



Mission Church Survey Tool

Presentation for Ministers,
leaders, elders, councils,
sessions or leadership
teams



Provided by the Mission Work
Group, Presbytery Central
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What this Presentation Covers



Common Terms around Mission



Why measurement is so important for creating and sustaining missional culture



Overview of the Mission Tool



Overview of the Survey



Reviewing - the most important step



Feeding back and celebrating

A definition of some common terms and concepts related to mission

Term	A definition
Evangelism or sharing God's good news	Our activities as God's people, that aim for a response to God's good news or gospel. Refer Jesus' words in Mark 1:15 'The time has come...the Kingdom of God is at hand. <i>Repent and believe in the good news.</i> '
Gospel or good news	The good news, as revealed in Jesus Christ, that God loves the world and is reconciling the world back to God.
Kingdom of God or God's Kingdom	The reign or supremacy of God; the ultimate aim of God's mission.
Missio Dei	Latin for 'The Mission of God'. God's self-revelation as the One who loves the world through God's involvement in and with the world and the church. It enunciates the good news that God is a God-for-people.
Mission	Our committed participation as God's people, at God's initiative and command, in God's own mission for the redemption of God's creation.

A definition of some common terms and concepts related to mission

Term	A definition
Missional	Activities, values etc that relate to the mission of the church and God
Missional culture (in a church)	A church whose patterns and values of shared life are shaped by the <i>priority</i> of being and participating in God's mission.
Missional leadership	A way of leading that has, <i>at its heart</i> , the formation of God's people as a sign and foretaste of God's Kingdom, and a faithful instrument of God's mission.
Public Witness	Our activities as God's people that reflect God's love, justice and mercy to everyone; especially the poor and vulnerable. It also includes our response to care of God's creation.



Why measurement is so important

For creating and
sustaining
missional culture
in churches



Five-minute exercise (in pairs)

- If you are responsible for handing in a report to your council or session regularly
 - What activities do you regularly report on?
 - Why do you choose to emphasize these activities, as opposed to other activities you do in your role?
- If you don't hand in a regular report
 - Share what you mostly focus on when giving feedback on what you do during your average week
 - Why do you choose to focus on these activities, as opposed to others?



If church leaders are aware of this mechanism and are systematic in what they pay attention to, it becomes a powerful way of communicating **what's important**



What we pay attention to...

In our reports and agenda items

In church notices

Sermons as well as informal discussions

What you particularly focus on in your role

Even casual remarks and questions that are consistently geared to a certain area or focus are very powerful

It's about consistency rather than intensity

- The most important aspect of measurement is **consistency** rather than intensity
 - How often do you offer feedback on how your church is doing in your collective response to God's mission?

Reflection exercise:

1. Imagine if your church started offering feedback every month at your church's service on how children are growing in their Christian faith
 1. What impact do you think it would have on you?
 2. How impact do you think it would have on children? On caregivers or parents of children?

Missional
measurements,
if used and
communicated
well, have a
flow-on effect...



It helps you allocate resources to your missional life



It opens the way for you and other leaders to deliberately role-model faithful discipleship (a key attribute of missional leadership)



It helps new members pick up the behaviours and values of missional culture

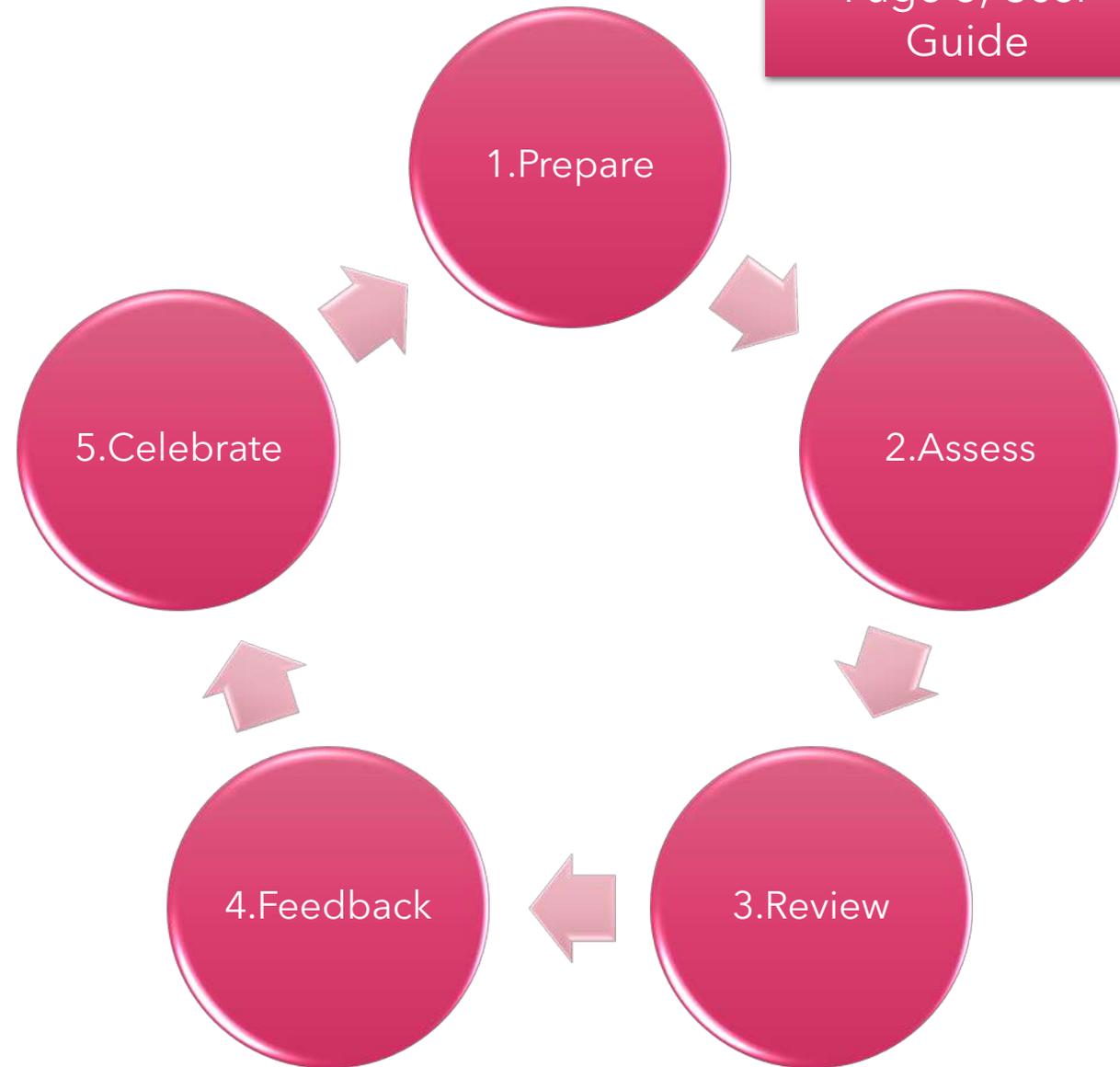
Mission Church Survey Tool

Enabling you to self-assess your missional well-being and life

Note: This part of the presentation draws from the User Guide. You will see page references that help link what is being presented back to the User Guide

Assessing our missional life
enables us to see, with fresh eyes,
that we are doing and being *what
God cares most about*

Overview of how to use the Mission Survey Tool





PRESBYTERY CENTRAL

Nukuhau Tapu

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Welcome to **Presbytery Central**

Presbytery Central is the regional body for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand in the lower North Island. There are [Presbyterian and Union Churches](#), [Church schools](#), [Presbyterian Support \(a social agency\)](#) and various chaplaincies in the regions of Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington and Gisborne Hawkes Bay.

Newsflash

Central Gathering

Central Gathering, learning and fellowship for any Presbyterians in the region is on Saturday March 14th at St Alban's, Palmerston North! Find out more [HERE](#)



Click on this button to access the Mission Survey Tools

News

Workgroups

Resources

Find a Church

Calendar

Survey Tool



What's available in the Church Mission Survey tool kit

(this presentation)
PowerPoint
Presentation to
councils or sessions
(available in PDF too)

A User Guide
(handout)

- This is available today to anyone who is not attending one of the workshops tomorrow

Link to the online
questionnaire

Link to the paper-
based questionnaire
for downloading (PDF)

Link to an example-
report

Contact information
for support

1. Prepare When to use this tool

It's **good** to use this tool when:

- It's been at least three months since you've done a mission plan or reviewed your missional life.
- There is a genuine desire from the leadership team to assess and strengthen your missional life or well-being

It's **not good** to use this tool when:

- Your church is currently in, or recently undergone, a substantial change.
- You are dealing with a significant conflict situation.
- Your church is unfamiliar with missional language and concepts.

1. Prepare cont'd

- Work through the Mission Survey Tool Presentation before you begin the process
- Agree a high-level communicate and change plan *before* you start
- Communicate an overview of the full process to the congregation

2. Assess

Surveying five key areas of our church



Worship



Fellowship and hospitality outside of church services



Deepening our Faith

Key spiritual disciplines
Ministry activities
Attending a small group or equivalent



Sharing the good news



Public witness

2. *Assess* Online or Paper-based questionnaire

- Refer User Guide on Page 11



2. Assess Example of a report to council or session

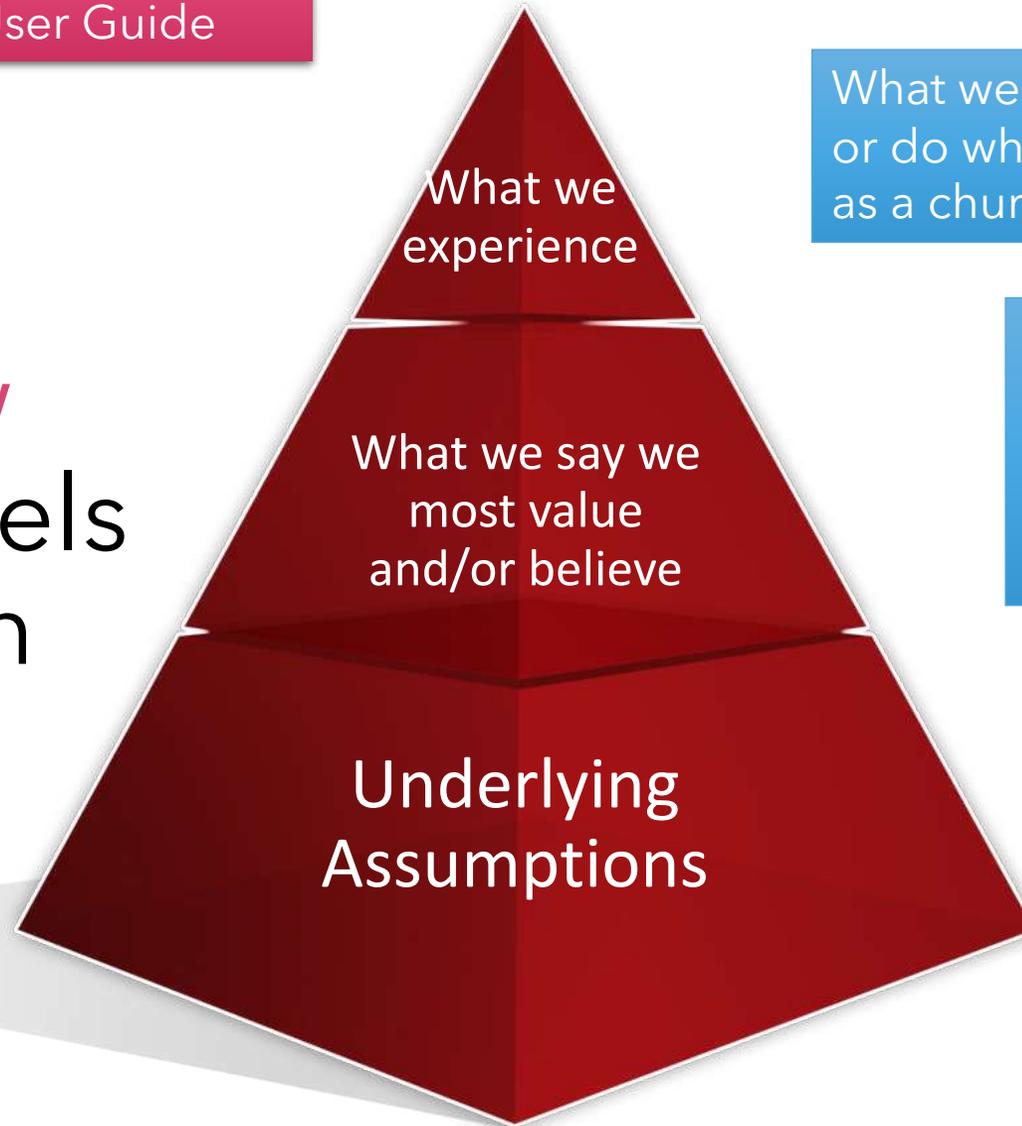
- Refer User Guide on Page 17

3. Review Identifying Underlying Assumptions

Interpreting the data in the report so it meaningfully informs you of your church's missional well-being is the most challenging step. ***Of all the steps in the Church Mission Survey Process, this is often the most misunderstood or neglected step in church-culture review and change processes.***

3. Review

The 3 levels of Church Culture



What we see, feel, hear or do when gathered as a church

Shared values and beliefs of our church, such as the Scriptures, *Kupu Whakapono*, PCANZ Book of Order etc.

Unconscious, taken for granted beliefs and values that 'standardise' our behaviours

3. Review Underlying Assumptions in churches

- All churches have underlying assumptions
- They are taken-for-granted-assumptions that 'standardize' church's behaviour
- What we do and experience will mirror the underlying assumption - ***even if it is at odds with the shared values or beliefs of God's mission***
- They tend to be non-confrontable and even non-debatable - and as a result, they can be very difficult to change if they are at odds with being missional or faithful to what God calls us to be and do as a church

3. Review Example of how the 3 levels of church culture align and don't align

Your experience, value and assumption are aligned

- **Experience:** People make an effort to engage me
- **What we most value:** We are a friendly church
- **Underlying Assumption:** We are a friendly church

Your experience, value and assumptions aren't aligned

- **Experience:** I often feel awkward standing around at morning tea time, as no one talks to me
- **What we most value:** We are a friendly church
- **Underlying Assumption:** We value those we know more than those we don't, or, we are cautious of strangers, or...

3. Review Need help with underlying assumptions?

If you need help with knowing how to identify and name underlying assumptions, please email any one of the following people who can give you a hand:

Allister Lane at missions@presbyterycentral.org.nz

Sally Carter at revsally.carter@gmail.com

Susan Blaikie at pncsusan@inspire.net.nz

3. Review Need help managing changes for strengthening your missional life?

If you need help with knowing how to plan, manage and/or communicate changes in strengthening the missional life of your church, please email any one of the following people who can give you a hand:

Allister Lane at missions@presbyterycentral.org.nz

Sally Carter at revsally.carter@gmail.com

Susan Blaikie at pncsusan@inspire.net.nz

3. Review Key Steps and tips



Identify key data-trends



Spend time exploring and 'naming' underlying assumptions that 'generate' the trends you're identifying



Explore how the underlying assumptions line up with shared values and behaviours of a healthy missional church



Celebrate where all three levels align!



Where they don't, focus on underlying assumptions you believe erode your missional well-being

4. Feedback to the wider congregation

1

Be generous with
hospitality

2

Be prepared for
anxiety if
challenging
underlying
assumptions

3

Finish off with Hope
and Prayer

5. Celebrate

Changes to church culture 'stick' when the new way of doing things actually works better

5. Celebrate

It's good to celebrate when...



It's been at least six months since you last celebrated your missional life



You're beginning to see early fruit you want to make known



You're beginning to see old patterns of behaviour (that erode your missional life) re-emerging

5. Celebrate When celebrating...

1

Be generous with hospitality

2

Encourage people to share positive stories and experiences

3

Name and reinforce the missional values and behaviours you're working toward

4

Finish off with Hope and Prayer



End of presentation