

Church Health Engagement Strategy



Canadian Baptists
OF WESTERN CANADA



Inviting Faith. Acting in Mercy. Cultivating Leaders.

What Does a Healthy Church Look Like?

When Might it be Time to Look at Your Church's Health?

Healthy churches

- are convicted that they exist for Christ's glory
- are determined to seek God's will
- have passion to fulfill their unique mission and respond to new ministry opportunities
- attend equally to their outward and inward focus
- serve and fellowship in community
- adapt to change honestly and transparently
- respond to past and present conflict with grace
- honour the gifting and perspective of attendees
- do their ministries well, not half-heartedly



Like individual Christians who are constantly changing and reflecting on their relationship with God, churches can benefit from assessing their church health frequently, especially during the following:

Periods of change

- Leadership changes
- Changing demographics
- Changing ministry focus
- Restructuring staff or programs

Before New Developments

- Adding new ministry positions
- Before capital gains or new partnerships
- adding new ministries or programs
- relocating or expanding facilities

Semi-Annually

- identifying priorities and goals
- uncovering unique strengths and gifts
- identifying community needs
- vision-based budgeting

If your church wants to renew its health, one of the best places to start is through the CBWC's Church Health Engagement Process. Contact our Church Health Strategist, Sam Breakey, at sbreakey@cbwc.ca or contact your Regional Minister.

Sam and the ministry team will facilitate a process individually tailored to the needs of your church. It takes into account the church's history, knowledge, understanding and needs. It is a three-part process that includes:

- phone and onsite interviews and adaptable assessment tools will be used to create a preliminary understanding of current health
- an onsite weekend visit by a church health team to discuss the church's history, strengths, opportunities and limitations with the congregation
- development of a strategy as a measuring stick for moving forward
- providing resources to engage in fruitful ministry

What Kind of Results Can We Expect?

The Church Health Engagement Initiative can lead to:

- an increased level of transparency and trust within the congregation
- a new willingness to respond to opportunities
- a recommitment to evangelism and discipleship
- a better understanding of the assets and needs of the church community

The cost of the Church Health Engagement Initiative is borne jointly by the participating congregation and the CBWC.

Contact Sam at sbreakey@cbwc.ca or 800-474-6018 or contact your Regional Minister to find out more about the Church Health Engagement Initiative.

WE ARE LISTENING!

Our church leadership is about to engage in a *listening exercise* provided by Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. Part of our process will include the use of an all church survey called the Church Health Assessment Tool (CHATSM) by Leadership Transformations.

This web-based survey will allow us to collect valuable feedback from both the congregation and the leadership team regarding their views on our church health. This tool is based on the "10 Traits of Vital Ministry" from the book *Becoming a Healthy Church* (Dr. Stephen A. Macchia, Baker Books, 1999). We welcome all congregants, to participate in the survey.

Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts with us. Your feedback will help us shape strategic decisions and encourage future ministry effectiveness.

To participate in the survey between October 20 and November 2:

1. Get on the internet and go to www.HealthyChurch.net
2. Click on the button that says "Take the Survey" on the left side of the screen.
3. Use the following information to log in:
Congregation Username: [REDACTED]
Congregation Password: [REDACTED]

Give us your honest feedback. Please be assured that your personal comments will only be seen by the CBWC representatives. (The survey takes 20-25 minutes to complete.)

If you don't have a computer/internet access, there are paper copies in the foyer or you can contact the church office at 604-737-1069 and we'll make sure you get a paper copy of the survey.

SAM BREAKEY MINISTRY BIO

Sam Breakey is the Church Health Strategist for Canadian Baptist of Western Canada. His office is located in Edmonton but he works with congregations throughout the west.

He has served in a number of ministry positions, including Lead Pastor and Alberta Regional Minister, within Canadian Baptists of Western Canada during the past twenty years. Previously he served with Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He oversaw the two year intentional transition, as Lead Pastor, of one of the largest Baptist congregations in Western Canada. His experience also includes being the Executive Director of the Mustard Seed, a respected ministry to people living in poverty in Edmonton, and a three year term as the Operations Manager of a custom home building company in Ontario.

He is passionate about helping people and organizations examine their health and their context, while empowering them to move towards a robust future, fully dependent upon Jesus Christ.

Sam and his wife Nancy were married in 1981. Nancy teaches instrumental music at Hardisty School in Edmonton. They have three married children and three grandchildren.

When Sam has free time, he focuses on family life, building furniture, and renovating their home and cabin. Frequently he can be found helping his neighbours doing the same.

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