



LUTHERAN WEEK 2023

ON FIRE FOR MISSION: CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Focus Questions

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: BEING HEALTHY CHURCHES IN MISSION

1. On a scale of 1-10, would you describe the health of your congregation?
2. Considering the presentation regarding healthy congregations, in what ways is your congregation healthy? What are growth areas for your congregation in this regard?
3. It's been said "The Church is the only organization which exists primarily for the sake of those who are NOT it's members." (William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury.) What does this mean to you? Is your congregation more inwardly or outwardly focused? Discuss ways in which your congregation is more outwardly focused. How can the focus of your congregation be shifted from inward to outward?
4. Ask the question "Who would miss us if we were not here?"
5. On a scale of 1-10, is your congregation more focused on institutional/organizational issues (1) or being disciples and making disciples (10)? How can you help your congregation to more fully understand and embrace the Great Commission and discipleship-disciple-making?
6. What are three things (learnings, insights, strategies, action steps) you can take home with you from this presentation and discussion?

HEALTHY CHURCHES FOSTER HEALTHY PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE MISSION; HEALTHY CHURCHES HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PASTOR AND CONGREGATION.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you describe the relationship between your pastor and congregation? Unhealthy (1) or healthy (10)?
2. Do your pastor and council function as a team for the sake of mission and ministry, or does the relationship sometimes seem adversarial?



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3. Does your leadership team (pastor and lay leaders) participate in regular, scheduled processes aimed at leadership assessment, evaluation and goal-setting? If not, how are goals set and evaluated/assessed?
4. Why do you think healthy pastor/parish relationships are so important to mission and ministry?
5. What are three things (learnings, insights, strategies, actions steps) you can take home with you from this presentation and discussion?

***HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS ARE MEMBERS OF THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRIST,
AND HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATE IN, AND SUPPORT, THE WHOLE
BODY OF CHRIST***

1. On a scale of 1-10, does your congregation understand itself as an independent, solo, stand-alone congregation (1) or a congregation that is in partnership with other NALC congregations? What might be gained by partnerships locally and within Mission Districts, when possible? What are the challenges facing congregations today? How do you address stubborn attitudes: unwilling to change our time, unwilling to share "our pastor?" Why is this a limiting view of "church?"
2. Are there vacancies in your area which might be supported in some way by your congregation and pastor? What can you do to create greater flexibility and local cooperation? What next steps are possible in your Mission District?
3. Develop at least three action steps to help provide pastoral support for every congregation in your Mission District or area?