

Pathfinder Church Consulting

Congregational Life and Work

Here is a summary of the ever expanding research on the life and work of strong, growing congregations as they adapt to the opportunities and challenges in North America. Typically, congregations have some of these characteristics and areas where attention is needed.

Pathfinders: Church Consulting can help congregations assess their strengths and to build upon them for effective and faithful ministry and mission.

1. Church members and the congregation exhibit a passionate and enthusiastic relationship to Jesus Christ.
2. Worship is a meaningful, joyful, inspiring experience of God.
3. There is a sense of belonging among all in the congregation expressed in hospitality and loving relationships.
4. The congregation has a sense of what God wants her to be and do, and this direction is expressed in multiple flexible plans.
5. Leaders equip, support, motivate and mentor others, helping them become all God wants them to be.
6. Church members are team players rather than committee members or spectators.
7. Church members and small groups practice inward and outward spiritual disciplines.
8. Small groups practice the discipleship they share, learning from their service, and multiply themselves by forming other small groups.
9. The congregation has a sense of what God is doing in the world it serves and is engaged in God's activity through relationships, service and witness.
10. The organizational structure of the congregation exists to multiply leadership and free leaders to use their gifts beyond the structure in ministry and mission.
11. There are times and spaces to experience God's gift of beauty with a respond of wonder and awe.
12. There is confident hope in the future God is bringing.

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