

Are You Leading a Zombie Church?

Take this ten-question quiz and find out

1. **Your typical congregant thinks the purpose of your church is to minister to the congregation.**
 - a. **True.** The typical member of our congregation thinks the purpose of the church is to minister to them.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I have no idea how the average congregant thinks about the purpose of our church.
 - c. **False.** Most members of our congregation believe that our church exists not only to minister to them, but to the community and the world around us.
2. **Your church's growth rate is lower than that of the zip code in which it is located.**
 - a. **True.** The community in which we are located is growing faster than our congregation.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I do not know the growth rate of my congregation or the community.
 - c. **False.** Our congregation is growing faster than the surrounding community.
3. **Your congregation's social-cultural-demographic makeup roughly reflects that of the zip code in which it is located.**
 - a. **True.** The makeup of our congregation is similar to the makeup of the neighborhood.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I don't know how to answer this question.
 - c. **False.** Our congregation is less diverse than the surrounding community.
4. **The makeup of your church's zip code is changing and your congregation is growing.**
 - a. **True.** Our neighborhood is in flux and our numbers are growing.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I'm not at all sure how the two compare.
 - c. **False.** Our neighborhood is changing and numbers are declining as long-time members leave (or die).
5. **Your congregation has an endowment.**
 - a. **True.** Our church has an unrestricted endowment.
 - b. **True.** Our church has a restricted endowment.
 - c. **False.** Our church has no endowment.
6. **The vestry (or board) has done a demographic study of the church's zip code in the last five years.**
 - a. **True.** Our vestry has conducted a demographic study and verified it "on foot."
 - b. **True.** Our vestry has conducted a demographic study but has not verified it.
 - c. **False.** Our vestry has not conducted a demographic study.
7. **The vestry (or board) has asked itself why your church exists at least once in the last three years.**
 - a. **True.** Yup. I've heard that asked...answered, too.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I don't really know.
 - c. **False.** I don't think so. Why would they do that?
8. **The vestry (or board) has asked why a ministry or program exists at least once in the last year.**
 - a. **True.** Indeed, the vestry regularly asks that question.
 - b. **Uncertain.** I don't recall. Maybe it was at one of the Vestry meetings I missed.
 - c. **False.** Wow! That would be awkward. I think not.
9. **The vestry (or board) has purposefully allowed at least one program or ministry to end and reported to the congregation what they have learned from the experience within the last three years.**

- a. **True.** Yes. I remember when they “retired” the [insert name here] program.
- b. **Uncertain.** I couldn’t tell you.
- c. **False.** Not on my watch!

10. The average active participant in the congregation can describe in one or two sentences the congregation’s vision/mission.

- a. **True.** Yes. I hear it every Sunday.
- b. **Uncertain.** I’m not sure.
- c. **False.** Nope. Don’t think I’ve ever heard it spoken. What was that slogan?

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