

Quick-Check

All congregations want to thrive. A congregation (or any organization) is thriving when it achieves missional goals (vitality) and is likely to continue doing so into the future (sustainability). This checklist helps you quickly see how you rate your congregations' vitality and sustainability.

Vitality

A vital congregation is one that lives out God's mission through strong relationships with God, each other and the world. The following questions can help your congregation determine its current vitality (mission orientation).

	Poorly or		Somewhat		Great or	
How well do these phrases describe your congregation?	1	2	3	4	5	Copy number from column
<i>Example</i>			X			3
Worship nurtures people's faith						
Deepens people's relationship with God						
A clear sense mission						
Excitement about the congregation's future						
Always ready to try something new						
A positive force in the community						
Works for social justice/advocacy						
How well does your congregation...	Hardly at all		Well		Very Well	
Incorporate new members into congregational life						
Seek out and use the gifts of members of all ages						
Build strong, healthy relationships among members						
Manage disagreements in a healthy respectful manner						
Address social concerns (helping those in need)						
Equip members to share their faith with others						
Interact with the local community						
Help members live out their faith in daily lives						
Total all rows						
Vitality Score: (Divide total by 15)						

Sustainability

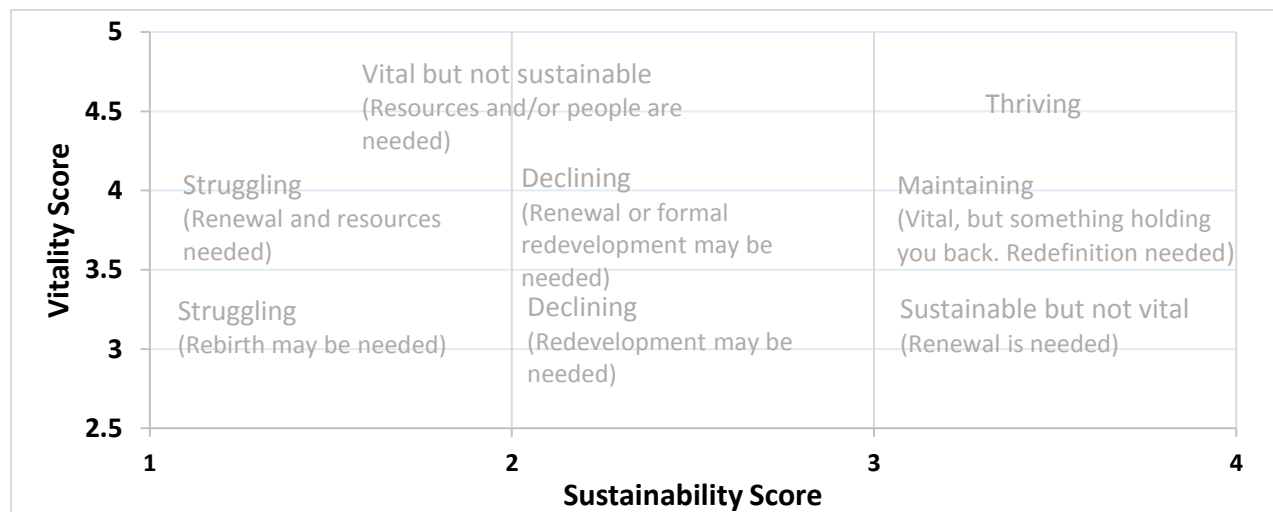
Congregations need resources to sustain ministry. The two primary resources include money (to pay staff, fund ministries and maintain facilities) and people power (to engage in ministries). Use the following questions to estimate your sustainability.

	Declined to not sustainable	Declining but still sustainable	Maintaining	Growing or Increasing	Copy number
Do you have what you need to maintain or expand ministry?	1	2	3	4	
People Power Enough people with energy to lead and participate in worship & ministries					
Financial Resources To pay for facility, staffing, ministries, etc.					
Write the lowest number here:					

Since both people and financial resources are necessary for sustainability, the lower number represents the “weakest link” in your congregation’s sustainability chain.

Balancing Vitality and Sustainability

Use the following chart to mark where your congregation falls in the matrix. Find your sustainability at the bottom and draw a line up. Find your vitality score from the first page and draw a line to the right. Look at where the two lines cross. This intersection **estimates** your congregation’s most likely vitality/sustainability balance. This is not a perfect measure because these categories overlap some in real life. **Talk about how this estimate fits or doesn’t fit with your experience and why.**



A congregation needs to be both vital and sustainable in order to be thriving. Vital congregations that aren’t sustainable can’t continue God’s mission in their setting. Sustainable congregations that are not vital may have lost touch with God’s mission for them in this time and place. **What are your congregation’s strengths and challenges? What is God calling your congregation toward now?**

Now What?

Visit www.congregationalvitalitysurvey.com for more resources. Talk with your synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) to learn more about vitality and to take a longer congregation-wide survey.