



Characteristics of Healthy, Vital Churches:

Our Desert Southwest Conference survey research, conducted in the Spring of 2016, indicates that healthy churches adapt to an ever-changing mission field and build relationships with other people and organizations in the community to the point that their community would miss the church if it ceased to exist. The following items identify characteristics of healthy, vital churches.

- Prayerfully discern a mission and vision that gives purpose and direction for all ministry decisions.
- Understand and respond to community demographics and culture.
- Engage with civic leaders, schools, and community organizations.
- Actively care about the needs of the world as evidenced by local and international missions.
- Learn from one another through collaboration, partnership, and sharing with each other.
- Sometimes fail but have the courage to take risks with new ministries in order to do what God asks of them.
- Intentionally develop leaders with clear discipling and mentoring systems.
- Engage in small group ministry for support and accountability.
- View guests as gifts from God and have a clear hospitality system.
- Teach and demonstrate generosity.
- Desire to multiply their church and its ministries.