



## Healthy Church Framework

### Presbytery of Florida

The “Healthy Church Framework” was created for our Presbytery to provide guidance in developing healthy churches. It is designed to be relational and biblical. This framework of church health allows for diversity of size, culture, geography, gifts and communities.

We invite individuals, Sessions, and congregations to use it as a tool to vision, set goals, strategize, and evaluate their spiritual and congregational life with new and discerning eyes. Our hope is that all of us will engage in this common conversation of church health, and that we learn from each other, challenge each other, improve and build upon our strengths, and move toward God’s vision.

We seek invitations to meet with Sessions to have a conversation about healthy churches as we walk with you on this journey to grow our faith and our community.

### ***Our Vision***

A community of congregations, clergy and neighbors engaged in healthy, nurturing, loving, and intentional Christ-centered relationships.

### ***Our Presbytery Goal***

A Presbytery of Healthy, Thriving Churches

### ***Our Biblical Foundation***

The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40)

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

### ***Our Responsibilities***

The Congregational Mission Support Team is responsible for, but not limited to, strengthening and supporting churches including leadership development, transformation (such as Acts 16:5), networking and connecting ministries, mission and resources.

## ***Three Loving Relationships to Nurture***

*With God, With Each Other, With the World*

### ***1. NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRIUNE GOD***

#### *Method*

This is done through Worship and Bible Study (corporate *and* personal), Spiritual Disciplines, Sabbath Keeping, Giving Time, Talent, Treasure

#### *Healthy Mark Assessment #1: Continual Spiritual Formation is an essential for all.*

All church leaders & vast majority of communicants are in some form of group spiritual formation & daily devotion

#### *Discernment Questions:*

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who and what is God calling us to be and do?

Knowing who/whose we are, the gifts we have and the needs of the community, what is God's will for us?

### ***2. NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY***

#### *Method*

This is done through Intentional Discipleship, Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Gifts Identification and Development, Intentional Mentoring

#### *Healthy Mark Assessment #2: Relationships embody God's kingdom*

Relationships which are loving, need-responsive, mentoring, Christ-centered

*Discernment Questions:*

*Who are we?*

*Who is our neighbor?*

*Who and what is God calling us to be and do?*

Identifying, developing and mentoring gifts of the congregation, knowing history & heritage & God's vision

### ***3. NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE FAITH COMMUNITY***

*Method*

Demographics tools, Ministries matching needs of our neighbors with gifts & passions of the congregation

*Healthy Mark Assessment # 3: A pervasive concern for the well-being of those outside the church*

Relationships are cultivated & maintained with those outside the church, programs & ministries meet actual needs

*Discernment Questions:*

*Who are we?*

*Who is our neighbor?*

*Who and what is God calling us to be and do?*

Studying demographics, getting to know the needs of the community with objective and anecdotal data

### ***BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE HEALTHY CHURCH FRAMEWORK***

The following brief bibliography includes the resources that most informed the Church Development and Evangelism Committee in creating the Healthy Church Framework. A more complete bibliography is available.

**Brief Bibliography**

*The Bible*

Matthew 22:34-40 The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

*Pathway to Renewal (Smith & Sellon)*

“3 Marks of Inner Health of a Church”

*12 Dynamic Shifts (Ott)/Acts 16:5 Initiative*

3-D Church (Glorify God, Make Disciples, Meet Human Need)

*PC(USA)'s Dynamic Shifts of Congregational Transformation*

*PC(USA)'s Engage Curriculum*

*The ABC's of Natural Church Development (NCD) (Schwarz)*

8 Characteristics of NCD

*Practices of Fruitful Congregations (Schnase)*

*Three Discernment Questions, Gil Rendle, Alban Institute Consultant*

**RESOURCES USED FOR NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH OUR TRIUNE GOD**

*The Bible*

Matthew 22:32-40 The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

**Healthy Mark #1: Spiritual formation is an essential for all, not just for some**

*12 Dynamic Shifts (Ott)*

1. Shift from your present hopes for your congregation's future to the high expectation that God has a vital future for your church
2. Shift from merely running programs to implementing a vision for ministry
3. Shift from a maintenance mentality to a sustaining and advancing vision

*PC(USA)'s Dynamic Shifts of Congregational Transformation*

Create spiritual energy

*The ABC's of Natural Church Development*

#3 – Passionate Spirituality

#5 – Inspiring Worship

*Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

Passionate Worship

Intentional faith Development

*Three Discernment Questions:*

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who/what is God calling us to be/do?

**RESOURCES USED FOR NURTURING OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER  
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

*The Bible*

Matthew 22:32-40 The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

**Healthy Mark #2 – Relationships embody the kingdom (kin-dom) of God**

*12 Dynamic Shifts (Ott)*

- #5 Shift from assuming discipleship to developing discipleship

- #10 Shift from a “leader-deploying” ministry to a “leader-developing” ministry, from committees to teams
- #11 Shift from a controlling leadership to a permission-giving “sending” leadership
- #12 Shift from a pastor-centered/officer-centered ministry to shared ministry among pastor, officers, and church

*PC(USA) ’s Dynamic Shifts of Congregational Transformation*

Congregational Identity  
 Leadership Development  
 Developing a Ministry Plan

*The ABC’s of Natural Church Development (NCD)*

- #1 Empowering Leadership
- #2 Gift-based Ministry
- #4 Effective Structures
- #6 Holistic Small Groups
- #8 Loving Relationships

*Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

Intentional Faith Development  
 Radical Hospitality  
 Extravagant Generosity

*Three Discernment Questions*

- Who are we?
- Who is our neighbor?
- Who/what is God calling us to be/do?

***RESOURCES USED FOR NURTURING OUR LOVE  
 FOR THE WORLD***

*The Bible*

Matthew 22:32-40  
 Matthew 28:16-20

**Healthy Mark #3 – A deep, pervasive concern exists for those outside the church walls**

*12 Dynamic Shifts (Ott)*

- #4 Shift from an emphasis on friendliness to a ministry of friendliness and hospitality
- #6 Shift from a primary emphasis on communal life to a balanced emphasis on communal & missional life of the church
- #7 Shift from an unchanging worship format to a ministry of worship and music responsive to the variety of needs present in the congregation and in the community that you want to reach

- #8 Shift from primarily audience-oriented programming (worship services, classes) to a balance of audience-oriented ministry and face-to-face ministry (small groups, 1-on-1 spiritual direction)
- #9 Shift from adding new people to established groups to adding new groups

*PC(USA)'s Dynamic Shifts of Congregational Transformation*

Developing a Ministry Plan  
Re-entering the Community

*The ABC's of Natural Church Development (NCD)*

- #2 Gift-based Ministry
- #5 Inspiring Worship Service
- #6 Holistic Small Groups
- #7 Need-oriented Evangelism
- #8 Loving Relationships

*Practices of Fruitful Congregations*

Radical Hospitality  
Extravagant Generosity  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service

*Three Discernment Questions*

Who are we?  
Who is our neighbor?  
Who/what is God calling us to be/do?