



READINESS 360

A CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERING OF THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Q. WHAT IS READINESS 360?

Readiness 360 is a web-based tool used to provide input about your church from the vantage point of congregation members and other stakeholders. The resulting report provides feedback to the leadership of your congregation about its current capacity to bear fruit in ministry. Some use this tool as a part of their discernment process about whether or not to begin a new ministry (e.g. to plant a new church or to be a church planting partner) or to assess its vitality and potential for growth.

Q. WHAT AREAS DOES READINESS 360 SPECIFICALLY MEASURE?

This survey measures your congregation's capacity to multiply its impact using the following 'driver's strands' of ministry:

1. Spiritual Intensity - Is the congregation driven by its passion for Christ?
2. Missional Alignment – Does the congregation's plans, major initiatives and pruning of ministry stem clearly from a biblical vision/mission and drive for fruitfulness or from tired habit?
3. Dynamic Relationships - How dynamic and healthy are relationships with those inside and outside the church?
4. Cultural openness - Does the congregation exhibit a capacity for embracing people from diverse cultures?

Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PROCESS?

1. Forward an introductory email to at your congregation (members, regular attenders, and others familiar with your congregation and represent a variety of stakeholders).
2. Generate reports at the click of a button once a critical mass has been surveyed (**eight responses or 10% of the congregation, whichever is larger**)
3. Distribute and celebrate the news release at your major weekly gathering (which would be worship for most faith communities)
4. Share the Executive Summary with your Council or leadership team and plan on unpacking it at the next meeting
5. Develop an action plan using the Comprehensive Report
6. Bring the action plan to leadership with approval
7. Work the plan: strength and improve the congregation's ability to be fruitful and multiply

Q . WHAT PERSONNEL ARE NEEDED IN THE CONGREGATION TO ADMINISTER READINESS 360? WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF TIME COMMITMENT?

The approximate time to take the survey is about twenty minutes to a half hour. The survey can be administered by the pastor or designate (e.g. church administrator, council member, etc).

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN TAKE *READINESS 360*?

An unlimited number of people in a church may take the ***Readiness 360***. To ensure valid and more believable results we recommend at least eight people or 10% of the congregation (whichever is larger) take the online survey.

Q: IF WE AS A CONGREGATION SCORED LOW IN A PARTICULAR DIMENSION. DOES THAT MEAN WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER A MAJOR MINISTRY INITIATIVE?

Not at all! A low score simply indicates an area that may need to be strengthened. If you have discerned that God is calling you to plant a new congregation or to start a significant new ministry, use the feedback from the report to learn what you might work on to fully develop each dimension of ministry.

Q. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF *READINESS 360* TO THE MINISTRY OF YOUR CONGREGATION?

1. A means of shifting your church's conversation, thinking, and ministry planning from maintenance to community and world impact
2. A foundation for a strengths based congregational development
3. Reports that facilitate quick wins and asset-based planning, summarizing and distilling the most important information gleaned from the congregation including:
 - a. measurement of your congregation's of capacity in each of the four multiplication driver areas;
 - b. perception gaps between various types of participations in your congregation based on age, length of time at your church and role;
 - c. leadership tips for your church in light of strengths and challenges revealed; and
4. A basis for planning to move your church toward a more nimble, ready to go stance for revitalizing ministries in the coming years.

Q. WHAT IS THE COST OF *READINESS 360*?

For contributing congregations to Our Churches Wider Mission ("OCWM"):

- 50 members or less: \$50
- 51-100 members: \$100
- 101 members or more: \$150

For non-contributing congregations to OCWM: \$200

Q. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF *READINESS 360* FOR THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE?

One of our goals in the New York Conference is to plant vital churches and leaders in 'growth areas' of the state so that the witness and vitality of our Conference is strengthened. We believe that your participation in this survey will not only help in this effort but will serve to strengthen your congregation's passion and witness for God's reign.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO PARTICIPATE IN *READINESS 360*?

Contact Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development at freemanpalmer@uccny.org