

### CHAPTER 1: KINGDOM ALIGNED VISION

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.1

Understanding the history of your church's vision statements will enable you to more fully understand the context in which you currently operate:

1. Look back over previous vision statements
  - a. What are the recurrent words/themes?
  - b. Which words/themes have changed?
  - c. What do the elements which have stayed the same or changed tell you about the trajectory and priorities of your church?
2. In relation to your current vision statement?
  - a. When was this developed?
  - b. By whom?
  - c. What prompted this work?
  - d. What were the key aspects of your church's context to which this statement responded?
  - e. What has changed/stayed the same since its development?

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.2

1. Jesus' life and ministry as they are portrayed in the Gospels are full of kingdom life. Some churches follow a lectionary pattern which ensures that there is always a Gospel reading during their worship to focus their attention on this.
  - a. How often and in what ways are your congregation encouraged to fix their sights on Jesus' kingdom life and ministry?
2. People visiting our churches should experience a foretaste of the kingdom
  - a. Which features of kingdom life does your church best reflect?
  - b. Which features of kingdom life represent the greatest challenge to your church?
3. In what ways does your church look ahead to the fulfilment of the kingdom?
  - a. Is your language concerning death, resurrection, heaven, Christ's return and the fulfilment of his kingdom scripturally sound and consistent?
4. Does your church's hopefulness embrace the redemption of persons, community and creation?
  - a. How does your language/teaching encompass each of these dimensions?
  - b. In what ways does this hopefulness stir your congregation to action?

#### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.3

1. Spend some time with a sample of different people (young and old, male and female, young and mature in faith) from your congregation.
  - a. What do they understand about the nature of Christian hope?
  - b. How do they relate your church's vision statement to this?
  - c. What do they know of how your church is planning to move towards this vision?
  - d. Can they identify a way in which they can participate in this?

## SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.4

1. In discerning a focused vision for your church, discuss
  - a. how God is already at work in your context
  - b. the particular opportunities and challenges associated with your context
  - c. your church's DNA (history, challenges etc)
  - d. the skills, experience and passions of your leaders and people
  - e. the Spirit's leading through Scripture, prayer or prophecy

## CHAPTER 2: STRONG COMMUNITY

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.1

1. How are each of these terms expressed in your church context?
  - a. Authenticity
  - b. Hospitality
  - c. Relational intentionality
  - d. Loving relationships
  - e. Connection with others
  - f. A sense of belonging
  - g. Intentional and welcoming inclusion
  - h. Participation in the congregation
  - i. Welcoming new people

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.2

1. How might you engage with the “everyday” activities recorded in Acts 2:42, 46-47a, to encourage a sense of belonging and community in your church?
2. What forms of scriptural language do you use to describe the community of your church and what do these mean to you?
3. How could you recognise and encourage the practice of these scriptural “one anothers”?
4. How do you celebrate the various forms of belonging to your church community?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.3

1. Reflect on the dimensions of community highlighted by McMillan and Chavis.
  - a. What are some of the shared values, beliefs and rituals which enable a sense of belonging for your church community?
  - b. Which kinds of congregational members are most likely to experience frequent and meaningful connection with one another?
  - c. Which kinds of congregational members are most likely to miss out on the experience of frequent and meaningful connection with one another?
  - d. What channels of communication are open to your congregation to influence the vision, ministry and mission of your church?
  - e. When and how are there opportunities to share stories about faith and community?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.4

1. Are there groups within your church which are underrepresented in current expressions of community (singles, seniors, persons with disability, men or women)? What barriers do they face?
2. Do you think a sense of community has increased or decreased for people in your church over time (one year, five years, twenty years), and what might have contributed to this change?

## CHAPTER 3: OUTWARDS FOCUS

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.1

1. What evangelistic programs has the church used over the years? How did they go?
2. When and how do you practice awareness of your local, national and global community (e.g., through crisis fund raising or intercessory prayer)?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.2

1. There are three major dimensions which come through this engagement with Scripture regarding outward focus:
  - a. Word and deed
  - b. Being and going
  - c. Hospitality
2. How are these expressed by your church and its congregational members?
3. Where does the balance usually fall and does this require attention?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.3

1. A vibrant faith (see Chapter 5) is a powerful motivator for sharing the blessings of salvation. How might you encourage your congregation to “wear their heart (for God) on their sleeve”?
2. Is your church more attractational or incarnational in its approach to evangelism?
3. Talk with your congregation about the specific fears they might face in inviting people to explore the gospel. How might you help them overcome these barriers?
4. How might you encourage your congregation to relate their everyday work to the work of the kingdom?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.4

1. Do your church facilities speak of welcome and hospitality to those who visit?
  - Take a tour of your facilities with someone in a wheelchair and with a sensory or neurological form of difference. What obstacles or barriers might they experience?
2. What forms of hospitality are already being offered by your church as a whole or on an individual basis?
3. Do the various elements of your church’s witness – your words, deeds and gospel community – each help to make sense of one another?
  - Where does your emphasis tend to fall and, if needed, how might the weaker elements be strengthened?
4. In your ‘gathered’ form, how is your church proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom?
5. In your ‘scattered’ form, what more could your church do to support your attendees on their frontlines for the sake of the gospel?

## CHAPTER 4: EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.1

1. Taking a broad approach, identify as many “leaders” as possible within your church
  - a. Who is responsibly exercising their own power in contributing to your church’s vision – and who are they encouraging/influencing/empowering? (Remember to look across age groups, genders and personality types)
  - b. Would their ministry benefit from some form of church recognition or endorsement?
2. Are there areas of ministry or mission which are important to your church’s vision which are lacking leadership? How might you address this?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.2

1. In what ways does your church recognise and celebrate Jesus’ victorious power?
2. Has there been any history of power abuse in your church? Has there been healing for those effected or are the consequences still being felt?
3. How can you encourage your church to provide support and encouragement for those in leadership without an unhealthy focus or dependence on them?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.3

1. Leadership needs to be both effective and relational. Such standards are highly complex and many outcomes are beyond the control of leaders – and yet failing to assess and evaluate our leadership is also unhelpful.
  - a. How do/could you measure the effectiveness of your leadership in your various spheres of influence?
  - b. How do/could you measure the relational quality of your leadership?
2. What forms of support and accountability are in place for those in leadership in your church?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.4

1. In what ways does the term “servant” change the ways in which you lead your church?
2. In what ways does the term “empowering” change the ways in which you lead your church?
3. How might you empower more of your congregation to achieve kingdom ends by kingdom means?

## CHAPTER 5: VIBRANT FAITH

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.1

1. What does vibrant faith look like for you? Write out a definition and share it with one another.
2. Share stories of how God has developed vibrant faith in your life. What are the commonalities and differences between your stories?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.2

1. Enthusiasm and zeal may be expressed in different ways by different people.
  - a. Which members of your congregation come to mind when you consider these terms?
  - b. How do they express their enthusiasm or zeal for God?
2. Which members of your congregation come to mind when you consider the fruit of the Spirit? Which fruit do they exemplify?
3. Which members of your congregation come to mind when you consider the gifts of the Spirit? Which gifts do they practice for the good of your church?
4. How could you empower these people to tell their stories and empower others?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.3

1. What terms would you use to describe the culture of your church in relation to
  - a. Prayer?
  - b. Bible reading?
  - c. Story sharing?
2. Do these terms reflect long term culture or has something changed – for better or worse?
3. What might have contributed to any such changes – and what can you learn from these?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.4

1. Work your way through the suggestions raised by Silverzweig and Allen's model of cultural change. As you prepare to act on some of these
  - a. Identify key people who exemplify the key features of the culture you want to encourage. (Try to think beyond the usual suspects!)
  - b. How might you empower them to influence others?

## CHAPTER 6: INSPIRING WORSHIP

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.1

1. Consider some of the dimensions of your church's worship
  - a. Is continuity with your faith tradition a high priority, or are you more committed to relevance to your surrounding culture? Do you seek to balance these, or does one or the other tend to predominate in your choices of hymns/songs, forms of prayer, and other elements of worship?
  - b. Do your services generally reflect a concern for good planning and order or is spontaneity expected and welcomed?
  - c. How much of your worship is "passive" and how much and in what ways do people actively participate?
2. Identify if and when there have been any changes to your church's form of corporate worship. What prompted these and how were they received?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.2

1. Make a list of the various components of your worship service (e.g. singing, Bible reading, ministry time etc.) how authentic are these expressions? How participative are they?
2. How much is our worship service is shaped intentionally? How much is just habit?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.3

1. Give your church a score out of 10 for each of the following vital aspects of church worship:
  - a. A sense of God's presence
  - b. Awe or mystery
  - c. Joy
  - d. Growth in understanding of God
  - e. Preaching that is helpful to everyday life
2. How "contemporary" is the music in your church service? Do you think this is an important issue with respect to attracting young people?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.4

1. Where are we expecting to meet God and experience the kingdom in our worship services?
2. What are we doing to make sure this happens?

## CHAPTER 7: INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 7.1

1. The other terms raised by research into congregational forms of discipleship (see introduction) include:
  - a. Transforming discipleship
  - b. Maturation of believers
  - c. Intentional faith development
  - d. Learning and growing in community
  - e. Holistic small groups

Which of these terms “fit” with your sense of discipleship for your congregation? Why?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 7.2

1. What struck you most about Jesus’ form of discipleship?
2. At what stage in the discipleship journey does your church raise the issue of “counting the cost” of discipleship and how?
3. In what ways do you address self-denial?
4. How does your church celebrate the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for discipleship?
5. How is baptism (whatever form you practice) recognised as part of the discipleship process?
6. At each level (whole church, small groups, one on one) what forms of discipleship are currently in use?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 7.3

1. With what forms of digital discipleship are members of your congregation engaging and how does this vary across their various demographic groupings?
2. In what ways might your church harness these resources and the learning people are gaining from them?
3. What proportions of your congregation belong to each of the four stages of growth outlined by the Reveal research? And what might this mean for the focus of your discipleship strategies?
4. How are you addressing the need for whole life discipleship which prepares people to follow Jesus and make disciples on their frontlines?
5. How have short-term mission trips contributed to the discipleship of your congregation in the past and what opportunities might there be for these in the future?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 7.4

1. What is the “discipleship plan” for your church? If Jesus was to come back and ask you how you were fulfilling his commission, what would you point to?
2. When you were a young Christian, how were you disciplined? How are you disciplined now?



## CHAPTER 8: CARING FOR THE YOUNG

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 8.1

1. Meet a young person aged 15-29 for coffee or lunch. Invite them to share their general perception of your church and the way young people are welcomed, included and encouraged.
2. The inclusion of children in your worship services may range from complete to none. Where along this spectrum do you fall and what are the advantages and disadvantages of your approach?
3. How do you practice multi-generational discipleship?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 8.2

1. How does your church help parents disciple their children?
2. What symbols of redemption (monuments or rituals) does your church have that would help pass faith to the next generation?
3. How welcome do children feel in your church services? How do you know?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 8.3

1. Meaningful intergenerational relationships are crucial to helping young people in church communities. How many intergenerational relationships do you as leaders have with younger people in your church?
2. What can be done to foster more of these relationships in your church?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 8.4

1. How do you go about recognising and promoting leadership among young people?
2. In what ways are young people's concerns and convictions listened to and included in decisions about your church's vision, ministry and mission?
3. Go through the six core commitments identified by the Fuller youth Institute. What evidence do you have that these are observable in your church?

## CHAPTER 9: GENEROUS GIVING

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 9.1

1. Does, or has the church ever, had a “stewardship” program? How effective was it?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 9.2

1. What is your understanding and approach to the concept of tithing?
2. How do/might you celebrate generous giving as a church or with generous individuals?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 9.3

1. How might you apply each of the principles of encouraging generous philanthropy to church giving?
2. How do you rate your church’s financial transparency and the inclusion of the congregation in budgeting and setting financial priorities? How could you improve these?
3. In what ways do you encourage your congregation to be committed givers to both regular ministry needs and special projects?

### SUPPLEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS 9.4

1. When will you next be teaching on money, stewardship and generous giving? When could you schedule this into your preaching calendar (by topic or appropriate biblical text)?
2. How might you better help people see the connections between their giving and the kingdom aligned vision towards which you are working together?
3. When and how might it be appropriate to (privately) thank specific givers?
4. When and how do you report your financial status to your congregation? Would they (and their giving) benefit from more regular updates?
5. How are you incorporating the acknowledgement of online giving into your “offering time”?