

Q/R



Questions and Responses

Selected and anonymous responses collected in the
Affiliated Churches 2009 Health and Growth Census

Question 1: Mission and Vision

Below is a selection of mission and vision statements that guide some of our affiliated churches. They would make an excellent study at a leaders meeting at your church.

Maybe you could select 5 of the themes, and then questions to consider could include:

- What can we learn from these statements?
- Does our church have such a statement?
- What is the actual outcome of our statement?
- What new steps could we take to see healthier outcomes?
- There is a strong emphasis on mission and evangelism in these statements, yet the traditional markers for measurement [baptism/attendance/communion] aren't showing a consequential increase. What does that mean for our church, and for Churches of Christ?

What is your church's mission/vision statement?

- To serve the Lord Jesus Christ by being a caring and mission orientated community, and will exist to go into our community and make disciples, baptise them and teach them the truth evangelism and church spiritual growth
- To express the spirit of God's community through acts of hospitality, social justice, extravagant love, and equality in our neighbourhood
- Go into all the world and preach the gospel
- To lead an increasing number of people to a life-changing relationship with Jesus
- We are a church that is all about life. We are all about - helping people meet Jesus, become like him and be equipped to impact the local and global community
- Proclaim the Gospel, win people for Christ, involve people in ministry, grow spiritually
- In the future we seek a cross generational Christ like community of life and hope
- To be a church that celebrates God's presence, communicates God's love and cultivates God's people to know Jesus and make Him known. We place strong emphasis on family
- To help more People become Passionate Disciples of Jesus
- We are a church that seeks through worship, fellowship and study of the scriptures to grow in the Christian life, and bring others to experience the new life that Christ brings

- We are a praying, dynamic, loving Christian community rebuilding the divine relationship between God, believers, the lost and our community
- To celebrate and share God's love through mentoring disciples, worship, caring and relating to our community so others may come to accept Jesus Christ as Lord
- Our focus: Growing with families.
- Our church is Christ-centred in its teaching and worship, and is committed to introducing people to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- A disciple making church
- to be an inside out and outside in church
- To know Christ better and to make Him better known
- To reach out and build up for the Kingdom of God
- To know and praise God serving Christ the community and each other
- We are followers of Jesus Christ, committed to loving God, loving one another and making disciples
- To living Jesus where ever we are
- Reproducing World Christians
- To serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by being a dynamic community and mission oriented church
- Building Lives On Purpose
- Gather Grow Go
- A door of hope through Jesus Christ in a fragile and uncertain world. Jesus centred and others focused
- We aim to be a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ and live the life and principles that He taught and lived
- To make Provision for the Support and Discipling of followers of Jesus Christ. To provide an environment for identifying and developing the talents and abilities of those followers and helping them serve effectively both inside and outside the Christian Community
- To raise up zealous disciples of Jesus who fulfil the great commandment and great commission of the kingdom of God
- Sharing God's Love
- To be a vibrant, spirit filled church. Values: Christ centred, Spirit Filled, Word bound, Faith Focused
- Engage with our society. Equip people to fulfil their potential. Connect people to God and each other. Involve people in the mission of God and the world
- A mission minded church with a passion for prayer, winning souls and taking the gospel wherever the Lord leads
- We aim to be a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ and live the life and principles that He taught and lived
- We will be a contemporary, relevant expression of the body of Christ in the region of the Macedon Ranges. That we will give, gather, grow, go glorify
- To be a disciple-making Church. With God's love we are seeking to impact our generation, bringing them into a relationship with Jesus, teaching them to obey him, and training them to equip others
- We are a people learning to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God and each other.
- To be the living presence of Jesus in our city

- Mission Statement: "Centre of your community" Present to God Present to People
Core Values: Authentic- relationships, Courageous-living, Generous-lives, Transforming-community
- Building Relationships with Christ
- Kingdom Builders who love God and people.
Kingdom Builders who have a sense of destiny in their lives.
Kingdom Builders who are enthusiastic in seeing the lost and the hurting coming into God's kingdom.
- To foster Christian fellowship and spiritual growth within our congregation and Christian witness in the wider world
- To introduce people to Jesus through equipping, empowering, and releasing people into their giftedness and meeting the needs of our community
- We exist to teach and demonstrate the truth, love and power of the gospel of Christ, to make disciples and extend the Kingdom of God under the anointing and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Empowered by Jesus Christ our church lives to reveal God's kingdom through personal and community transformation
- To meet as a group of believers to worship God who through His son redeemed us to Himself. To preach the gospel and care for the believers
- To live and love like Christ by serving our communities
- A church in the community with the community at heart
- To bring God's good news to the people of our community in a way that is relevant and meets their needs
- To be the hands and feet of Jesus
- To build a cross generational church that combines the laughter of children with the exuberance of youth tempered with the wisdom of age that will reach our community for Christ
- Promoting the spread of the gospel at home and abroad. Providing fellowship to Christians for the building up of their faith
- To know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, To follow Jesus Christ as lord of our Lives, To Live Jesus Christ that others may know him too
- Empowering God's people. Engaging the world
- Our calling is to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of our community, so as to invite others into a journey of faith and renewal leading to a relationship with Jesus
- To Know Christ and Make Him Known
- Feed the flock the word, build the body up, release into ministry, outreach through social activities.
- To be recognised as a worshipping, warm, relational community of Christ. To offer a place of refuge, and acceptance for those seeking restoration and healing through the empowering and gifts of the holy spirit as we pray and share the gospel
- We strive to be a living, working body of Christ within our community
- Our church believes in a God who loves people unconditionally and expresses that love in the life of Jesus Christ. We are committed to: accepting, serving, clearly communicating and building people up. This is a place where Jesus is Lord.
- We see a community of fully committed Christians, passionate about loving God and each other. We see a community known all over the Valley for its demonstration of God's love by acts of mercy and service. We see a community so full of joy, that people fro
- Building you and your community

- Winning souls through intimate with God, character building, Christ likeness and touching people heart
- Touching lives to make a difference.
- Our church is a Christ centred church where; people matter, community matters, spirituality matters and life matters
- "Reaching out to our community with the knowledge of God's Love, and teaching and nurturing those already within the Lord's fold."
- To Love God Whole heartedly by caring for one another deeply and leading others into a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ
- Winning the lost in the power of the Holy Spirit
- We will be a church empowering people to reach their full potential. Understanding God; Transforming lives and loving people.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit we will: Love God and worship together. Love each other and grow together Love the world and minister together
- A community church encouraging people to experience God in ways that will give them hope for the future
- To outreach to families with special needs
- Reach out with the life changing method of the church gospel, lead people to a bible based path with Jesus Christ. Build up believers as effective disciples.
- That we can be a light in the community
- We are a community belonging to Jesus Christ inviting people to share life
- Our church is a church that anyone can come to, where people experience healing and hope through a relationship with Jesus. We reach out into the community in practical ways, providing support and care.
- To bring glory to God and new life in Christ to our community and build each other up in faith. To know God and make Him known
- "Connecting with God and People"
Our philosophy of ministry is that the church exists to see individual members engaged in God's mission in their daily lives.
- A church that anyone can come to.
- To win people to faith in Jesus Christ, baptise them, connect them actively to the church, help them grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and together with them engage in the common task of building the kingdom of God.
- Taking root in discipleship training.
Saving a young generation.
Holy Spirit filled church for mission.

Question 2: Opportunities

Every church in every community has mission and ministry opportunities. In this section is a selection of opportunities seen by some of our affiliated churches. Maybe you could select 5 of the opportunities listed, and then questions to consider could include:

- Do these opportunities remind you of some in your context?
- Are they opportunities you haven't yet seen?
- What plans does your church have to meet the opportunities you have?
- What help might you need from others [Mission and Ministry, other churches etc] to meet these opportunities?

What is the most exciting opportunity you have as a church community at the moment?

- Ongoing relationships with marginalized in the area - a very participatory church service, context during week - with a community Christmas party coming up. We journey with a few with mental illness and addictions of sorts.
- Beginning to give life to the next vision God has called us to and to see people progressively following a pathway of growth as followers of Jesus. Our 150th year has enabled a positive platform for focus.
- Kids hope and relationship with local school. Kids group with an average of 80 kids. Looking at a 3rd service in the new year.
- Working with other cultures.
- Meals for needy families in the community.
- Building up younger people and families in the congregation.
- Outreach to community through Kids Hope.
- Our outreach to the local traders, this is ongoing and great relationships have been established.
- Establishment of community outreach events such as Australia Day community BBQ and combined churches Carols.
- New people in the area continue to drop in for services.
- Ministry to single mums and playgroups.
- Re-engineering the church's ministry focus under new leadership.
- Food relief project and work we are doing with young asian students.
- Growing playgroup and youth ministries plus the opportunity to be an evangelistic/charismatic voice in the liberal community.
- Involvement in youth in our local area.
- Reaching the community through various outreach programmes such as Men's Shed and Community breakfast, etc.
- Rebuilding the current building to make better facilities.
- To see possibilities for an holistic Christian faith expressing mission in individual workplaces, schools, neighbourhoods, etc.
- Having a regular mission team going overseas to help groups we sponsor.
- Disciplining people of all ages, religions and cultures to become more like Jesus.
- Exploring ideas and planning towards an incarnational missional outpost during 2010.

- Outreach to the Asian community – especially the Chinese group – in close connection with our relationship with local primary school.
- Ministry to the homeless three nights a week with government funding to build a crisis accommodation and transitional support service.
- We are looking at building a new hall - we are now the only church in our community.
- Delivering challenge magazine to local community as an outreach program.
- Increasingly effective healing ministry.
- The development of a community Children's playground. The commencement of a second (Mainly Music) playgroup. The formation of new teams to deliver ministries and mission. The development of life groups.
- Setting vision for new stage of growth.
- Providing a ministry to seniors. Adoption of a local primary school for a mentoring program through Kids Hope.
- Opportunity for growth amongst youth and younger children.
- Reaching into the community through playgroup, neighbourhood outreach. Holy Spirit teaching and looking forward to gifts being evident in our lives.
- To consolidate and expand our Missions Ministry through caring in our local community, sharing the gospel in our area and sending through support and involvement in cross cultural mission.
- That we are able as a small group to support in practical ways many
- Churches of Christ departments and CCTC and other Christian organisations.
- That we do support the above in our active prayer life.
- Aligning our community with the Kingdom of God.
- We have a new ministry team leader and there is an atmosphere of hope and expectation within our people that we can move forward and be effective in our mission and ministry in our city.
- New mission/vision that is opening doors to new possibilities.
- New minister/new directions following Intentional Interim Ministry. Potential Korean community development in local area
- Outreach service in the city in order to reach other nations (outside Indonesia).
- Kids club. Dynamic new pastor.
- Expansion of our childcare centre.
- Ministering into other rural communities.
- Ministering to new Christians.
- To grow in unity. We are right back to basics at this time, so to start a rebuild and see what that will look like is exciting.
- Outreach to overseas students.
- A once a month meal for the church and community.
- Plans to build a community centre.
- Chinese community connections. New Kids ministry.
- Chaplaincy in two primary schools.
- Restoring health to our church community with the help of outside resources.
- Reaching out to children in religious classes at local schools.
- Planting another congregation in a retirement village and the continued development of our Care Works ministry.
- Our recently constructed 'community shed' which now has become the home for our local men's shed group, and our mentoring project for young men in our local school.

- Our youth groups. Sending people to Thailand on a mission experience.
- Bring a new awakening through proclamation of God's word.
- Integration with our local primary school.
- We have an Indian group meeting and a Korean speaking church meeting here. To integrate or cooperate with them in their cultural mission.
- Numbers of younger people moving into the area.
- New weekly night service. Mental health issues - keeps growing.
- Annual community dinner. Outreach to children
- Connection with Sunday club and playgroup families.
- To get a new building and expand our impact in our area.
- Developing our relationship with the Chinese-Burmese community who use our facility. Developing our mission context in Thailand.
- Recovery ministries.
- The congregation is made up of 40% under the age of 27.
- Socialise with the community.
- Significant development in spirituality centre including possibility of 'sacred space' project in shopping centre.
- Trying to survive (not exciting).
- Building bridges with the local community and raising the church's profile in the community through a series of EXPEDITIONS funded events.
- Outreach into local secondary school.
- Developing relationships with others in the community through playgroups and play centre activities.
- New location with high visibility in the local community.
- To see lives transformed through healthy, loving and respectful relationships. To assist in rebuilding brokenness in people.
- Community involvement in the use of our facilities and the new relationships with people in the community.
- Connecting with People in the wider community.
- As we have just moved to a new building we are excited about developing our children's ministry.
- New ministry leadership and the impact of renewed focus, and the development of prayer ministry.
- The opportunity to reach out to the Sudanese community in our city.
- Connecting with the community beyond the church through weekly meals, learning and literacy weekly program, fitness program, Christmas festivals.
- Planning the building of a new church building.

Question 4: Challenges

Just as every church in every setting has its opportunities, most churches also face challenges, in one way or another. Here is a selection of challenges seen by some of our affiliated churches. Maybe you could again select 5 of these challenges and consider them as a church. Questions to then consider could include:

- Do you see any trend on this list? What could you name it?
- How do your challenges compare with the challenges of others?
- What steps are you putting in place to meet your church's challenge?
- Can anyone help you?

What is the biggest challenge you face as a church community at the moment?

- Building facilities become limited.
- Small leadership team, high needs of people.
- Needing to creatively address the leadership needs for children's ministry. Updating tired facilities.
- Reviewing our kindergarten, preparing for growth, 3rd service in 2010.
- Getting people involved in small groups and ageing membership.
- Finances for full time ministry. Lack of people resources. Insurance regulations.
- Finding finance to support building programs and ministry.
- Coming to terms with proposed changes and how to motivate people to understand and respond.
- Encouraging evangelism and supporting ageing congregation while preparing for future
- The ageing of the congregation and the need to develop stronger children's and families ministry
- Getting people from the community to believe in the Gospel
- Restaging the church building development plans, keeping our mission focus, and working within our means.
- Ageing congregation.
- Deciding how to proceed as a congregation next year.
- Increasing financial obligations which place additional burdens upon our resources that are necessary for outreach ministries.
- Transitioning to new generational leadership.
- Seeing the many new people coming to the church through our outreach really connect with God.
- Holding to the truth of God's word in the face of the growing multi-faith movement in this region.
- How best to meet the needs of our community with the resources we have.
- Employing a minister full time and keeping the church doors open.
- Sufficient members to cover the workload of running this church and its programs - membership in general (ageing) unable to take up new opportunities.
- Motivating everyone to follow Jesus.
- Managing differing expectations of community life and church structures.
- To encourage attendees to reach further out of their circle.
- Obtaining appropriate funding to enable expansion of our current facilities.

- The giving of time and talent and finance by members - the development of leaders.
- The number of internal relational struggles over secondary (or even lesser) things has been a disheartening distraction from mission and ministry at times. Turning attendees into disciples.
- To re-engage with Gen x age group.
- People's commitment to attending church services on a regular basis. Average attendance is 2.5 services per month.
- Having relevance in this community: - why are we here? If we weren't would the community care?
- Ageing congregation
- Most of our ministry is to Asian students, who are here for short periods of time, it is hard not seeing the lasting effect in their lives.
- Ageing church community.
- Lack of workers, a degree of complacency and apathy.
- To adapt our leadership structure and operation to better align with our emerging directions in ministry and mission.
- Having key people capable of furthering areas of ministry opportunity.
- Unity and growing together as a church body.
- Making the right choice in the selection of a pastor. Increasing the faith of members.
- Transition process following the retirement of the senior pastor.
- Moving from Cooperation to Mission as the major focus of our church.
- Keeping focused on the goals we strongly believe God has for our church and each member.
- Re-visiting our vision and working out where we direct our resources in the short to medium term
- Appointing the right minister for this church and implementing the new directions and leadership.
- Reaching out into our community.
- Finances to fund mission.
- Establishing a permanent home.
- Ageing congregation.
- To be Christ focused as opposed to being man focused.
- Reach out to more people in the community.
- Ageing population.
- Property matters. Building connections with Chinese community.
- Membership and growth has stagnated.
- Healing broken relationships within the church community so we can effectively reach out to the broader community.
- Getting greater commitment from the church fellowship. Breaking down the barriers in the local district. Initiating programs to reach people outside the churches family.
- Discipleship, particularly in the area of planting a congregation.
- To reach the people in our community.
- Leaders for the ministries we do.
- Ageing congregation, how to grow from here.
- Use of new facilities, involves lots of change.
- Restructuring the leadership group from a small to a more representative group.
- Presenting the gospel in a meaningful way.

- No Response
- To consolidate and bring structures and purpose to all departments and to encourage and build up the current numbers.
- Development of lay leadership.
- Decline in membership, ageing congregation.
- Nurturing and developing new members and their spiritual life.
- Transitioning our church from a loose model to a more intentional model.
- Creative use of 'landlocked site' and use of other spaces in the community. Clear evangelism.
- Moving forward after an unsettling year of transition.
- Developing more leaders.
- With limited membership numbers to lead services. All members take various parts in worship and church preparation.
- Reaching the community.
- Reconnecting and finding our place within the local community.
- Reinvigorating the worship life of the church and strengthening attendance.
- Getting families with children into the congregation.
- How to move forward as a unified body.
- Seeing our many contacts making the transition to become followers of Christ.
- Lack of volunteers to fill rosters, irregular attendances and giving.
- Appointment of a senior pastor.
- The pressure that many families in the church have experienced this year, the church is in transition with the ageing of some of its active members.
- To enable people to experience healing and rebuild confidence.
- Transition from healing to outreach.
- To continue to grow in numbers, to have more helpers for activities including musicians.
- Finding a new ministry team.
- The continuing merger of two congregations.
- Connecting with a younger generation, children, youth and young adults. Maintaining regular pastoral contact with our elderly members who are in residential care or unable to attend services.
- With an ageing congregation, knowing how best we can be effective for God.
- Change of attitude to reach out to community.

Question 5: Future

Yes, your church does have a future. But what will it look like? Will it just happen, by default, or can you positively intervene in the unfolding of your church's future? Here are a selection of words and phrases that some of our affiliated churches gave as their response to this question.

- Why not run through the list, considering them prayerfully (for these words represent stories, people and very real situations).
- How does this list encourage you?
- What words are similar to words for your church?
- What words can you empty yourself of, as you reflect on the list?

When you think about the future of your church community what words come to mind?

- Pain and joy; unexpectant; spontaneous/messy; random expressions and examples of grace, deep love of Christ for the poor. God 'HELP!'
- Opportunity, hope, vision, unity, health, excitement.
- Excited, huge potential, new season, hard work, seeking Jesus' direction.
- Possibilities are great. Implementation is beginning to happen.
- Optimistic, trusting God's provisions.
- Growing steadily and caring for one another.
- Growth, families, vision, Health, purpose.
- Possibility, change, adaption.
- Hope promise, energy, prayer, change.
- Decline.
- Ebb and flow of people into our fellowship. Growth and development of youth. Mission opportunities. Building development challenges.
- A warm and welcoming fellowship, though small
- Challenges and an ageing congregation.
- Focused, passionate, healthy, fruitful, vibrant, salvations, baptisms, relationships.
- Challenge, excitement, new life, hope, creativity, faith.
- Exciting.
- Unity, individual growth.
- Vision Commitment, mission.
- Decline, over commitment, dedication.
- Excitement.
- Growth, Spiritual healing, bonding
- Exciting, growth, conversations, increased footprint in local community.
- Friendship, support, caring, opportunity, multicultural, growth, life, exciting.
- Hope and anticipation, mingled with frustration and doubt.
- Different.
- Potential impact, Influence, Grace.
- Challenge, excitement, vision, relevance, enthusiasm.
- Ageing, enthusiastic, optimistic, unified.
- Difficulty in visualising growth.

- Journey, growth, support, encouragement, expressions of grace and love, enthusiasm
- Alive, loving and caring.
- Challenging, expectations, relevance, excitement.
- Hopeful, exciting, great potential and encouraging.
- Growth, Expansion, Opportunities, Open Door, Change.
- Reshaping, developing, growing, exciting, adventurous.
- Faith, commitment, loves for one another.
- From individualism to community.
- Hope, hesitant excitement. What now? God is good.
- Unity, Authenticity, Courage, Transformation, Generosity, Causing a ripple in our community
- Exciting, challenging, opportunities, relationship building, connection with community.
- Family.
- Positive change, community church.
- Bright.
- Potential, Challenging
- Hope
- Light in the darkness, community! spirit filled
- Love faith and loyalty.
- Potential, positive, Exciting, Growth, elderly
- Anticipation, energy, fully stretched
- Challenge, opportunity.
- Hopeful but tentative.
- Battling.
- Exciting, challenging, costly.
- Encouragement, Hope, Growth, Challenges, Persistent drought.
- HELP
- Potential, possibilities, children, outreach, mission
- Encouraging, hopeful, challenging.
- Tradition and reinvention.
- Positive commitment, growth, warmth.
- Uncertainty.
- Challenging, possibilities, direction, growth and involvement, mission.
- Huge potential, exciting, transition, revitalising.
- Multi generational, Multi national, Community connected.
- Building project!!
New leadership
- Mission growth - increase in influence
- Impact and market place.
- Reassurance; Renewed sense of fellowship; Hope; Lack of destructive conflict; A safe place
- Challenge, hopeful, creativity, fun, life, vitality.
- Challenging, changing, frustrating, expectant
- Exciting, potential, persistence in our mission
- Growth direction/vision.
- Fantastic, exciting, potential limitless
- Vitality.

- New growth and changes.
- Possibilities/opportunities.
- Expectation, potential, new people God at work
- Growth, youth, impartation, wisdom, vision, strength, health, passion
- Growing, Potential

Question 6: New Mission

Every church's mission context is different. City, suburban, rural, regional environments all have their unique challenges and opportunities. Here is a sample of new mission or outreach experiments conducted by some of our affiliated churches.

Again you could select 5 mission or outreach initiatives, and then consider the following questions:

- Are there any experiments here that your church could try?
- If so, what resources are needed to assist in the construction of the experiment?
- Could you conduct this experiment with another nearby church?
- When will you actually do the experiment?

List any new outreach or mission initiatives that your church has launched in your local community this year:

- Home sharing with new settlers (Sudanese and Pakistani, families and single mums.
- Partners in an initiative of local business, organisations and individuals seeking to help and serve the homeless.
- Kids Hope. Fathers day: Paying for all the Sunday papers at local shop as a gift and placing a card inside from our church.
- Mandarin language alpha course and bible study.
- Continuing to expand weekly meals for homeless and needy.
- Services at another retirement village. Kids Hope. Food distribution
- Working with other churches in outreach event. Christmas dinner event.
- Christmas tree in local supermarket, for which community members purchase gifts which are distributed by the church.
- Pamper packs for people in aged care.
- Australia Day community BBQ. Community concert.
- Seniors sing-along group.
- Single mums ministry.
- Mobile food van.
- A community vege garden project. Started outreach to young Asian students in the area.
- Instrumental in the establishment of a Christian radio station in the community.
- Trial of kids club.
- Community Breakfast. Men's Shed, 2 x disabled groups in Men's Shed.
- Centre offering psychiatric, psychological, legal and relationship counselling. Church plant. Consulting services to requesting churches. Developing partnership with hospital.
- Weekly service at aged care facility.
- Mum's group, a blend of MOPS and playgroup. Philippines child sponsorship program.
- A new monthly service at the multi purpose centre in the 'old folk's home'.
- Street evangelism, offering to pray for people, distributing leaflets.
- Coffee shop discussion group. Delivering Christian newspaper in area.
- Mainly Music program for preschoolers. The re-commencement of Care Works. Involvement in city council Volunteer Resource Centre.

- Kids Hope and Seniors Ministry.
- Meeting with local school to re-establish relationships. Food hampers for the needy.
- Neighbourhood outreach door knock.
- A number of new contacts have been made in our community outreach projects as a part of 40 Days of Community.
- Food Share and Community Care Initiatives. Kids Hope Graduate Support. Prisoner's Mentoring. Ministries Fellowship Group. Carers Support Group.
- We set out to build closer relationships with various groups that rent our facilities.
- Mission meals.
- Mainly Music, Shape Course, Search for Life Course.
- Holiday children's program.
- Participation in the local bi-centennial celebrations. Bible study at nearby rural community. Marriage enrichment ministry.
- Home visitation for non churched.
- Work in high school. Outreach lunches. Community festival.
- Complete revamp of youth ministry.
- Relaunch of playgroup. Chinese New Year public event. Kidlinks.
- Endeavouring to initiate a community survey.
- Children's ministry. Chaplaincy support and funding. Op Shop.
- New Furniture op shop. Knitting group. Community meal with life skills. Mothers support group. Student focus.
- Letter box drops. Outreach carols service. Hymns festivals.
- We are now a hub for Care Line.
- Community fitness and well being. Dance group for the elderly.
- Redesign of website
- Continuation of our ministry to people with mental health illness/disability.
- Outreach to young people in our district.
- Ongoing work at local primary school. Connection with Chin-Burmese new arrivals. Play group.
- Recovery ministries. Kid's outreach.
- Involvement of mental illness fellowship. Renewed relationship with Minister's Association. Inter church council and combined services. Ministry with CFA as chaplain.
- Model construction club. Children's week celebration. Music festival.
- Free tea & coffee at local show. Handing out Christmas cake slices with church message during town's Christmas procession. Various community displays. Members variously involved in outreach work through RE in schools. Pastor as school chaplain & emergency.
- Elevate program in local school.
- Compassion ministry.
- Bicycle users group. Maintaining our contacts with local schools and community.
- Youth Group, 'Where Blokes Meet'.
- New Year's Eve service.
- Street Ball (youth after school outreach program). Retirement home outreach program.
- Team going overseas to support orphanage in Burma.

Question 7: Health and Growth

The way we interpret our church's health and growth can vary. What follows is a selection of assessments of affiliated churches of their health.

Questions you could consider as you reflect on this area include:

- How does your church measure its 'health and growth'?
- In what areas could your church be healthier?
- In what areas does your church desire growth?
- What initiatives can meet these health and growth needs?

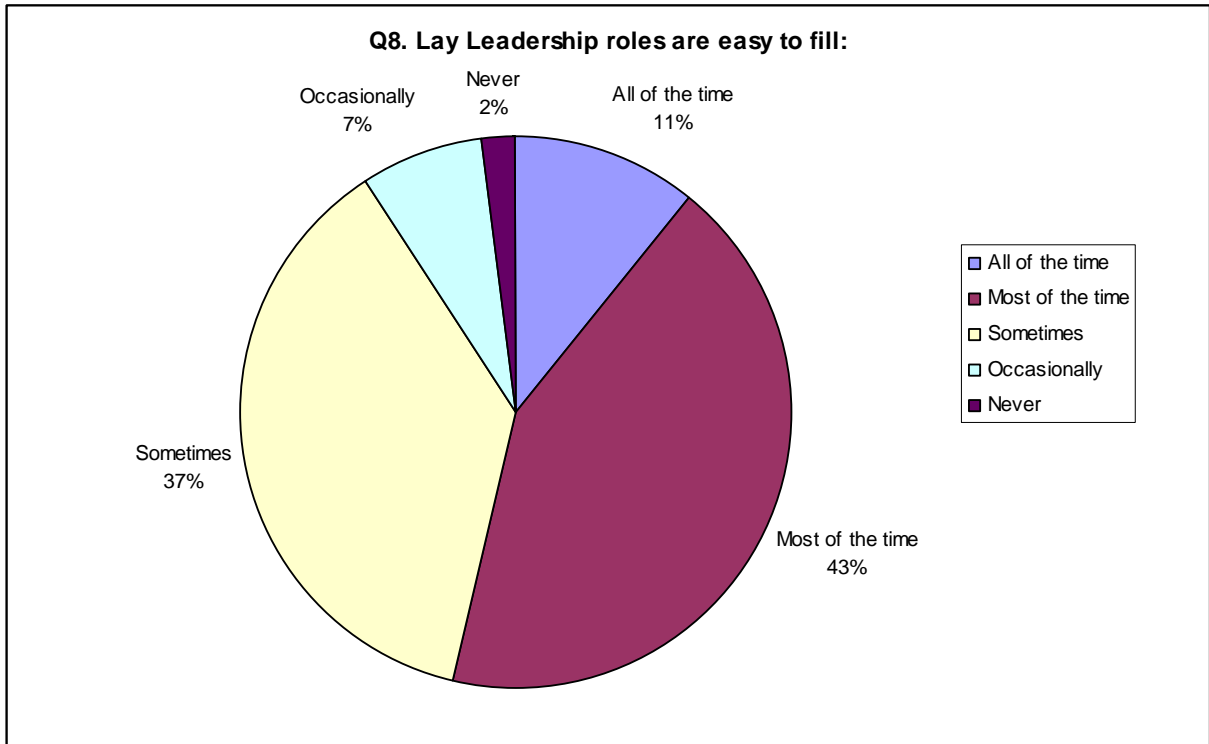
Comment on your sense of your congregation's Health and Growth:

- Overwhelming.
- Striving through despite difficulties. Have some sense of hope and God is alive!
- VERY POSITIVE.
- There is a great sense of excitement as we move into the next stage of ministry, although we are larger in size we still need to work on our church health.
- Stable.
- Spiritually sound, struggling with aging congregation to follow growth opportunities.
- Numbers have increased very good sign for us, there is currently some degree of tension - but this comes with change.
- Very healthy place to gather in faith at present. New members and fellowship - good sense of community and love for one another.
- A stable congregation with big challenges.
- We are not growing in numbers at all, we are very healthy internally with great faith and prayer.
- Stagnate.
- Good healthy range of demographic. Overall growth not just in numbers but in an emerging sense of commitment and Christian vitality.
- Healthy but little possibility of growth.
- We are a supportive and encouraging group for one another.
- The fellowship is a closely knitted community who continues to reach out in initiative that enable other to join in.
- We are not very healthy.
- Generally very positive and friendly feel in Sunday service. 40% of folk who have come have little or no church background. Sense of freedom and informality. Starting to see growth after a period of losing people.
- Healthy, united and generally committed.
- Everyone is growing in their faith, sense of belonging and commitment.
- An aging congregation that requires younger members with a clear vision for maintaining and growing this church family.
- Viable, developing lay ministry, personal growth, high workloads in some areas, anxious about the future.
- Good and generous.
- Servant hood attitude with some hunger for spiritual growth.

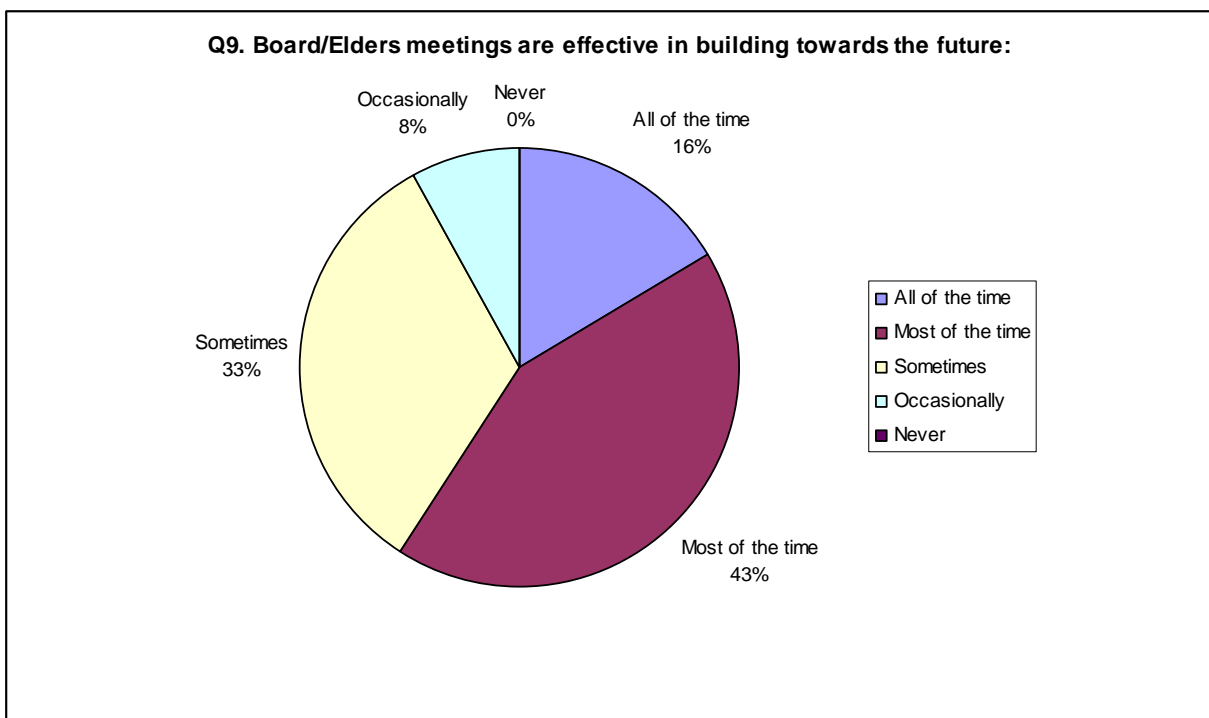
- Existing ministries operating out of facilities continue to grow. Increasing amount of people understanding and operating internationally.
- People are changing and growing and becoming more involved.
- There is a significant core of people who are healthy and want to grow, yet when we increase the temperature on that personal growth; there is often also a corresponding unhealthy response.
- We are generally healthy, but the lack of Gen x vitality is a concern for us!
- 2nd year of significant transition. A lot healthier. Growth is steady.
- Static, the folk who attend the services are faithful and passionate; however there seems to be a wall of separation between church and town.
- Although at different levels of growth every attendee has zeal for God.
- Generally good faith and personal capacity to maintain their faith daily.
- Significant growth and development in personal lives, but no significant growth in numbers, church body healthy.
- We have formed two morning gatherings from our original single service. There are new opportunities for involvement in ministry and mission; there are new opportunities for spiritual growth and development.
- Healthy, growing spiritually even though not so much numerically.
- Willingness to learn and interact.
- Friendly, loving, growth tends to be slow.
- Participation in the recent 40 Days of Community has shown strong of both health and growth.
- Generally in a positive position, optimistic. Still captive to traditional church values but moving forward and reshaping.
- Tends to focus on the journey inward than the journey outward.
- Experiencing healing process at the moment, with good teaching on loving one another. Very positive spirit of unity within the congregation and a desire to use their gifts.
- The sense is that we are moving forward in anticipation and transformation, health is very good and we are excited about our growth, with numerous people coming into covenant relation.
- Health - stable. Not growing numerically.
- Lots of potential.
- Healthy and ready to move forward.
- Currently showing signs of growth. High proportion of spirituality mature people within the congregation.
- Good.
- The health of congregation is strong but the numbers fluctuate.
- We are a healthy church with lots of growth and potential. We are a very encouraging and nurturing congregation.
- Congregation is aging and membership is shrinking.
- Strengthening, increasing harmony, high participation in new ventures.
- Strong sense of belonging in terms of health - not strong numerical growth.
- A healthy desire for better health and growth.
- Could be better.
- Very healthy with a sense of mission and purpose, looking for new opportunities to plant new mission teams and congregation.
- We are presently growing in number despite the fact that as a rural church we constantly lose families to the city.

- More resilient, more desire to outreach.
- A faithful group of loving people who have had many disappointments but who are looking forward to a better future, trusting in God.
- Very positive feel with significant addition of new people over the past 12 months.
- Good and optimistic.
- Steadily progressing through change.
- Now that we have our own committed ministers we have visions and purpose.
- There is a strong sense of both collective commitment and involvement
- Members have a sense of belonging, through caring and sharing.
- Active and functioning.
- We are in an excellent place to move to the next stage of growth.
- We are in a plateau.
- Struggling a little after a year of dramatic restructure and change but gradually regaining strength.
- The congregation identified several unhealthy aspects and concentrated on issues such as working through conflict in a healthy manner.
- Some very exciting/innovative 'growing edges' with energy provided by a very small number of people. Support from whole, but congregation seemed wearied.
- We have a history of people `walking in the door', and we have been able to retain most of them and have them feel a part of the congregation.
- An awareness of the need for restoration with our fellowship.
- Poor.
- New leadership model and new location has re energised enthusiasm.
- Improving.
- There is a good sense of fellowship in the church we are attracting new people to worship.
- Hope, confidence and seeing contact with the wider community.
- While our church is emerging from a time of physical emotional and spiritual attack we can see an end to that and look forward to a healthy future.
- Now in good health, common sense of purpose and 'in it together' a growing sense of being led by God's spirit.
- The bones of the church are healthy to be grown and move forward, the spiritual muscles needs to be developed and worked.
- Small number contributes in meaningful ways to overall life of the church. We seem to maintain rather than grow. Some seem happy for church to be there on Sundays, but not beyond.
- Although older, the fellowship is not slow. There has been a lot of spiritual growth and the fellowship is in a healthy condition.
- Growth is slow, however we are patient and we have a strong prayer chain.

Question 8: 'Lay' Leaders

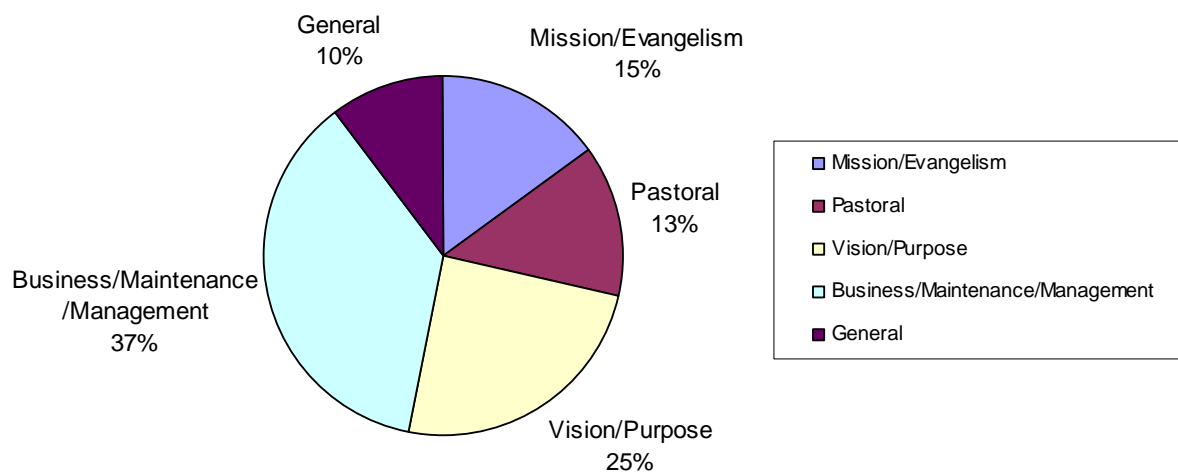


Question 9: Effective Meetings



Question 10: Meeting Issues

Q10. What issues occupy most of your church Board/Elders' time at meetings?



Question 15: Helpful Resources.

What are the most helpful resources you have used in the past year?

- Music is attracting the young families to our church.
- People (grievance liturgy).
- 40 Days of Purpose was brilliant.
- Lay people - talking with senior ministers from other Churches of Christ's.
- Ministry Placement Committee from Conference.
- DVD's from missions. Guest Speakers.
- Foundations. Walk across the room. Master life - discipleship training.
- Elders meetings. Internet. Nooma.
- We are most appreciative of the support and encouragement given to us by a nearby CofC ministry team and members.
- Properties Corporation and Conference Departments.
- Selfless giving.
- Our people.
- Kept informed of Churches Of Christ Conference directions and health and safety requirements.
- Andy Stanley "Practically Speaking' POD cast. Simple Church by Eric Greyer.
- Specialist leaders at conference.
- Internet
- William Barclay's daily bible study.
- Directions, conference, community partnerships.
- Used a variety of resources from the parent churches of this organisation.
- Arrow Ministry Resources.
- Relevant resources from the Internet.
- Willow Leadership Summit, Forge Intensives & DVD's of past workshops.
- Imagination material from Youth Ministries Australia. Walk Across the Room from Willow Creek.
- CofC ministers.
- Networking with other ministries, independent scholarly resources, books and videos.
- Visiting CofC ministers. Word for today - UBC. KYB bible study. Kids vision resources. Red Book Risk management.
- 40 Days of Purpose campaign, Truth Project DVD, various teaching DVD's eg: Hillsong.
- 40 Days of Community. No Perfect People allowed. Global Leadership Summit.
- The leaders of the church.
- Conference Department of Mission and Ministry and CCTC.
- Consultation with Mission & Ministry re ministry and new MLT. 40 days of Love series (church wide and small group teaching series)
- Search for Life. Fireproof. The Fight. S.H.A.P.E.
- The Intentional Ministry Program. Bequest used to refurbish facilities has decreased. Vic/Tas reps from M&M, minister care and GMP.
- Willow Creek.
- Fireproof (video studies). Breaking through to Spiritual Maturity (Neil T Anderson) Igniting Faith (Steve Backlund).
- Conference leadership, other pastors.

- Baptist Lay preachers.
- Planet Shakers kids program. Leadership mentor program. Blue Fish audio resources.
- M & M Church Health Consultancy Team.
- Prop. Corp. on property matters
- Future Directions process.
- Seasons of the spirit, worship resource. Years A, B, C lectionary commentary by John Shea.
- Church family who have worked hard to raise money to fund out outreach program.
- Bible studies. One Month to Live - Kerrie Shook. Walk across the Room - Bill Heibels. 40 Days of Love - Rick Warren. Way of the Worshipper - Buddy Owens.
- Bible.
- Israel Work Party.
- Books by Alan Hirsch, Michael Frost and similar.
- Marriage Seminars - a great help!
- Sermons online, Rick Warrens programs.
- Willow Creek G.L.S. and Willow Creek Network.
- Culture Shift book. Jesus and Community book.
- Fit 4 Life seminars which involved 20 or so over the 6 sessions in study and review of the health of our church and strategies for dealing with conflict etc. - involved all our leadership team.
- Various online resources for worship/spirituality. Spirituality and Practise, Richard Rohr, Chris Edmond etc.... Season of the Spirit resources for ministry with Children.
- Congregation members practical and organisational skills.
- M & M team and other visiting guests. Life Keys. Alpha. Restoration, Prayer and Healing ministry.
- Conference input.
- DVD's and tapes. Hillsong. Books. Consultant's visits are extremely helpful.
- New music for worship from internet or music books.
- Walk across the room. Great Shore material
- Actually... each other! Empowering, encouraging each other. Substantially increased communication between leadership and congregation.
- Willow Creeks GLS.
- Various study books on prayer, faith, worship and the Holy Spirit. One Church 'D+A is part of our DNA'.

These questions and responses are sourced from the 2009 Church Life and Health Census and the responses from Affiliated Churches that completed it. We ask churches to complete a Census each year to collect data that feeds into our Conference Directory and Annual Report, as well as informing our planning for the next year.

Your church's responses to these questions are one way of measuring the health and growth of our movement and also help us discern future priorities and possibilities.

Thank you for your efforts in completing the Census each year.



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