Taking Your Church’s Temperature
Assessment Tools for General Baptist Churches

Biblical Examples of Assessment
- The 7 chosen to take care of the widows
- Jesus and the 12
- Gideon’s Mighty Men

Using Church Assessments

Local Church Request
- Preparing for ReFocusing
- Plateau/Declining in Attendance
- Pastor asking am I in the right place
- Frustration at current reality

Pastoral Reviews
- Used as part of the regular review process
- Used in special reviews

Pastoral Transition
- Identifies current needs and expectations of the church
- Assists in the putting together a pastoral profile
- Allows the church to be intentional in interim planning

Church in Crisis
- Allows for an outside view of current reality
- Removes some of the subjectivity and makes the process more objective

The Life Cycle Tool
- Assessment tool is sent prior to the assessment weekend
- Completed by whoever desires
- Answer sheets are collected during the weekend
- Answer sheets are scored in an excel spread sheet
- Scores are transferred to PowerPoint
- Interpret the Results
**Statistical Review**
- Look at Worship Attendance
- Gather the Information  (10 Year Trends)
- Graph the information
- Determine Comfort Zone

**Treasurer Reports**
- Where does the church spend the money
- Basic Percentage Breakdowns
- Conclusions

Treasurer Report Summary
- Staff 38% of Expenses
- Building 35% of Expenses
- Administration 9% of Expenses
- Denomination 5% of Expenses
- Youth 3% of Expenses
- Worship/Arts 2% of Expenses
- Discipleship 2% of Expenses
- Missions 2% of Expenses
- Outreach 2% of Expenses
- Children 1% of Expenses
- Leadership Dev 1% of Expenses

**Calendar**
- Where does the church spend the time
- Highlight the most common
- Conclusions

**Publications**
- Review Content
- Review Quality
- Review Purpose

**Community Summary**
- Percept
- www.generalbaptist.com (National Missions Page)
- Other Web sites
**Lay Interview**
- Sent prior to the weekend
- Completed by as many as desire to give input
- Anonymous
- Results are summarized

**Face to Face Interviews**
- 10 -20 % of regular attendees
- 20 minute interviews
- Focus is on listening to the attitude and not just fact finding
- Results included in lay summary

**Informal Conversations**
- Listening for themes
- Determine the overall attitude
- Give people a chance to be heard

**Spiritual Gift Profile**

**Core Value Audit**
- Taken by all church leadership

**Interview – Staff one on one –Church board in a meeting**
- Attitude toward church
- Attitude toward community
- Attitude toward staff
- Dreams/Vision for the future
- Core Values

**Facility Walk Through**
- Pictures
- Form
- Conclusions

**Worship Observation**
- Sound/lights/Video
- Flow of Service
- Participation in Service
- Preaching
- Atmosphere
The Church Health Survey
- Choosing 30 people
- Scheduling a meeting
- Explaining the survey
- Do the Survey
- Interpreting the Results

The Church Health Process
- The Detailed Report
  - 90+ page report that gives a summary of lay responses organized by each category
- Insights Report
  - An additional report to understand the sub categories of each characteristic

The Assessment Weekend
- **Scheduling the Weekend**
- 3-4 Week Lead time
- Clear the church calendar
- Review Details

- **Sample Schedule**
- Friday Night
- Saturday
  - Facility
  - Board Meeting
  - Lay Interviews
  - Church Health Survey
- Sunday
  - --Worship
  - --Lunch
  - --Pastoral Staff Interviews
  - --Facility
  - --Travel Home
Components of the Report

• Church Health Report
• Life Cycle Report
• Statistical Review
• Leadership Profile
• Lay Responses
• Observations & Conclusions
• Recommendations
  - Worship and Facility included here