APPENDIX 7

Church Practice Assessment

The Church Practice Assessment helps planning team members evaluate where the church is in light of 32 church practice characteristics. The goal of using the assessment tool is to help planning team members dialogue about the church as they see it. As a result of the dialogue, common concerns will be identified. These common concerns can be helpful in establishing ministry goals.

Follow these steps to complete the assessment and dialogue with planning team members about your church:

Step 1: Evaluate your church practice. Each planning team member completes the assessment. Rank each of the 32 characteristics related to your personal perception of how well the church accomplishes that characteristic. Your evaluation should be based on the level of quality demonstrated for each characteristic and not just its presence in church practice. Using your responses to the assessment, complete the Scoring Evaluation Worksheet.

Step 2: Analyze responses. As a group discuss responses and determine two high-score characteristics (strengths) and two low-score characteristics (concerns) for each strategy. This assessment affirms your church's strengths and reveals areas you need to improve to achieve balance in your church practice.

Church Practice Scoring Evaluation Worksheet

A kingdom-focused church uses four church practice strategies, described below, to carry out the Great Commission and accomplish the five church functions. Transfer your assessment scores to the appropriate church practice strategy. Use the evaluation responses to guide a dialogue with other leaders assessing your church. The dialogue should not be so rigidly structured that other possible characteristics are excluded.

Open Groups Strategy	**Closed Groups Strategy**	**Corporate Worship Strategy**	**Ministry Teams Strategy**
Small-group Bible studies that intentionally focus on reaching unbelievers and assimilating people into the life of the church.	Discipling opportunities and leadership training that encourage believers to serve.	Opportunities for believers to experience the presence and power of God and for unbelievers to hear the gospel and see its power demonstrated in the lives of believers.	Opportunities for believers to serve the church and be involved in ministry and missions.
8 _____ 26 _____ 10 _____ 28 _____ 12 _____ 30 _____ 25 _____ 31 _____	3 _____ 19 _____ 4 _____ 21 _____ 7 _____ 23 _____ 13 _____ 32 _____	2 _____ 15 _____ 5 _____ 17 _____ 9 _____ 20 _____ 11 _____ 22 _____	1 _____ 18 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 14 _____ 27 _____ 16 _____ 29 _____
Open Groups Total _____	**Closed Groups Total** _____	**Corporate Worship Total** _____	**Ministry Teams Total** _____

A kingdom-focused church accomplishes each of the five church functions. The box to the right groups the assessment statements according to church function. For discussion purposes, Which two functions received the lowest scores? Which would you improve first?

Evangelism:	Total 4, 8, 15, 27, 28	=	_____
Discipleship:	Total 3, 7, 13, 19 21	=	_____
Fellowship:	Total 1, 5, 6, 10, 26	=	_____
Ministry:	Total 6, 16, 18, 24, 29	=	_____
Worship:	Total 9, 11, 17, 20, 22	=	_____

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Church Practice Assessment

The following statements have been identified as characteristics of churches with effective ministries. To assess your church, score each item as you perceive it existing in the ministries of your church. Each score should reflect how well your church is demonstrating the characteristic, not just its existence in church practice. After completing the scoring, transfer those scores to the Scoring Evaluation Worksheet. Some items are subjective, but your opinion will help guide a dialogue with other leaders in your church.

0–Nonexistent 1–Poor 2–Somewhat 3–Good 4–Pretty strong 5–Wow, absolutely

_____ 1. Church members effectively minister to one another.

_____ 2. Each worship service includes corporate Scripture reading and prayer as key elements.

_____ 3. Most new believers complete a new believer class and are guided to participate in ongoing discipling experiences.

_____ 4. Believers learn to share their faith through an intentional, ongoing training plan.

_____ 5. A church ministry assigns unbelievers and guests in worship to a small-group Bible study for follow-up.

_____ 6. Our church maintains a balance between ministries focused outside the church (mission actions) and ministries focused inward on the body.

_____ 7. Church leaders communicate a high level of expectation regarding member participation in discipleship opportunities.

_____ 8. The classes and departments in the small-group Bible study ministry intentionally enroll unbelievers.

_____ 9. The worship services provide times for confession of sin other than the invitation time.

_____ 10. Ministry leaders use the ongoing Bible study ministry as the primary beginning point for assimilating new believers and members.

_____ 11. The worship experiences show evidence of producing change in individuals who regularly attend.

_____ 12. The Bible study taking place in the small-group Bible study ministry results in members' becoming more like Jesus.

_____ 13. In each discipleship class leaders encourage members to move beyond classroom learning to ministry service.

_____ 14. Members involved in ministries are encouraged to participate in Bible study, corporate worship, and discipleship.

_____ 15. The presentation of the gospel is a regular element of worship services.

_____ 16. A well-developed prayer ministry supports the ministries of the church.

_____ 17. The pastor provides the focus and direction needed for worship planning.

_____ 18. Ministry leaders receive adequate training to carry out their ministry responsibilities.

_____ 19. A consistently implemented and communicated plan to disciple all believers to live a Christlike lifestyle guides the discipleship ministry.

_____ 20. The worship services demonstrate an understanding of the congregation's culture.

_____ 21. Active church members regularly participate in discipleship opportunities.

_____ 22. The worship services help attenders experience the presence of God and respond in praise.

_____ 23. Church members demonstrate a Christlike lifestyle.

_____ 24. Church members initiate new ministries (mission actions) in coordination with the overall ministry vision of the church.

_____ 25. The Bible study ministry uses an ongoing plan to increase the number of teaching units.

_____ 26. The Bible study ministry uses small groups to minister effectively to the needs of the members.

_____ 27. As a result of an intentional evangelistic focus, the ministries of the church guide unbelievers to small-group Bible study and corporate worship.

_____ 28. The teachers in the small-group Bible study ministry teach evangelistically as appropriate to the age group, and lead members to accept evangelism as a primary purpose of the Bible study ministry.

_____ 29. Church leaders use a systematic approach to engage members in ministry based on spiritual gifts, personal skills, and natural abilities.

_____ 30. Church leaders enlist and train new leaders for ongoing teaching units on a systematic basis.

_____ 31. Small-group Bible study leaders encourage members to participate in discipleship classes, corporate worship, and ministry.

_____ 32. The discipleship ministry offers a variety of interest tracks on a regular basis.

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