



## A summary overview of the EPC Church Health Process

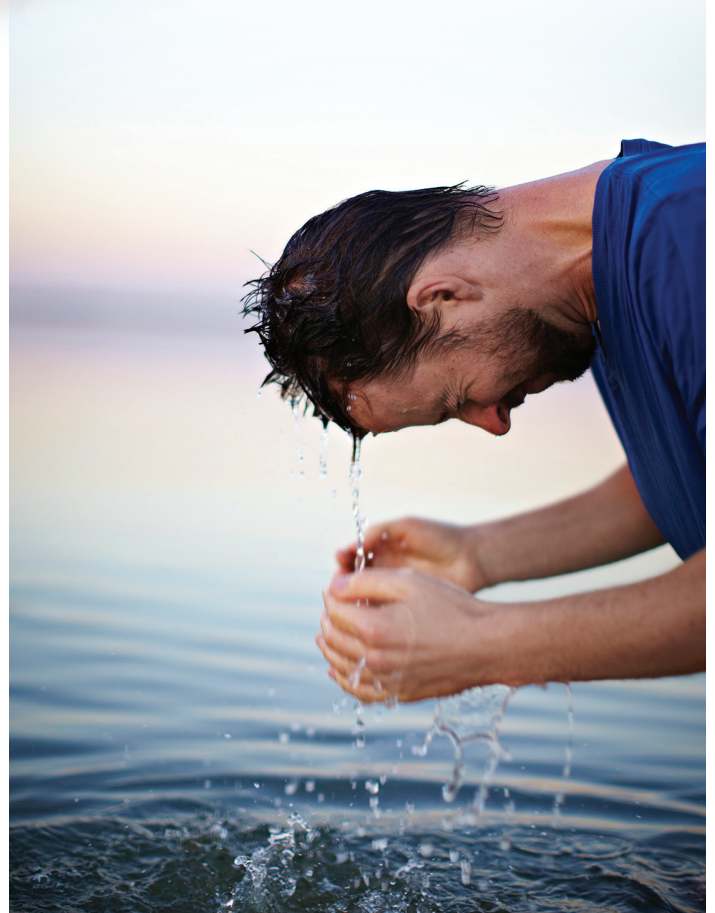
### 1 The Biblical Imperative

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*  
(Luke 19:10 ESV)

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

There are two imperatives in the Great Commission: "make disciples" and "surely" or "behold" or "be sure of this" in the NLT. There are three modifiers of these imperatives: "as you are going", "baptizing," and "teaching." This is the main thing for the life of Christians and the Lord's Church.





## 2 Discussion Questions

- a. What do the biblical imperatives say to Christians and the Church?
- b. In what ways is our church measurably fulfilling the Great Commission?
- c. If our church continues exactly as it is today, in our best estimation what will our church's ministry look like in five years?
- d. As best as we can discern, how does God want to express Himself through our church and in our community at this time?
- e. How do we foster a healthy combination of "spiritual renewal" (seeking out and depending on God) with "strategic initiative" (responding intentionally to God's leading)?

## 3 Vital Truths to Remember

- a. NOT God's vision for our church, BUT our church for God's vision.
- b. NOT once the congregation is on board we will begin to reach the community, BUT once we begin to reach the community the congregation will get on board.
- c. NOT how do we minister TO our congregation, BUT how do we minister THROUGH our congregation.
- d. We SERVE the community to build RELATIONSHIPS with people for the privilege to SHARE the gospel.





## 4 A Snapshot – “Five Phases of Vitalization”




### PHASE 3 – Aligning Strategy: What are we going to do?

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How do we make contact with those we are trying to reach?
2. How will we develop those we are trying to reach once we've made contact?

#### TOOLS:


- Great Commission Matrix 
- Review Purpose of Church Ministry (e.g. *Simple Church*)
- Establish an Implementation Team
- Coaching

### PHASE 1 – Aligning Perception: Who are we?

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What will we discover about ourselves?
2. What will we do in the light of what we discover?

#### TOOLS:


- Refocus seminar 
- Self-Assessments:
  - Life-Cycle Analysis
  - Missional Posture Survey
  - Ideal Church Leadership
  - SWOT Analysis

### PHASE 4 – Aligning Structure: How are we going to function?

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What are the criteria for decision-making and resource allocation?
2. How does leadership function?

#### TOOLS:


- Great Commission Matrix 
- Review Complexity of Church Ministry (e.g. *Simple Church*)
- Coaching

### PHASE 2 – Aligning Vision: Who is God sending us to?

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How does God want to express Himself through this church in this community at this time?
2. What did God mean by that?  
(making adjustments)

#### TOOLS:


- 50 Days to Vitality 
- Session study of Nehemiah
- Leadership training (e.g. *Leadership Ladder*, *EPC Leadership Training Guide*, *Ruling Elder Exam Handbook*)
- Forming a Vision Team & Prayer Teams
- Coaching

### PHASE 5 – Aligning People: How will we get everyone involved?

#### KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How will we get people involved?
2. On whom does the future depend?

#### TOOLS:

- Spiritual Gifts Inventory 
- (e.g. *Uniquely You*)
- Coaching



## 5 Steps of the Church Health Process

### To Start

- Identify a baseline regarding a church’s posture toward outreach and the function and attitude of its leadership.
- Determine the general preparedness of church leadership (pastors, session, and key ministry leaders) to participate in the church health process.
- Clarify expectations of the church leadership in light of the church health process.

### STEP 1 – Church Preparation

- Present an overview of the Church Health Process and determines if the leadership is ready to participate.
- Send the church leadership (1) The “Missional Posture” and (2) The “Ideal Church Leadership” self-assessment surveys for each leader to complete.
- Church Health Coordinator scores the completed assessments.
- Church Health Coordinator assigns a coach (matching the attributes and gifts of the coach with the church).
- Interpret self-assessment surveys with church leadership.

- Lead the church leadership through the key elements of “Refocus – an overview of the EPC Church Health Process” emphasizing:
  - ▶ The importance of balancing spiritual renewal with strategic initiative,
  - ▶ The five (5) aligning phases of vitalization,
  - ▶ Awareness of the distinctive characteristics of church life cycles – incline (growing in ministry capacity and effectiveness), recline (stagnant in ministry capacity and effectiveness), or decline (decreasing in ministry capacity and effectiveness)
  - ▶ Understanding the Great Commission Matrix – incorporating outreach, evangelism, and discipleship into every ministry of the church
- Encourage the church leadership and congregation to participate in the “50 Days to Vitality” – a devotional study to prepare for the vitality seminar.





## STEP 2 – Setting the Stage – Forming the Vision Team & Prayer Team

- Church leadership chooses individuals to serve as the Vision Team, who will be the team to discern, develop, and move the church health process forward to develop a “Church Life and Ministry Vision.”
- The Vision Team members will first choose a small team of folks (3 or 4 per team member) to serve as their prayer support.
- The Vision Team will meet with a church health coach as necessary to work through “The Five Phases of Vitalization,” which outlines the alignment process for developing fruitful ministry.

## STEP 3 – Forming the Implementation Team

- Following the Session’s approval of the “Church Life and Ministry Vision” developed by the Vision Team, an Implementation Team is established consisting of 2 members of the Vision Team, 2 current Elders of Session, and 3-5 congregation members with a “get-er-done” attitude and giftedness.
- The Implementation Team is charged with the task of developing a detailed action plan of how to put the “Church Life and Ministry Vision” into action. (Having this team develop an action plan, allows the Session to attend to the ongoing ministry of the congregation.)
- The Implementation Team asks and answers these questions: (1) Given who we are trying to reach, how will we reach them? (2) What do we need to do to make the “Church Life and Ministry Vision” work? (3) How will we build relationships with those we are trying to reach?
- Following the development of a strategic action plan, and timeline, the Implementation Team begins to implement the plan, seeking the Session’s guidance, approvals, and financing as needed along the way.





## 6 What a Healthy Church Looks Like – Using The Great Commission Matrix

**A healthy church** incorporates the three elements of outreach, evangelism, and discipleship in every aspect of their life and ministry.

- ✓ The key to leveraging the Great Commission Matrix effectively is the principle of ministry **THROUGH** the congregation rather than **TO** the congregation.



- ✓ People in the congregation will grow in the faith when they are giving ministry rather than when they are receiving ministry.
- ✓ Every ministry is a front door ministry. The Great Commission Matrix positions every ministry area of the church as a front door.
- ✓ Every ministry area develops the capacity to provide Outreach, Evangelism, and Discipleship.
- ✓ The Great Commission Matrix strategically defines and shapes the Great Commission commitment of a church, all to the glory of God!





## How to Use the Great Commission Matrix

1. Place the name(s) of your church's ministry groups, as many as there are (e.g. Christian Education, Deacons, Youth, Women's Ministry, etc.) one per box in the boxes across the top of the diagram below marked Min 1, Min 2, Min 3, etc.
2. Each ministry group prayerfully discerns, develops, and lists 1-3 strategies for each ministry area of Discipleship, Evangelism, and Outreach. These strategies guide each ministry groups' planning and execution of ministry.
3. At the end of any given ministry year, utilizing The Great Commission Matrix, evaluate ministry outcomes, according to the ministry strategies completed.
4. The Matrix can also guide budget allocations.

## The Great Commission Matrix

(all ministry contains three disciplines)

	Min 1	Min 2	Min 3	Min 4	Min 5	Min 6
<b>D</b> Disciples!	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3
<b>E</b> Make!	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3
<b>O</b> Go!	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3	Strategy 1 Strategy 2 Strategy 3

<p>Matthew 28:16-20</p> <p>Luke 19:10</p> <p>John 4:23</p> <p>Romans 12:1-2</p>	<p><b>Seeking the Lost and Seeking True Worshipers</b></p> <p><b>Matthew 9:35-38</b></p> <p><i>The Gathering of the Saints (noun and verb)</i></p>
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