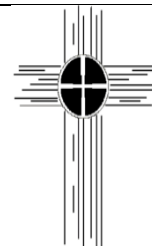


The Newsletter of New Malden Methodist Church Healthy Church Audit Supplement



Healthy Church Audit – Further Request

As part of the Circuit event, we had a 'Healthy Church Sunday' on 19 April, led by Rev. Bonni-Belle Pickard and a small group of support team. It was a good exercise and could get some meaningful results which need to be discussed further in our church community. On that day, we had 55 Scores sheets returned, including young people, and about 30 people stayed for discussion. In the stewards meeting, we thought it would be much better and give us a much clearer picture of the health condition of our church if we could have more responses from the congregation. Therefore, if you couldn't take part in this exercise, I hope you can make your own scores and help us to see more credible results from it. Many thanks. Choi.

The following 'Seven Marks Summary' will help you to understand each mark and make your score on it.

Seven Marks Summary Sheet

Mark 1: energized by faith

rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive

- *worship and sacramental life*: move people to experience God's love

take on new ways of doing things

- *takes risks*: admits when things are not working, and learns from experience

- *motivation*: energy comes from a desire to serve God and one another
- *engages with Scripture*: in creative ways that connect with life
- *nurtures faith in Christ*: helping people to grow in, and share, their faith.

Mark 2: outward-looking focus

with a 'whole life' rather than a 'church life' concern

- deeply rooted in the *local community*, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks
- passionate and prophetic about *justice and peace*, locally and globally
- makes connections between *faith and daily living*
- responds to human need by *loving service*.

Mark 3: seeks to find out what God wants

discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone

- *vocation*: seeks to explore what God wants it to be and do
- *vision*: develops and communicates a shared sense of where it is going
- *mission priorities*: consciously sets both immediate and long-term goals
- able to call for, and make, *sacrifices*, personal and corporate, in bringing about the above and living out the faith.

Mark 4: faces the cost of change and growth

rather than resisting change and fearing failure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>crises</i>: responds creatively to challenges that face the church and community • <i>positive experiences of change</i>: however small, are affirmed and built on. <p>Mark 5: operates as a community <i>rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>relationships</i>: are nurtured, often in small groups, so that people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service • <i>leadership</i>: lay and ordained work as a team to develop locally appropriate expressions of all seven marks of a healthy church • <i>lay ministry</i>: the different gifts, experiences and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church. <p>Mark 6: makes room for all <i>being inclusive rather than exclusive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>welcome</i>: works to include newcomers into the life of the church • <i>children and young people</i>: are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith • <i>enquirers</i> are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ • <i>diversities</i>: different social and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • while embracing the past, it dares to <p>ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and ages, are seen as a strength.</p> <p>Mark 7: does a few things and does them well</p> <p><i>focused rather than frenetic</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>does the basics well</i>: especially public worship, pastoral care, stewardship and administration • <i>occasional offices</i>: make sense of life and communicate faith • <i>being good news</i> as a church in its attitudes and ways of working • <i>enjoys what it does</i> and is relaxed about what is not being done.
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Church Scores Sheet

Circle the number you consider most appropriate

1. energized by faith

rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

2. outward-looking focus

with a 'whole life' rather than 'church life' concern

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

3. seeks to find out what God wants

discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

4. faces the cost of change and growth

rather than resisting change and fearing failure

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

5. operates as a community

rather than functioning as a club or religious organization

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

6. makes room for all

being inclusive rather than exclusive

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

7. does a few things and does them well

focused rather than frenetic

low 1 2 3 4 5 6 high

Scoring Guide

Circle the number on the Scores sheet that best describes what *you* see is happening in our church

1. weak and holding us back

2. only a few signs

3. some evidence of this

4. making progress

5. evidence of much of this

6. this is a strength

**Please return it to the stewards or Choi or leave in the stewards' pigeonhole by Sunday 21st June. Thank you.*

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