

CHURCH HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL (C.H.A.T.)

Preview Questions

The first 70 of the 72 questions use a response scale of 1 – 5. The end report will calculate and graph mean scores for each question comparing leadership team responses to congregation responses. The report will also highlight the questions with the highest mean responses and lowest mean responses.

Characteristic 1: God's Empowering Presence

The healthy church actively seeks the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for its daily life and ministry.

1. How well does our church depend on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for our shared life and ministry?
2. To what degree does our church emphasize self-reliance instead of God-reliance within our shared life as a church?
3. How well does our church create enthusiasm about being a part of the kingdom of God?
4. How well does our church encourage prayer for God's initiative and anticipate that God will act?
5. How well does our church encourage members to embody the fruit (i.e., love, joy, peace, patience) of the Spirit in their daily lives?
6. How well does our church encourage members to seek the gifts of the Spirit (i.e. serving, teaching, encouraging, mercy)?
7. Overall, how effective are we at living out God's empowering presence in our church and in our daily lives?

Characteristic 2: God-Exalting Worship

The healthy church gathers regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul and strength of the people.

8. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church invited to engage in prayer?
9. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church invited to listen attentively to the reading of Scripture?
10. When we gather to worship together, how well do we as a church emphasize biblical and relevant preaching?
11. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church focused on the importance of baptism?
12. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church focused on the importance of communion?
13. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church invited to engage in singing songs and hymns that praise God and encourage us as believers?
14. When we gather to worship together, how well are we as a church invited to engage in giving our tithes and offerings as a reverent act of worship?
15. Overall, how effective are we at living out God-exalting worship in our church?

Characteristic 3: Spiritual Disciplines

The healthy church provides training, models, and resources for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines.

16. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of studying the Bible?
17. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of personal confession?
18. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of petitioning God, through prayer, for ourselves and others?
19. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of reflective disciplines (such as journaling, prayerfully reviewing the day's events, etc.)?
20. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of listening to God's voice?
21. How well does our church encourage and equip its members to live out the practice of pursuing God's will?
22. Overall, how effective is our church at encouraging and equipping our members in the spiritual disciplines?

Characteristic 4: Learning and Growing in Community

The healthy church encourages believers to grow in their walk with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment.

23. How well does our church provide opportunities to help people discover God's will and calling?
24. How well does our church provide opportunities to equip people to follow God in every aspect of life?
25. How well does our church provide opportunities to encourage people to discover and use their God-given abilities?
26. How well does our church provide opportunities for mentoring?
27. How well does our church provide small group Bible studies and discipleship groups?
28. How well does our church provide opportunities for members to come together for teaching, prayer, and sharing (i.e., adult, youth, and children's education)?
29. Overall, how effective are we at learning and growing in community in our church?

Characteristic 5: A Commitment to Loving and Caring Relationships

The healthy church is intentional in its efforts to build loving, caring relationships within families, between members and within the community we serve.

30. How well does our church serve as a place for supporting marriage and family life?
31. How well does our church serve as a place for supporting the needs of single adults?
32. How well does our church serve as a place for supporting the needs of senior adults?
33. How well does our church serve as a place for supporting the needs of those who come from dysfunctional families?
34. How well does our church serve as a place for supporting those who come with diverse ability, ethnicity, or economic status?
35. How well does our church build relationships with one another through open communication?
36. How well does our church build relationships with one another through forgiveness and conflict resolution?
37. Overall, how effective are we at living out a commitment to loving and caring relationships in our church?

Characteristic 6: Servant-Leadership Development

The healthy church identifies and develops individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership and challenges them to be servant-leaders.

38. How well does our church develop a sense of shared leadership among both lay leaders and pastoral staff?
39. How well does our church encourage a healthy amount of transition in lay leadership while maintaining stability in lay-led positions?
40. How well does our church seek to unify the congregation around its leaders?
41. How well does our church create an environment in which members are motivated to develop into servant-leaders inside and outside our church?
42. Overall, how effective are we at living out servant-leadership development in our church?

Characteristic 7: An Outward Focus

The healthy church places high priority on communicating the truth of Jesus and demonstrating the love of Jesus to those outside the faith.

43. How concerned is our church for lost souls in our community?
44. How well does our church intentionally and creatively explore ways to make our presentation of the gospel relevant to unbelievers?
45. How well does our church train and equip our members to effectively present the gospel to those outside the Christian faith?
46. How committed is our church to the passing on of our faith to the next generation?

47. How well does our church demonstrate acts of love, justice, and mercy to people who are in need (outside of our church but within our reach)?
48. How well does our church develop a strategy for global awareness and international mission involvement?
49. How well does our church attend to the needs of the world's most impoverished people?
50. Overall, how effective are we at living out an outward focus in our church?

Characteristic 8: Wise Administration and Accountability

The healthy church utilizes appropriate facilities, equipment, and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of its ministries.

51. From your perspective, how well does our church strive for excellence, effectiveness, and efficiency in its management practices?
52. How well does our church create the infrastructure (i.e. technology, facilities, equipment, administrative support, etc.) to properly carry out our ministry?
53. How well does our church appropriately provide for its staff (i.e. employment package, ongoing training, etc.)?
54. How well does our church plan for the longevity of the ministry and for leadership transitions?
55. How well does our church think and act strategically?
56. How well does our church evaluate our ministry effectiveness (according to our vision and mission) and make appropriate adjustments for the future?
57. Overall, how effective are we at living out wise administration and accountability in our church?

Characteristic 9: Networking with the Body of Christ

The healthy church reaches out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, learning opportunities and united celebrations of worship.

58. How well does our church develop ministry specialties that meet the needs of our community without overlapping or competing with other churches?
59. How well does our church foster interdependence among other Christian churches in our community?
60. Do you have the impression that the pastors within our city or town meet regularly enough to pray for and encourage each other?
61. Do our ministry leaders receive training for their specific ministry with other leaders from other churches?
62. How often does our church join area-wide celebrations where Christians from other churches worship God together?
63. Overall, how effective are we at networking with the body of Christ in our church?

Characteristic 10: Stewardship and Generosity

The healthy church teaches its members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenges them to be sacrificially generous in sharing with others.

64. How well does our church provide instruction on stewardship (of time, talent, and financial resources) for our members?
65. How well does our church provide instruction on financial generosity (giving joyfully and sacrificially) for our members?
66. How well does our church give generous portions of the annual budget to local and international missions?
67. How well does our church provide abundantly for those in need within our fellowship of believers, including the unemployed, the widowed and single parents?
68. From your perspective, how well does our church operate within the church's annual budget?
69. From your perspective, how well does our church operate with financial integrity and accountability?
70. Overall, how effective are we at living out stewardship and generosity in our church?

Questions 71 & 72 break from the 1–5 scale rating format and ask participants to choose the three traits that are strengths of the church (71) and the three that need the most improvement (72).