



## Compelling Christian Community

**Acts 2:42-47**

We understand that our love for one another is a powerful testimony to the deity of Jesus.

We love each other as we are, not as we should be.

We share life together beyond the worship service.

## Heartfelt Worship

**Psalms 138:1; John 4:23**

We exalt and celebrate God for who he is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do.

Worship reflects careful preparation to help give voice to many dimensions of response to God such as adoration, praise, contrition, lament, and commitment.

People leave worship knowing something more about the heart of God and about their own hearts.

## Sacrificial & Generous Living & Giving

**Romans 12:1-8**

We help people discover, develop and deploy their spiritual gifts.

We regularly, graciously, and unapologetically teach on the importance of financial stewardship in the spiritual growth of the Christian.

We have many examples of lifestyle choices being made on the basis of stewardship and the priority God plays in the lives of our members.

## Culture of Godly Leadership

**Hebrews 13:7**

Our leaders at all levels serve with character, competence, and conviction.

A spirit of collegiality pervades, with our people trusting our leaders and our leaders trusting our people.

We continually identify and train godly leaders for all dimensions of our ministry.

## Fruitful Organizational Structures

**Exodus 18:13-26, Acts 6:1-7**

We can articulate a compelling, Christ-honoring vision for our church.

We embrace evaluation as normal and natural and work through conflict constructively.

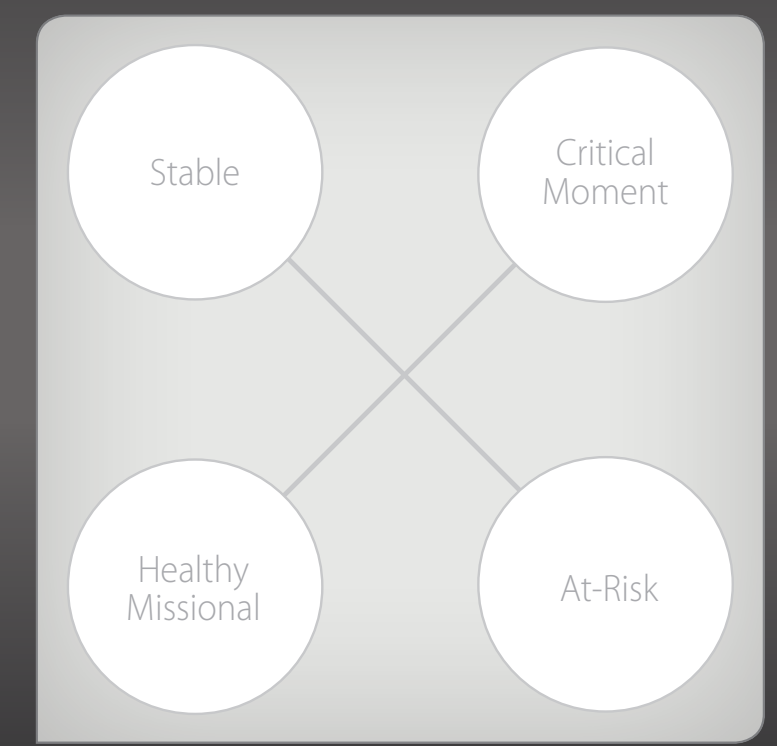
Our organizational structures are designed to be efficient at making decisions while at the same time building congregational ownership for those decisions.

## “X” Marks the Spot...

There are four types of established churches in the RCA: healthy missional, stable, critical moment, and at-risk. Using the ten healthy missional markers as a metric, mark an “X” where you would put your church. Draw an arrow from the “X” in the direction your church is moving.

### Rating Guide:

- **Healthy Missional:** The markers are strong (80-100 percent of the time)
- **Stable:** The markers are average (50-79 percent)
- **Critical Moment:** The markers are weakening (15-49 percent)
- **At-Risk:** The markers are faint or non-existent (0-14 percent)



For more information, contact your Pastor, Classis Vitality Team or visit

[rcawest.org/resources/health](http://rcawest.org/resources/health) or [vitalitypathway.org](http://vitalitypathway.org)

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# vitality

Congregational Vitality is about life, passion and awakening. It is a journey that is both adventurous and treacherous. There are no quick fixes.

We don't drift into congregational vitality. It doesn't just happen. There comes a point when a congregation makes the Spirit-filled decision to move forward and become a healthy missional church. By “healthy” we mean pursuing Christ. By “missional” we mean pursuing Christ's priorities in the world.

This easy-to-use resource provides a quick and helpful summary of the vitality pathway, the ten healthy missional markers, and the four types of established churches. Remember, prayer marks every step of the journey and we are in it together.

## Ten healthy, missional markers...

### Centrality of the Word of God

**2 Timothy 3:16**

We believe that the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

Our preaching and teaching in all settings reflects careful preparation, relevance, and creativity.

Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to study and apply Biblical truth in ways that lead to a scripturally integrated life.

### Life Transforming Walk with Jesus

**John 3:3, 30; Philippians 1:6**

We teach our people how to be attentive to Christ in all circumstances.

Our people understand the radical nature of the message and mission of Jesus that continually deconstructs and reconstructs a person's life.

Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to use a variety of spiritual growth resources, experiences, and settings.

### Intentional Evangelism

**Matthew 28:18-20**

We are burdened for the spiritual condition of those who do not yet know Christ.

We have identifiable pathways for evangelism to take place in our ministries.

Our people are growing in the ability to build spiritual friendships and equipped to share their faith as God-birthed opportunities arise.

### Transforming Communities through Compassion, Mercy, & Justice

**Micah 6:8**

We are burdened for the hurting people in our community and beyond.

We have identifiable pathways for compassion, mercy and justice ministries to take place.

Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to see and address the hurts and the causes of hurt in our community and beyond.

### Global Perspective & Engagement

**Acts 1:8**

We raise the sights of our members beyond our congregation and community by developing a Biblical worldview and often pray for and reference global matters.

We have identifiable pathways to support the cause of Christ globally.

Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to participate in the global dimensions of our ministry.





# congregational vitality pathway

VITALITY IS NOT A PROGRAM; IT IS A PATHWAY...a transformative process that occurs over time. With these excellent resources and supportive coaching along the way, many established churches are discovering hope as they walk the congregational vitality pathway. The answers are not in the information presented in this brochure; the answers are in the conversations you have about this information as the Holy Spirit leads and guides.

VIM Conversation  
with the Pastor and  
Church Leadership



Vitality Team

Relational Covenant



Service of  
Consecration  
Joshua 3:5



You shall know the truth  
and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32



Strategic Ministry  
Planning Team &  
Implementation

co-op



## Co-op Learning Community

Each pastor and Vitality Team leader will participate in a learning community. The group convenes to share progress, praises, and problems that we can mutually address. Participation helps the church to move along the Pathway at the most profitable pace.

veritas



## Telling the Truth about Congregational Vitality

A workshop that introduces the language of vitality, including the four types of churches and the ten healthy missional markers. The truth will set you free.

epic



## Empowering People, Inspiring Change

A workshop that offers tools for change management, including helpful constructs for your leadership and church. All living things change.

pulse



## A Congregational Vitality Assessment Tool

A congregational assessment that measures the currently reality and trajectory of your church using the *10 Healthy Missional Markers*.

one



## A Unifying Approach to Strategic Ministry Planning

A workshop that guides the Strategic Ministry Planning team in the discovery, development and deployment of a ministry plan. Jesus had a strategic plan.

