

Vital Signs



- Review your situation
- Identify your context
- Create your Vision
- Articulate your mission
- Name your values
- Set your goals
- Action your priorities



Your Vision: The vision statement is *where you are heading* – “we will be/see.” Vision is future-orientated and focuses on where we are going. A church vision is an idealistic dream, so it inspires and speaks to the heart. A vision is ‘seen’ with the eyes of faith and is ‘felt’, bringing shape to tomorrow. The vision reveals the destination, to be steered and moved towards.



- Future tense, future orientated. (1-5years)
- We will be...
- Context driven
- Asks; what is your WHY
- Is aspirational and idealistic
- Looks forward, brings clarity
- What does success look like
- Emphasis on unity, going forward, community facing, togetherness.
- Easily repeated, short statement.

Vision
Future
The Where
The Going
Inspires
Seen
Tomorrow
The Dream



Your Mission: The mission statement is *what you do* – “we exist to...” The mission is focused on the present and what we need to be doing. A church mission is functional and purposeful. A mission statement makes today clear and is like a job description, bringing direction to what needs to be done.

The mission statement dictates what you exist to do, and the vision statement shows what doing that successfully will result in.

They are interwoven and interdependent, but they have different emphasis.

Mission
Present
The What
The Doing
Informs
Known
Today
The Purpose

Your Mission

- Present tense... today
- Is a doing statement
- We are... We exist to...
- Compels action
- Implies a sense of movement & direction
- Functional and purposeful
- Asks the 'what' question
- Gives clarity and informs



Your Values: Your values help articulate who you are and what you value most highly.



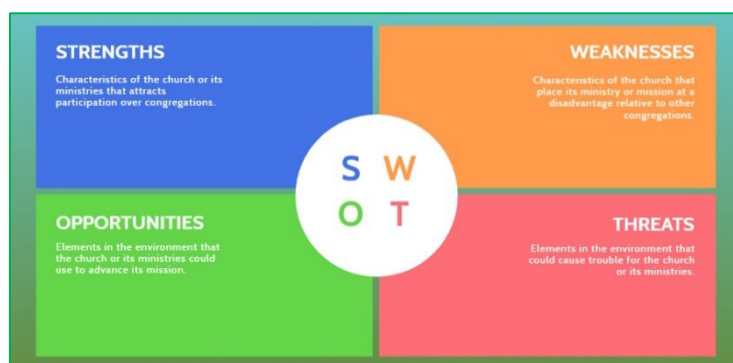
Values answer the question “who are we? what defines us? what is really important to us? What are the non-negotiables?”

Values guide your identity (who we say we are), your theology (who we say God is), and your activity (how we do what we do).

Values
Asks the who question
Influences behavior
Steers church culture
Are reality based
Shape Identity
Define key beliefs

Your Strengths and Weaknesses:

Once identified, both your strengths and weaknesses can be seen as opportunities for growth. Then they can be intentionally resourced, prioritised and actioned if they fit within the vision, mission and values. This could be done in the Review Process.

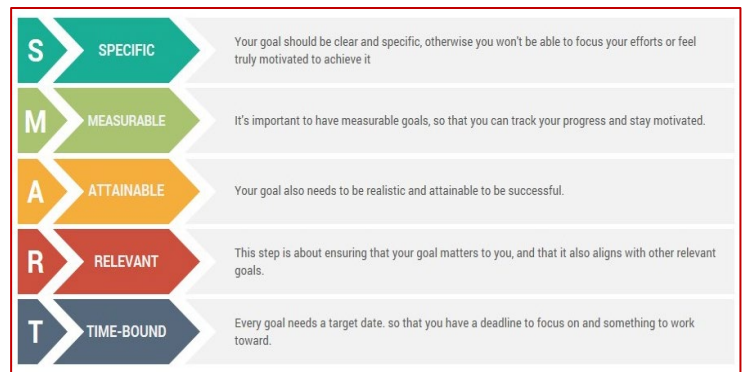


Your Priorities and Goals:

Once the vision, mission and values have been articulated, its now time to make them real. You might have a list as long as your arm about what you would like to do, but this needs to be trimmed down, made manageable, realistic and it needs to be carefully planned and adequately resourced.



Once the top 4 or 5 priorities have been set, goals will need to be made. This will make things more concrete and realisable, giving clarity and increasing capacity. Our aim is to translate squishy ministry goals into clear measures and SMART goals.



S Specific and Stretching

- A goal should be specific in its Aim and Objectives.
- Work on producing the best wording will pay dividends in the long-term.
- It should also take you on from your current situation.
- It shouldn't simply be a statement of what's already happening!

M Measurable

- It is important to be able to see results and, in order to do this, goals need to be measurable.
- Something vague like 'it would be good to see more people in church' is likely to cause disappointment. How many new people; by when?

A Achievable and Agreed

- Unachievable goals lead directly to guilt and anger
- Also, make sure that there is consensus, and that it isn't just one person's – or a small group's – bright idea.

R Relevant and Realistic

- Make the goal relevant to each situation. Every church, every community is different. Just because the Church down the road is doing something doesn't mean it will be right for you. It has to be your goal for your situation.
- Ensure, too, that it is realistic for your situation; nothing is more depressing than unrealistic goals.
- It can be good to include some early 'easy wins'. This will give encouragement to all involved in the process.

T Time Bound and Timely

- Say when the goal is to be achieved by. Then, at that point, it can either be ticked off, or reviewed.
- Fundraising thermometers outside a church, marked 1/10th of the way up, with paint peeling off it are less unhelpful and dreadful publicity!
- The timing of the goal should also be appropriate, in terms of what else is going on, and what other priorities are set.

Your Metrics for Review/Evaluation:

Metrics are a system of related measures that facilitate the measurement and evaluation of some particular characteristic or priority. There is no single measure that can indicate effectiveness in fulfilling the call God makes on our lives as the people of God. Our 'mission metrics' then are both qualitative and quantitative and are linked to the smart goals set.



The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word “crisis.”

One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity.

In a crisis, be aware of the danger; but recognize the opportunity.

John F. Kennedy



As a presbytery we are committed to helping and supporting churches in mission.

- **The Review process – called back:** self-evaluation and self-discovery. Asks where are we at right now
- **The Mission process – called forward:** how can we support you as you continue the journey of being the church on a mission, in this new generation. Asks where do you want to be in the future and helps map that process.
- **The Guideline for Mission Fund Applications:** called to resource missional initiatives. Asks how can we help and what do you need.

Definitions:



Term	Definition
Evangelism	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. Repent and believe in the good news.’ <i>Note: Evangelism is intertwined with Christian solidarity with the oppressed and the poor i.e., public witness</i>
Gospel	The good news, as revealed in Jesus Christ, that God loves the world and is reconciling the world back to God.
Kingdom of God	The reign or supremacy of God. It is the end-result of God’s mission i.e., a fully reconciled and restored creation in God. Refer Matthew 6:10 in the Lord’s prayer ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’
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.
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 priority of participating in 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.