walk. There is little sense that the church is on a "journey toward mature faith." We can't remember when someone in our church responded to God's call to a vocation of Christian service.
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5. **LOW EVANGELISTIC PASSION**
   Beyond our children and youth confirmation classes, we rarely have an adult make a profession of faith. We don't reach out to non-Christians in any organized way. We seldom invite people to church and have few visitors.
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6. **LOW HOSPITALITY**
   We think we are friendly, but we have few real friends. We visit but keep people at a distance. We neither keep people comfortable than make adjustments to reach others who are different from us.
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7. **LOW DIVERSITY**
   We rarely reach out to people who are of a different ethnic group. Seldom do we have a visitor of a different racial group.
   - 1 - 5

8. **LOW PROSPERITY FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, & YOUNG ADULTS**
   All our children have grown up and moved away. We have no young people who are part of our church.
   - 1 - 5

9. **LOW COMMUNICATION**
   We use word of mouth and announcements at church to get the news out to our participants. People often complain about not knowing what is going on. Little or no effort is made to communicate with outsiders through media. We don't see advertising as a significant tool for ministry outreach or evangelism.
   - 1 - 5

10. **LOW CARE FOR FACILITIES**
    Our facilities and yard are not maintained. Repairs are neglected. We have poor signage throughout the building and grounds, or no signs at all. Our main entrance is hard for newcomers to find. We assume everyone knows where to go and how to get there.
    - 1 - 5

11. **LOW OPEN COMMUNICATION**
    We regularly expand our communications within the church family and beyond. We use websites and e-mail to enhance our contacts for ministry. We send articles to the paper and use advertising as an intentional strategy for reaching people outside our church with our desire to serve them and offer them the gifts of faith.
    - 1 - 5

12. **LOW CARE FOR FACILITIES**
    Facilities are well cared for, appealing and clean. Repairs and maintenance are timely and regular. The building is used throughout the week. Our building is inviting. We honor God by the way we care for and utilize these facilities as a ministry resource.
    - 1 - 5

13. **LOW OUTREACH & MISSION**
    We think the church is "for" others who are different from us. We don't invite people to church and have few visitors. We don't reach out to non-Christians. We don't make a profession of faith. We don't reach out to non-Christians. We don't make a profession of faith. We don't reach out to non-Christians. We don't make a profession of faith. We don't reach out to non-Christians. We don't make a profession of faith.
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14. **LOW ADVOCACY & JUSTICE**
    Our church rarely joins in the cry of those hurt by societal circumstances that diminish the Divine worth of any human (i.e., injustice, bias, racism, poverty, etc.).
    - 1 - 5

15. **LOW STewardship & GENEROSITY**
    People give little more than their "extra" money to support the church. Giving is viewed as "paying our dues." Our church has a "scarcity" mind-set that limits ministry.
    - 1 - 5

16. **LOW LEADERSHIP**
    Few lay are involved in the ministry of the church. Clergy and lay leaders are focused only on the "basics" of church operation. Clergy serves as chaplain; most others are consumers.
    - 1 - 5

17. **LOW MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT**
    No new member classes or any coordinated planning to bring new members into the life of the church. New members are allowed to "find their own paths" of ministry as it suits them.
    - 1 - 5

**SCORING SUMMARY**

1. 10.  
2. 11.  
3. 12.  
4. 13.  
5. 14.  
6. 15.  
7. 16.  
8. 17.  
9. Total:

**WORKING WITH THIS SURVEY**

- **Scoring:** Circle a number in response to each question, 1 being lowest and 5 being highest.
- **Indicators:** Note high scores and ask, "What more can be done to keep these scores high?" Keep your strengths healthy.
- **Indicators:** Ask others how God is "adopting a needy child" or supporting a food drive or similar projects stretch us to the limit. We occasionally talk about "adopting a needy child" or supporting a missionary or one of our church agencies, but we rarely follow through.
- **Indicators:** We believe through reaching out we truly become the Body of Christ in the community and the world. We offer many opportunities for hands-on involvement in meeting human needs and relieving suffering in the name of Christ. We go outside our walls - into our community and world - to extend God's reach.

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