

**PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON  
CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT  
SESSION REPORT FORM (REVISED NOVEMBER 2017)**

CONGREGATION: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Sessions within the Presbytery of Hamilton are asked to conduct an assessment of the health of their congregations, using the Congregational Health Criteria, and to forward a summary of the results to the Presbytery. The document found in the following pages has been developed as a template for preparing a report of the session's findings.

Once completed, please forward to the Visitation committee of Presbytery

c/o the Clerk [hampresby@gmail.com](mailto:hampresby@gmail.com)

**REPORT PART I:**

**SELECTION OF CHARACTERISTICS WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Please read and consider each of the characteristics on the following pages.

Choose all characteristics that apply to your congregation. Indicate your choices by placing an “x” in the left-hand column.

Support your choices by providing specific examples. You are welcome as well to provide additional comments.

**A. Overall Health and Leadership**

	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Specific Examples</b>
	<b>A1:</b> The congregation has a clear sense of mission that is founded in the Gospel, and supported by the leadership.	
	<b>A2:</b> The leadership of the congregation seeks to understand the community context in which they abide, and is visible and vibrant in that community.	
	<b>A3:</b> The process of decision-making is clear and effective.	
	<b>A4:</b> The leadership of the congregation seeks to identify and equip new leaders.	
	<b>A5:</b> Communication is open.	
	<b>A6:</b> Conflict is dealt with in a spirit of love and understanding.	
	<b>A7:</b> The congregation is not mission focused, but driven by self-preservation.	
	<b>A8:</b> The congregation is inward-looking and makes no difference in the surrounding community.	
	<b>A9:</b> Decisions are not broadly based.	
	<b>A10:</b> Leaders are long established. There are no new leaders being developed.	
	<b>A11:</b> Communication is limited.	
	<b>A12:</b> Conflict or tension interferes with effective operation.	
	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	

## B. Worship

	Characteristic	Specific Examples
	<b>B1:</b> Worship nurtures people's faith by allowing them to encounter God corporately and in their daily lives.	
	<b>B2:</b> The membership of the church (those on the roll) is accurately reflected in attendance at worship and in participation in the life of the church.	
	<b>B3:</b> Worship engages those in attendance.	
	<b>B4:</b> Worship has clear biblical and theological foundations.	
	<b>B5:</b> Worship equips people to share their faith with others.	
	<b>B6:</b> Visitors are frequent.	
	<b>B7:</b> Worship fails to engage those in attendance. Few people involved in worship.	
	<b>B8:</b> Attendance at worship is very low (small percentage of membership). The roll is not properly maintained (many inactive members).	
	<b>B9:</b> Visitors are infrequent, and very rarely return.	
	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	

### C. Discipleship

	Characteristic	Specific Examples
	<b>C1:</b> Opportunities exist for all members to be “equipped with practical guidance for living one’s faith in the world.”	
	<b>C2:</b> Discipleship activities are carefully structured to build up followers of Christ, at various ages and/or stages.	
	<b>C3:</b> People talk about the role of their faith in their life during the week.	
	<b>C4:</b> Faithful leaders continue to be identified and engaged in discipleship ministries.	
	<b>C5:</b> There is some emphasis on newcomers.	
	<b>C6:</b> Discipleship opportunities are structured to appeal to newcomers and to engage them in a faith journey.	
	<b>C7:</b> Members are equipped to share their faith with others.	
	<b>C8:</b> New leaders are being identified and mentored to ensure continuity of programs as the congregation grows.	
	<b>C9:</b> There are few opportunities for discipleship.	
	<b>C10:</b> Programs for children and youth are virtually non-existent.	
	<b>C11:</b> There may be great difficulty in finding leaders for discipleship programs.	
	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	

**D. Fellowship**

	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Specific Examples</b>
	<b>D1:</b> Opportunities exist for all members to be involved intentionally in the sharing of God's love with each other.	
	<b>D2:</b> New members can be integrated into the community of faith, and feel that they are part of the Body of Christ.	
	<b>D3:</b> Apart from the post-service coffee hour, there are few opportunities for members to be in relationship with each other.	
	<b>D4:</b> Fellowship consists mainly of closed gatherings for members.	
	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	

**E. Mission**

	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Specific Examples</b>
	<b>E1:</b> The congregation addresses need in the community within and beyond the walls of the church.	
	<b>E2:</b> The community (both within and beyond) knows that the church meets needs and heals in Jesus' name.	
	<b>E3:</b> The congregation uses its knowledge of the community in which it abides to be effective witnesses to Christ within that context.	
	<b>E4:</b> The congregation and its leaders are active in welcoming the community and bringing new people to (or back to) Christ.	
	<b>E5:</b> The congregation is growing rapidly as the community responds to a visibly active congregation.	
	<b>E6:</b> The congregation is not engaged in mission activities (beyond an occasional food drive and/or PWS&D appeal).	
	<b>E7:</b> There is no active mission group (or there is one that has little impact).	
	<b>E8:</b> The needs of the congregation are so pressing that there are no financial or human resources available to reach beyond their own walls.	
	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>	

**F. Stewardship**

	<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Specific Examples</b>
	<b>F1:</b> The resources of the church (finances and building) match the size and structure of the congregation.	
	<b>F2:</b> Members give of their time and income “with glad and generous hearts” to sustain the work of the church, as well as maintain the building.	
	<b>F3:</b> The congregation makes a reasonable attempt to meet its suggested allocation to Presbyterians Sharing.	
	<b>F4:</b> There are resources (human and financial) for mission and service in the community.	
	<b>F5:</b> Members give of their time and income “with glad and generous hearts” to further the ministry of the church.	
	<b>F6:</b> The human resources of the church are strategically allocated to grow the congregation.	
	<b>F7:</b> Grants may be used as seed money, but givings are increasing such that the church is expected to become sustainable by the time grant money runs out.	
	<b>F8:</b> Mission may be supported by church sources outside the congregation in situations where mission in this community is needed.	
	<b>F9:</b> The congregation is unable to maintain the church property on a day-to-day basis, or has significant repair needs they are unable to fund.	
	<b>F10:</b> The congregation has been depleting capital assets to pay for current expenses over several years.	
	<b>F11:</b> Commitment to Presbyterians Sharing falls far short of the suggested allocation, and the congregation struggles or is unable to meet this commitment.	
	<b>F12:</b> Much of current income is from sources beyond congregational givings (rentals).	

Report Part I: Selection of Characteristics with Specific Examples and Additional Comments

	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b>
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**REPORT PART II:**  
**ONE-PAGE SUMMARY**

In this section of the report you are asked to transfer your selections from Part I to the one-page summary document that follows.

If you are working on paper, use highlighter pen to mark the same characteristics selected in Part I.

If you are completing this report on computer, use BOLD COLOURED font to mark the same characteristics selected in Part I.

Report Part II: One-Page Summary

	<b>Sustainable</b>	<b>Strategic</b>	<b>Unsustainable</b>
<b>Overall Health and Leadership</b>	<b>A1:</b> Mission: clear, Gospel foundations, leadership support		<b>A7:</b> Mission: no mission focus; self-preservation
	<b>A2:</b> Visible and vibrant in community: understood by leadership		<b>A8:</b> No community impact; inward-looking
	<b>A3:</b> Decision-making: clear effective process		<b>A9:</b> Decision-making: not broadly based
	<b>A4:</b> New leaders: identified, equipped		<b>A10:</b> New leaders: none
	<b>A5:</b> Communication: open		<b>A11:</b> Communication: limited
	<b>A6:</b> Conflict: with love and understanding		<b>A12:</b> Conflict: interferes with effectiveness
<b>Worship</b>	<b>B1:</b> Faith: nurtured by encountering God together and in daily life		<b>B7:</b> Worshippers not engaged; few involved in worship
	<b>B2:</b> Membership roll: active	<b>B5:</b> Equipped to share faith with others	<b>B8:</b> Membership roll: many inactive; very low attendance
	<b>B3:</b> Engages worshippers	<b>B6:</b> Visitors: frequent	<b>B9:</b> Visitors: infrequent; rarely return
	<b>B4:</b> Clear biblical/theological foundations		
<b>Discipleship</b>	<b>C1:</b> Opportunities: for all	<b>C5:</b> Some newcomer emphasis	<b>C9:</b> Opportunities: few
	<b>C2:</b> All ages/stages built up as Christians	<b>C6:</b> Appeal to newcomers: engage in faith journey	<b>C10:</b> Children/youth: no programs
	<b>C3:</b> Role of faith in daily life: talk openly	<b>C7:</b> Equipped to share faith	
	<b>C4:</b> Leaders: identified, equipped	<b>C8:</b> New leaders: identified, mentored	<b>C11:</b> Leaders: none or hard to find
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>D1:</b> Opportunities: for all		<b>D3:</b> Opportunities: only coffee hour
	<b>D2:</b> New members: integrated; feel part of Body of Christ		<b>D4:</b> Closed gatherings for members
<b>Mission</b>	<b>E1:</b> Addresses community needs		<b>E6:</b> No mission activities
	<b>E2:</b> Community knows church's work		<b>E7:</b> No active mission group
	<b>E3:</b> Effective witnesses to Christ	<b>E5:</b> Rapid church growth as community responds	<b>E8:</b> Congregation's needs dominate: no money/people for outreach
	<b>E4:</b> Welcome community, bring to Christ		
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>F1:</b> Funds and building match congregation	<b>F5:</b> Members give generously (time/\$) to further ministry	<b>F9:</b> Building: cannot maintain
	<b>F2:</b> Members give generously (time/\$) to sustain ministry and building	<b>F6:</b> Human resources: used strategically for growth	<b>F10:</b> Capital assets being depleted for operational expenses for several years
	<b>F3:</b> Presbyterians Sharing: allocation is met	<b>F7:</b> Givings increasing: will be enough when grants run out	<b>F11:</b> Presbyterians Sharing: allocation not met
	<b>F4:</b> Human and financial resources used for mission and service in community	<b>F8:</b> May receive outside \$, if community needs this ministry	<b>F12:</b> Much current income: from sources other than member givings (rentals)

## Post-exercise

Now that you have completed this exercise:

1. What did your Session learn about the congregation by doing this exercise? (anything surprise you?)
2. What will be your next step(s) in response to what you learned?
3. What would you need in order to act upon what you have learned, and is there anything that Presbytery might do to encourage or assist you in some next steps? (try to be as specific as possible)