

TRAITS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

DAVID PLATT

EXERCISE

David listed 12 traits of a biblical church. As you develop your plan for your plant, give each trait a red (missed it and need to build it in), yellow (it's in the plan but not sure what it needs to look like practically), green (good to go; it's hard-wired into our DNA)

Prayer	Fellowship
Evangelism	Worship
Proclamation of the Word	Baptism
Discipleship	Communion
Membership	Giving
Leadership	Mission

- What's your Next Step to move anything in the red to yellow? Yellow to Green?
- What's your timeline to complete the steps? Who will hold you accountable?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY

SCOTTY SMITH

EXERCISE

Scotty keys in on v. 7 of chapter 12: “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Part 1: When you think about this idea, “each is given” so means “everyone.” What processes do you need to have in place to help people discover what the Spirit has given them for the common good?

Grab a couple of your key team members and brainstorm some ways you can help your people identify what they have been given by the Spirit. Pick two or three of your best ideas and create a reproducible system you and your team can use.

Part 2: Once you have helped your people discover what they have been given, how will you help them work in a healthy and effective way with each other?

- Interview some experienced planters or pastors in your area. Ask them what systems or processes they have in place to help their people work as one body.

ORDER CHURCHES BIBLICALLY

CLINT CLIFTON

EXERCISE

Self Assess

Clint lays out a suggested pathway for healthy components of church governance. On a scale of 1 (I am good to go; I have written documentation) to 5 (I haven't thought of this component), rate where you are with each component. We have included the summary from Clint's talk to help you.

- Doctrine - Adopt a statement of faith that clearly and concisely communicates your new church's beliefs.

1 2 3 4 5

Based on your score, what Next Steps do you need to take?

- Covenant - Write a set of vows members are expected make to one another

1 2 3 4 5

Based on your score, what Next Steps do you need to take?

- Membership - Institute a formal distinction between those who simply attend your worship gatherings and those who consider themselves family with one another.

1 2 3 4 5

Based on your score, what Next Steps do you need to take?

- Eldership - Examine and affirm leaders to join you in shepherding the congregation.

1 2 3 4 5

Based on your score, what Next Steps do you need to take?

- Diaconate - Select qualified servants who will handle the daily practical organizational, and administrative needs in order to free your elders to focus on the ministry of the Word and prayer.

1 2 3 4 5

Based on your score, what Next Steps do you need to take?

MOVING PEOPLE FROM PAGAN TO PASTOR

J.T. ENGLISH

EXERCISE

Scenario:

J.T. gave you a great one to work through. Grab a Post-It or use a whiteboard. If you have a team, divide them into a couple of groups. Build out two different plans.

Plan #1:

What steps are in place to move someone who is exploring the faith all the way to serving as a pastor in your ministry context? (We recognize God has to move in his life and change his heart, ; for this exercise make the assumption God is doing His part).

What components are needed in your current process to help someone move from unbelief to maturity and on mission?

Give everyone 10 minutes to build out what they think the system currently looks like. Put all the Post-Its next to each other as each team presents. If you don't have a team, grab some other church planters or people from your Sending Church, using the following questions to evaluate your plan:

- Where are the potential gaps in the process?
- What steps are missing?
- What steps are too big of a leap?

Plan #2:

You are a brand-new church plant with 15 committed adults on your core team. What processes/systems do you have in place to equip them to walk someone from exploring the faith to maturity and on mission?

Take 10 minutes and build out your plan to prepare a person to walk with someone else through the process you built in Plan #1. Debrief with someone using the following questions:

- Where are the potential gaps in the process?
- What steps are missing?
- What steps are too big a leap?

TRAITS OF A STRONG SYSTEM

BRAD BRISCO

EXERCISE

Brad stated, “When you begin to shape/create your systems, start first by thinking about mission, not church.” Keeping four words in mind – Mobilize, Scorecards, Apprenticeship, Adaptive – as you practice building out a system. Create a Post-It with “Guest Follow-up” at the top. Use the following steps as a template.

Step 1: Gather a team

Gather a team to collaborate for perspective. Remember: You don’t want to create systems alone. Let’s start by defining the objective of the guest follow-up system.

This system is designed to “gather information from guests in a way that makes them feel welcomed, informed, and encouraged to take their next step of engagement with the church plant.”

Step 2: Ask good questions

Three months from now, we will begin receiving guest cards. We have to define a system that ensures we communicate effectively with these individuals and mobilizes our people to engage with them. So, we need to ask ourselves some good questions. (Write these answers on the first brainstorming Post-it.) Here are some samples to you get you started:

- What avenues will we use to receive guest information?
- What are some natural ways we can connect with them after a first visit?
- What information will we put in guests’ hands at services? Events? Groups/missional communities?

Keep adding to the list until you get all that you think you need.

Step 3: Clarify the path

Step 3 is to work out a timeline, noting when each of these steps should be completed. Narrow down the long list you created on the Post-It to only those items that you/your team consider(s) non-negotiable. (Write these on your second Post-It.)

Step 4: Create a diagram

For Step 4, we typically would turn our information into a diagram. You could design the diagram on a whiteboard and then have someone on your team with graphic design skills lay it out and post it where it will be used and referred to on a regular basis.

Step 5: Debrief

- How did doing this exercise together help you?
- What parts of the system we created might you adopt for your own church plant?
- What steps will you take with your core team to create your own guest follow-up system?
- What other systems will you create with your core team?



PRIORITIZATION AND TIME MANAGEMENT

KATHY LITTON

EXERCISE

Kathy gave you three keys: Seek wisdom, Invite input from others and Use a system that works. Let's put it into practice by doing a monthly calendar sync-up exercise with your spouse.

Monthly Calendar Activity

1. Plan a distraction-free time and place.
2. Everyone brings to the table whatever calendar they use to plan their month to the table.
3. Pray together over the plans God has for you that month.
4. Put the "BIG ROCKbig rocks" on the calendar first.
5. Work down through the rest of the events and plans you both have (if married).
6. Evaluate the month asking:
 - How are our values reflected in the month?
 - Where is family and couple time prioritized?
 - Where is sabbath Sabbath time?
 - How does the plan exhibit wisdom?

REDEEMING THE TIME

KEMPTON TURNER

EXERCISE

Kempton listed 8 priorities that govern his schedule. Look at the list and do a quick self-assessment. Use the following three words to describe how you are prioritizing each area: Thriving (It's a priority and working well; give one or two examples and specific), Reviving (It's on the way up) or Surviving (I'm hanging on in this area, but it needs some serious attention).

- Private worship
- Prayer
- Prioritize family
- Personal Friendships and accountability
- Preaching the Word
- Pour into and disciple others
- Pastoral shepherding and soul-care of the flock
- Pursue and evangelize unbelievers

Pick one or two areas and use the following set of questions to help you either continue to Thrive in an area, move Revive to Thrive or move Survive to Revive.

Thriving

- What in my life has contributed to thriving in this area?
- Who are people I can help thrive in this area too?
- What potential dangers could keep me from continuing to thrive?
- What habits keep this area thriving?

Reviving

- What resources do I need to grow in this area?
- What is keeping me accountable to grow?
- Who is helping me make positive changes to thrive?
- What habits are helping me move toward thriving?
- What habits are keeping me from moving forward?

Surviving

- Who do I need to tell about my struggle?
- What contributed to my struggle in this area?
- What is the first small step I can take toward reviving this area?
- When will I start making changes in this area?
- Who in my life does this well?
- What are three bigger steps I can take for long-term growth?
- How will I know if I am making positive changes in this area?

Once you have processed some of these questions, create an action plan using the following questions:

- What are my Next Steps?
- Who can help me?
- When will I start?

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH PLANT A CHURCH?

CHRIS DOWD

EXERCISE

Chris lays out what he calls some irreducible minimums of what it means to be a church:

- Community of believers
- Shared beliefs
- Shared values
- Shared mission
- Shared worship
- Shared leadership
- Sent to a community to be light, to be a holy, set a-part people

Pull your team together and evaluate each category.

Label it Red (We don't have these yet), Yellow (We are working on them) or Green (These are in place).

Once you have done the self-assessment as a team, develop some action teams to move any that are Red to Yellow and Yellow to Green.