

Vitality & Sustainability Scores

Green = Highest Scores | Red = Lowest Scores

Vitality Scores

Worship – High Vitality (3.4)

Worship is a very vital part of your congregation. Yet there is always room for improvement. While your congregation's worship is very satisfying to long-time attendees, it might be good to ask whether they might be as satisfying to newcomers. It might be worth asking those who are relatively new to your congregation how they are experiencing the congregation's worship offerings?

Outreach – High Vitality (3.2)

Your church is an indispensable part of your community. To maximize your impact even further, consider ways you might help other faith communities learn to serve in such effective ways.

Lay Engagement – Moderate Vitality (2.8)

Chances are your congregation is full of ministry leaders who feel empowered and are better able to live into their faith commitments. If you want to ensure a continued healthy vitality level, ensure that you can clearly articulate all the various ways through which one can serve in the congregation, define ministry (job) descriptions, and invite people to serve based on their passion, skill set, and talents.

Spiritual Life – Moderate Vitality (2.3)

Perhaps now is a good time to build on that foundation. If your congregation doesn't currently have a Spiritual Life committee that works alongside your pastor to offer opportunities for individual and group spiritual practice, start one. Then engage in prayerful discernment about your current offerings in this area: Which are working well? Which could use some prayerful attention? Imagine together what could make these offerings even better. This is an area of congregational life that if you give it prayerful attention, it can't help but get even stronger.

Context Awareness – Moderate Vitality (2.2)

Your congregation is likely to be aware of its responsibility to engage your surrounding community. Probably few relationships have been formed and that is your greatest opportunity moving forward. In order to become more vital, ensure that your clergy are taking the time to be seen and known in the community. Empower and encourage all congregation members to be ambassadors to the community. Continue being a welcoming place for all, and consider ways you might be even more diverse and reflective of your surrounding community.

Vision & Mission – Low Vitality (1.9)

Your congregation has significant work ahead in order to determine who you are, what you are called to be and to do, and how you will get there. To become more vital, your congregation will need to develop an overarching, shared vision and a broadly-understood mission. Furthermore, the congregation should do some significant discernment of your core values. In order to define what success looks like, your congregation should determine 3-5 God-sized goals with benchmarks and assigned next steps.

Internal Sustainability - Low-Mod (2.1)

Your congregation isn't in dire straits (yet), though it does have significant room for improvement. Consider how your congregation is ensuring it has the financial resources required to sustain the life-giving and relevant ways it is called to serve the neighborhoods around it. Ways of doing this might include more robust endowment management, an infrastructure to receive planned gifts, a capital reserve fund to offset the cost of facilities improvement and upkeep, in addition to an active and discerning property committee/team.

Sustainability Scores

External Sustainability - High (3.4)

The neighborhoods you serve have sufficiently high population and income, and sufficiently low competition to sustain High Vitality in a typical congregation. Your congregation need not fear collaboration with neighboring congregations. Your main challenge will be to identify missional opportunities and challenges that are emerging around your congregations, to discern the specific opportunities and challenges God is calling each of your congregations to meet, and to support each other in your respective ministries to the neighborhoods you individually and jointly serve.