**Worksheet on Congregational Vitality**

Reflect on the current reality (during the last year) of your congregation and answer these questions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| 1. Do we have a pattern of growth in attendance? |  |  |
| 1. Will our trend of growth, plateau or decline allow us to thrive and develop ministry for the future in this place? |  |  |
| 1. Can we maintain our own existence as a congregation and provide ministry in the community, association, UCC? |  |  |
| 1. Can we survive without some form of life support from bequests, special gifts? |  |  |
| 1. Do we have sufficient numbers of people to volunteer for ministry within the congregation and outreach into the community? |  |  |
| 1. Are new efforts in church growth and community outreach feasible? |  |  |
| 1. Are there sufficient funds and interested membership to do ministry within the congregation as well as outreach into the community and world? |  |  |
| 1. Are we experiencing the presence of first‐time visitors on a regular basis? |  |  |
| 1. Do they return for a second or a third visit? |  |  |
| 1. Do 20‐25% of our first‐time visitors eventually join the congregation? |  |  |
| 1. Is the congregation's main focus on church growth and community outreach? |  |  |
| 1. Is the congregation striving to do more than trying to survive/keep the doors open? |  |  |
| 1. Has the congregation grown in the last five years? |  |  |
| 1. Do we have enough members to do ministry well? |  |  |
| 1. Does giving in the congregation enable discipleship and outreach work, or does most of the giving go towards building maintenance and survival? |  |  |
| 1. Are there young families active in the church? |  |  |
| 1. Has the congregation maintained a good level of stewardship including several families (10‐12) who tithe faithfully to the congregation? |  |  |
| 1. Is the congregation willing/able to adapt its ministry and lifestyle in order to develop the ministries that will meet the needs of a changing community? |  |  |
| 1. Is the present facility physically adaptable for use? |  |  |
| 1. Can the congregation afford the repairs that are needed to use these facilities for ministry? |  |  |

If you marked 5 answers "No', we suggest you contact the Conference staff to discuss the trends that are revealed. If you marked 8 or more answers "No", this may suggest a serious condition of decline for your congregation. It is time to look courageously and honestly at your situation and consider what options you have as a congregation. Please contact the Associate Conference Minister for options and resources.