

MISIONARY MENTALITYStrength:

The church cares about Westcliffe and the surrounding area and that church feels that the community is better off because the church exists.

Challenges:

The church seems to be unaware of the community's needs and there is no strategy for intentionally engaging the community.

Initial Response Summary:

- There is a disconnect with a caring heart and the needs of the community.
- We do not understand the image we project to the community.
- There are conflicting ideas of identity in our body.
- The age of our members dictate our priorities.
- How do we address the problems of drugs, etc.
- We need better direction to identify local/state/US/world needs.
- Willing to give money, but not necessarily willing to serve.
- We need action and sensitivity to help personal struggles in our community.
- We do need a strategy so people can be informed.
- We need more than programs. We need relationships.
- Agree with strengths. Greatly disagree with challenges.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

We are a caring and giving church and truly want to meet the needs of the community, but we don't have a clue how to accomplish this.

ACTION PRIORITY:

We need to know the unchurched community and its needs. We need to know our resources and limitations as a congregation. We need prayer as a priority in doing the above. We need to develop a plan and then "just do it".

VIBRANT LEADERSHIPStrengths:

The church perceives the leaders are Christlike in demeanor and character.

Challenges:

The church does not have a clear vision concerning where God is leading it. Leadership is vested in current leaders with no system to discover and develop future leaders.

Initial Response Summary:

- We are stuck in certain places of service with expectations and burning out.
- There is a lack of passion for vision.
- We need to develop a program to develop future leaders. This is extremely important.
- We need to develop a vision now and not wait for new pastor to develop the vision.
- All our members need to be knowledgeable of the Biblical instructions on leadership.
- We need to find a way for all members to serve our church.
- We think it is vital to develop new leaders.
- Good leadership is easy to follow.
- The vision of the church is unclear.
- One group disagreed with the strength.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:*

Leadership of this church is not always considered to be Christlike and we definitely do not have a clear and understandable vision. A system does not exist to discover and develop future leaders.

ACTION PRIORITY:

We desire Christlike leaders with a clear vision of where we are going, how to obtain that vision, and a system to develop future leaders.

* Coach's Comments:

Only one group (person) disagreed with the strength of the church perceiving the leaders as being Christlike, but the summary statement included that the leadership is not always considered to be Christlike. My take on this is one of two possibilities. The group or person who disagreed with those who took the survey has a "problem" with certain persons currently in leadership or is looking at past leadership.

RELATIONAL INTENTIONALITY

Strengths:

There is a system to greet people when they visit the church.

Challenges:

There is no plan for helping newcomers connect with the various groups at FBC. There is not a plan for moving people from salvation to growing spiritually and then into serving.

Initial Response Summary:

- There is no clear discipleship plan. It is left to individual effort.
- There is a need for intentional spiritual growth.
- We need to provide a way for people to get into serving.
- We need to clarify who does follow up with newcomers.
- We need a new Christian/newcomer class for discipling, what the church has to offer, and how to get involved.
- One-on-one discipleship is needed.
- There does not need to be a program. It needs to be done through relationships.
- We need to make a real attempt to connect with people.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In our church there is an unspoken need for more communication and consistent follow up to build relationships that convey a caring church body – not just good intentions.

ACTION PRIORITY:

We desire as individual Christians and followers of Christ (church body) to actively seek and build strong meaningful relationships inside and outside our church.

PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE

Strengths:

Prayer requests and results are shared both naturally and formally. Praying together is a normal part of the various church activities. Prayer is seen as a primary source for the church to effectively live out its purpose.

Challenges:

It appears that the prayer in public meetings is more scripted than spontaneous in nature.

Initial Response Summary:

- We appreciate small group venue for prayer.
- We have a good system of sharing prayer requests – email prayer chain.
- We need more designated times of corporate prayer on specific issues.
- Our dependence is not reflected in our prayers.
- We are prayer warriors.
- We need to encourage individual prayer times at home.
- We need more spontaneous times of prayer (laying on of hands, anointing with oil, etc.)
- We need to listen to God more instead of asking.
- We need to focus on God's will before we respond.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Prayer is viewed as a strength in our church, demonstrated by active participation in corporate prayer, the prayer chain, prayer meetings, and personal time of prayer.

ACTION PRIORITY:

We desire that Holy Spirit guided prayer be such and integral part of our congregation's life that is it the first action we take.

WORSHIPStrengths:

People look forward to corporate worship and have a sense of expectancy. People are provided resources for private worship and pursue private worship in their lives.

Challenges:

Many do not actively participate in the corporate worship services. the congregation does not consistently bring guests to worship.

Initial Response Summary:

- There is a poor use of time before the service to prepare our hearts for a spiritual encounter with God.
- There is a need for contemporary music in worship, but hymns are still needed.
- Individuals need to invite and bring people to church.
- We need more interactive worship.
- We need more opportunities for spontaneous participation.
- Lack of participation is a heart issue.
- We need to figure out how to engage the younger generation.
- People need to be taught how to worship.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Our worship services have become somewhat divisive in style and preference which impedes us from recognizing the holiness of God and his requirement to worship him in spirit and truth.

ACTION PRIORITY:

There should be an expectation of glory before a holy God, whereby individually we disregard self and press in together by the power of the Holy Spirit to worship God.

COMMUNITYStrengths:

Small groups are very important to the church, and church leaders are actively involved in them.

Challenges:

There is not a strong sense of ownership in the ministries and decisions of the church. Newer people have a harder time connecting to people and entering into serving.

Initial Response Summary:

- Small groups are important to our church.
- We need a better way of identifying guests and newcomers.
- We need better communication on ways to serve.
- We are too inwardly focused.
- We are too comfortable and contented.
- We are too judgmental.
- Our small groups are very good.
- Lack of ownership is a result of not being totally honest with each other.
- We need better communication.
- We have the same people in our groups – no new people.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Our small groups are not as externally focused as they should be. Some of us are too comfortable/content with our church family to be outwardly focused. Lack of strong ownership/interest in ministries is a result of discouragement and lose of focus.

ACTION PRIORITY:*

Engage all members in the importance of how God wants us to not only connect with each other, but with as many people in our community as possible (using Biblical guidelines).

* Coach's Comments:

This action priority really does not address the element of community. Community is basically the connections inside the church (with existing and newer people). This statement bleeds over into missionary mentality and/or mission.

MISSION

Strengths:

The church has a good reputation in the community. The church is actively involved in praying for non-Christians around the world.

Challenges:

The church is not regularly involved in service opportunities that engage and build relationships with the unchurched. Members do not build significant relationships with non-Christians and are not comfortable regularly sharing their faith.

Initial Response Summary:

- The community knows that we will pray for them.
- We eagerly help those in the community when they contact us.
- We need to have an “open door” reputation in the community.
- We need to recognize opportunities to serve in everyday events.
- We need training on how to share our faith.
- The church has a judgmental reputation.
- We are too “me” focused.
- We need more personal involvement – not programs.
- We do not agree that the church has a good reputation in the community.
- We need to cultivate relationships with the unchurched.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

We see ourselves as having a good reputation in the community and we are known for prayer. We are eager to serve and quick to respond to known needs. As a church, we need to be more intentional in following our service with developing relationships. We have certain aspects of reputation to overcome – such as being judgmental, self-centered, and lacking openness.

ACTION PRIORITY:*

We need to become a “good to go” church, for needs and missions both local and international.