

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

A Statement by the Elders

1. Scripture and Doctrine

- God's Word is the final authority over the church's being and doing.
- There is effective exposition and application of God's whole counsel.
- The congregation seeks uncompromising obedience to Christ.
- Doctrinal stands are both compassionate and steadfast.

2. Corporate Worship

- It issues from a vibrant understanding of the gospel and responsiveness to God, which worshippers do not confine to Sunday only.
- It is "in spirit and truth"—centered upon Jesus as the only way to God.
- It glorifies God and edifies the Body.
- It promotes constancy of prayer.

3. Missions and Discipleship

- The congregation is equipped to make disciples.
- The Great Commission is enacted locally and globally.
- Motivated by love and mercy and the desire to do justly the congregation, through both individual and group efforts, seeks to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of both believers and unbelievers, especially to the poor.
- Resources are deployed wisely, both in giving and disbursing.

4. Leadership

- Leaders as shepherds communicate with and care for the flock well.
- Leadership is reflective and decisive.
- Leaders meet biblical qualifications and are intentional in cultivating the church's character.
- Leaders are servants, seeking the good of the whole church.

5. Congregation

- The congregation, characterized by love, prayer, and the fruit of the Spirit, is motivated to live righteous and holy lives.
- Fellowship is warm, genuine and impartial—a true family exhibiting love and unity in diversity.
- There is effective engagement with the culture, an orientation to those outside the church as well as inside.
- Every member of the church engages in ministry but this engagement is balanced by complementary gifts, interests, and passions.