

READINESS 360
A CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERING OF THE NEW YORK
CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Q. WHAT IS READINESS 360?

A: Readiness 360 is a web based congregational assessment tool that enables a church to discover its current capacity for reaching new people, new gatherings, and cultivating a rich future of ministry. The resulting report provides feedback to the leadership of your congregation about its current capacity for new ministry. Some use this tool as a part of their discernment process about whether or not to be a church planting partner, others use it as a congregational development tool build new ministries and reach new people, and others use it to enrich and grow their vitality as a congregation. Readiness 360 is designed by Epicenter, Inc. headed by Paul Nixon, author of *Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*.

Q. WHAT AREAS DOES READINESS 360 SPECIFICALLY MEASURE?

A. This survey measures your congregation's capacity by four 'driver's strands' in its' 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 DESCRIBETHE PROCESS?

A. The following is a summary of the survey process:

1. Forward an introductory email to your congregation with the desire that at least 25 people or 10% of your congregation (whichever is larger) will respond and take the survey on line. The respondents optimally are those who are familiar with your congregation and represent a variety of stakeholders.
2. Generate reports at the click of a button once a critical mass or a sufficient sample of the congregation has been surveyed (recommended that the survey be open no more than two (2) weeks)
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 discussing the results at its' next meeting
5. Develop an action plan using the Comprehensive Report, building on your congregation's identified strengths
6. Bring the action plan to leadership for approval
7. Work the plan: strengthen 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 THE *READINESS 360*?

A: Starting in February 2013, an unlimited number of people in a church may take the *Readiness 360*. To ensure valid and more believable results we recommend at least 25 people or 10% of the congregation (whichever is larger) take the online survey.

Q: A CONGREGATION SCORED LOW IN A PARTICULAR DIMENSION. DOES THAT MEAN IT SHOULD NOT CONSIDER A MAJOR MINISTRY INITIATIVE LIKE PLANTING A NEW FAITH COMMUNITY?

A: Not at all! A low score simply indicates an area that may need to be strengthened. For example, 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 before creating a new place for new people.

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. measures of readiness in each of the four 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
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*?

A. **Your cost is 0!** The New York Conference has signed a contract to provide this service at no cost to your congregation. Additional day long events with a consultant are available to you at an additional cost of \$2,000

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 the vitality of your local setting, which then multiplies into a strong a vibrant collaborative witness across our Conference.

WHO DO I CONTACT TO PARTICIPATE IN *READINESS 360* OR FOR QUESTIONS?

Contact Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Development at 201.388.6447 or at freemanpalmer@uccny.org