

Church Health Checklist – an assessment tool

The 2014 General Assembly of the PCV “Encourage[d] all presbyteries to use the Healthy Churches Checklist to monitor and assess any churches within their jurisdiction that present signs of a lack of ‘Church Health’ and work with them to seek resolutions.” (Minute 90.3)

A Healthy Church has a clear and motivating vision of its purpose, role and function.

- Does the church have a compelling vision for its future?
- Is the vision clear, memorable and specific?
- Can the pastor, leaders and congregation verbalise the church’s vision?
- Does the vision motivate the church into action?
- Is the church willing to sacrifice, change, take risks, or even suffer for the sake of the gospel?

A Healthy Church is a church which produces fruit.

- Is the number of those attending static / increasing / decreasing?
- Have there been conversions / baptisms?
- Are there signs that people are changing as God works in their heart?
- Are people discovering and using their spiritual gifts?
- How are newcomers made to feel part of the church family?

A Healthy Church is a God-worshipping church.

- Does worship engage hearts, minds and emotions in glorifying God?
- Is worship planned to engage and influence both Christians and those not yet committed to Christ of all generations/ages?

A Healthy Church has elders who are spiritually mature and alive and who minister, serve, pray, visit and exhibit a godly lifestyle.

- Do elders humbly serve in a way that provides a godly example?
- Do elders preach?
- Do elders lead in prayer?
- Do elders lead Bible studies?
- Do elders attend the church ministries?
- Do elders verbalise the gospel?
- Do elders visit?
- Do elders lead in devotions & pray with members?
- Do elders attend any training sessions?
- Are elders able to promote the spiritual development of the members?
- Do elders own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith as an exhibition of the sense in which they understand the scriptures and as a confession of their faith?

A Healthy Church supports the ministry financially from its tithes/offerings.

- What is the giving?
- Does the church rely on investments?
- Is the church receiving sustentation/subsidy?

A Healthy Church has a love for the gospel and a missional focus.

- Does the church interact with the culture around it?
- Is the church passionate about reaching its community, nation and world with the gospel?
- Does the church warmly welcome people of all ages, cultures, socioeconomic groups and special needs people?
- Is the Gospel faithfully and clearly proclaimed?
- Is God's grace clearly understood?

A Healthy Church is a church which cares for its own people and its neighbours.

- Are loving relationships developing between congregation members?
- Is the church engaging with its surrounding community for gospel driven purposes?
- Are small groups meeting the needs for spiritual growth and fellowship?
- How are congregational members encouraging one another? Hebrews 10:25
- How are members spurring each other on toward love and good deeds? Hebrews 10:24
- Does the church demonstrate God's passion for the poor, homeless, disabled and those suffering?
- Are biblical principles used when handling conflict?

A Healthy Church is a church which prays.

- What opportunities for corporate prayer does the congregation have?
- How many attend these times?

A Healthy Church is a church whose leaders make disciples of the Lord Jesus.

- How is the church intentional about encouraging its members to have attitudes and behaviour that mirror Christ?
- Do leaders humbly work together as a team?
- Do members joyfully share time, talents, and treasures?
- Are leaders intentional about training future leaders for the church?

A Healthy Church is a church which has healthy Ministry leadership.

- Is the Minister [and his wife] in good physical health?
- Is the Minister encouraged to grow spiritually by attending conferences, lectures, etc.?
- Does the Minister have regular holidays and a weekly day off?
- Is the Minister able to prayerfully share any personal concerns with his elders or presbytery colleagues?