

Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry for Congregations



What is the “Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry for Congregations”?

In essence these questions supply the framework for us to tell the story (the narrative) of what God is doing in a particular congregation. The elders and pastors of the congregation of every congregation (known as the session) are called to plan and evaluate the mission and ministry of the congregation annually, using the following questions as guidelines. Too often the “Annual Report” of a congregation becomes merely a record of numbers and statistics. This has its place, but fails to reflect the truly important issues that demonstrate the activity of God and spiritual health of a congregation. These questions bring that focus. Sessions consider these both as individual congregations and also in the context of our Missional Affinity Group (MAG), composed of 2 or 3 other (usually neighboring) congregations. At Trinity, we have added a final question on worship because worship is a very significant aspect of a congregation’s life and health.

1. How has the Holy Spirit been evident in your congregation in the past year; through conversions, growth in the fruit of the Spirit, or other transformational experiences that make disciples of Jesus Christ?
2. How has your congregation extended itself beyond its bounds through the establishment of new communities of worship and discipleship, expanding the Kingdom of God?
3. In what ways is your congregation seeking the welfare of the community to which you have been called; devoting itself to the poor, seeking justice, and living out the whole of the Great Commission?
4. How are you encouraging people to allow God’s Word to shape their priorities and actions, and to nurture constant learning and the life of the mind?
5. How are you helping children and others new to the Christian faith to discover Jesus and grow in their understanding and love of God’s Word?
6. Describe the moral expression in your congregation – are you more like the world or more like participants in the values of the Kingdom of God?
7. How is your congregation intentionally unleashing the ministries of women, men, and people of different ethnic groups who are experiencing God’s call?
8. How is the idea of ministry as the joy and calling of every disciple evident in your congregation? How are you equipping people to represent Jesus more effectively in their respective professions?
9. Illustrate the commitment of your congregation to global evangelism and discipleship, including examples of where you are engaging and with whom you are partnering.
10. How does your congregation understand commitment to the larger church through our connectional relationships within the Body of Christ?
11. ADDITIONAL TRINITY QUESTION: How are you helping children, youth and adults “to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever”?