

To discover the extent to which Christ's congregation you serve is a discerning community shaped by a faithful and creative vision, place the number on the line that best describes it.

1 = Not at all 2 = Somewhat 3 = Quite a bit 4 = A very great deal

- ___ 1. Church members are knowledgeable about their beliefs and are able to talk about and share their Christian faith with meaning and confidence.
- ___ 2. Recognizing their distinctive identity as God's called & sent people, members are able to articulate how their vision of reality and way of life differs from yet contributes to the larger society.
- ___ 3. As a people shaped by a dynamic and living God who is always "doing a new thing," the congregation is responsive, open to change, and willing to experiment and adapt and to risk the unknown.
- ___ 4. Members view themselves as called and gifted for ministry rather than as "consumers" of the ministries provided by clergy, staff, and key leaders.
- ___ 5. Expecting the guidance of the Holy Spirit, members pray, explore and learn together through study of the Bible and then Christian tradition.
- ___ 6. Within the life of the church there are many opportunities for the surfacing, sharing, testing, and shaping of both personal and corporate visions.
- ___ 7. Members are eager and ready to take the time and make the space to come together to pray, study, reflect, struggle, and dream together.
- ___ 8. There is a climate of mutual trust, respect, and support as members explore and share their different gifts, perspectives, and opinions.
- ___ 9. Appreciating the richness and the creativity of their "differentness," members do not avoid conflict but are self (Spirit)-controlled and utilize it in a constructive manner.
- ___ 10. Members are informed about and participate in processes that provide input in decision-making which shape the churches common life and shared ministry
- ___ 11. There is a positive atmosphere of energy and excitement within the congregation which is contagious.
- ___ 12. While experiencing a genuine "togetherness," the congregation engages in practices of hospitality, inviting and welcoming to others, and reaches out.
- ___ 13. The various aspects of church life—i.e. worship, making disciples/spiritual formation, "one anothering", outreach & service in word and deed, administration—are interrelated in a mutually enriching manner.
- ___ 14. The programs and services of the church bring God's vision of reality into a critical dialogue with the challenges, issues, and trends of the culture.
- ___ 15. There is a clear and shared understanding of the church's vision and ways/practices it is lived out, and priorities, practices, programs, structures are aligned with it.

Suggestions for Using “A Vision Checklist”

“A Vision Checklist” enables a local church session (presbytery or other groups) to consider the extent to which the congregation is being shaped as a community of vision. This checklist is intended to stimulate conversation for the purpose of learning. It is not to be used in judgment. Rather, it is to enable leaders to explore where there is energy for cultivating the congregation as a vision-shaped community. Here are some suggestions for its use:

It will be helpful to have taken some time for advance reading.

1. Make copies of the checklist for every member of the group.
2. Each person working alone, complete the checklist, following the instructions given.
3. When all have finished, share your responses. Describe the specific behavior of your congregation you had in mind when scoring as you did.
4. Then, working alone once again,
 - n Identify two items as “strengths or resources” upon which your congregation could build as it seeks to become a vision-shaped community.
 - n Then, identify the top two items in which you most would like to see your congregation grow.
5. Share these items with the group, and your reasons for choosing them. Seek understanding of each person’s unique perspective on the congregation’s current situation as well as their hopes for your congregation’s future as a vision-shaped community.
6. Out of this discussion, move toward consensus as a group, identifying the top one or two priority items that emerge for your church as it seeks to become a discerning community shaped, led and living by God’s vision for them.