

Which One Is YOUR Church?



Take a look at these two churches. They are both good churches but one church is extraordinary! Members enjoy working together toward a laser-sharp mission. The church on the right is God's "advertising agency" reflecting His character. It glorifies Him (Matt 5:16; Rev. 14:7).

Church A is busy doing lots of things—but... It's event-driven with little focus. Church departments compete with each other for time and attention. Some members **carry the load of multiple church responsibilities** while others sit on the sidelines. Meanwhile, the community barely knows Church A exists.

Church B is a Mission-driven Church! Church B is just as diverse as church A in member backgrounds and viewpoints but there's one big difference. Their focus is on mission rather than on their differences. They are strategic—not just busy.

A Mission-driven Church also has a **passion for excellence** (Deut. 28:13; Psalm 8). We call it *mission-driven excellence* or **MdX**.

"Everything that bears relation to the work of God should be as nearly perfect as human brains and hands can make it."— *Gospel Workers*, p. 460

The Process: How does a congregation become a mission-driven church?

It's quite simple.

FIRST, take our Inventory on the next page to **self-assess** your church's current level of missional focus. Rate each Habit (honestly) on a scale from "1" to "10."

NEXT, based upon what you find, **plan** ways to adopt those key Habits that are characteristic of mission-driven churches. The Habits are listed on the next page.

FINALLY, Act! Carry out your plan. Periodically assess your progress and keep on improving. Celebrate mission-driven excellence (MdX) as God's ideal for your congregation. It's really that simple!

Take the MdX Inventory (next page) to assess YOUR congregation's level of mission-driven excellence.

Mission-Driven Excellence (MdX) Inventory

Church: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Are these Habits currently in place in your congregation? Rate from “1” (not at all) to “10” (absolutely) only rate a “10” if every part of the Habit is in place. Your team should arrive at consensus on each rating. After taking this initial informal Inventory, continuously rate your church on each Habit using the rating criteria found in your Participant’s Workbook.

PRELIMINARIES

Habit 1: Taking Inventory. We regularly rate our church on key indicators so we can learn and grow. This MdX inventory provides a general profile. For each individual Habit, we rate our growth based on criteria found in the Participant’s Workbook.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

Habit 2: Making Spirit-filled Commitments. After a period of close self-examination, every quarter our church expresses its commitment to become a more Spirit-filled, mission-driven church. We’re focused and avoid distractions.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

BUILD TEAM

Habit 3: Creating Climate. Our church is a unified, close-knit family that reflects God’s character. Humility, trust, and Christ-like communication mark everything we do. Our worship and our warmth appeal to visitors.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

Habit 4: Developing Leaders. Our pastoral staff, department leaders, and each of our members receive coaching, helpful feedback, and nurture. This helps us do our best work for God and for those we serve.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

AGREE ON MISSION

Habit 5: Envisioning Mission. Everyone in our church knows our mission statement from memory. It guides our church’s visionary goals, budgets, departmental priorities, and annual plans for whole-church evangelism.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

STRATEGY IN WRITING

Habit 6: Strategy in Writing. Our church strategy, or mini-strategy, is updated each year with a copy to every member. This document helps us work closely together in accomplishing our common mission.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

Habit 7: Aligning Departments. Every year, each department submits the top three outcomes (not just activities) it plans to accomplish for the year. These strategic plans, approved by the board, drive the annual budgeting process.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

IMPLEMENT STRATEGY

Habit 8: Accomplishing Mission. Each year all departments and members collaborate closely in carrying out our strategic plans. These include at least two whole-church missional events per year—one of which is evangelism. The results are remarkable!

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

Habit 9: Assessing Impact. We keep an up-to-date scoreboard that reports progress to our church on key success indicators. In this way, we continuously evaluate the effectiveness of our ministry to the congregation and community.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

CELEBRATE A CULTURE OF MISSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Habit 10: Becoming a Model. We score high on all the Habits above that have become ingrained Habits in our church culture. We’re now recognized as a demonstration site for other churches even as we continuously work toward improvement ourselves.

Definitely NOT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely YES

Now that you’ve come to consensus ratings on each Habit, is it your desire to work toward making each habit a perfect “10”?