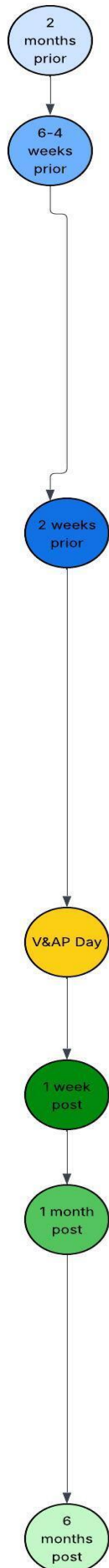


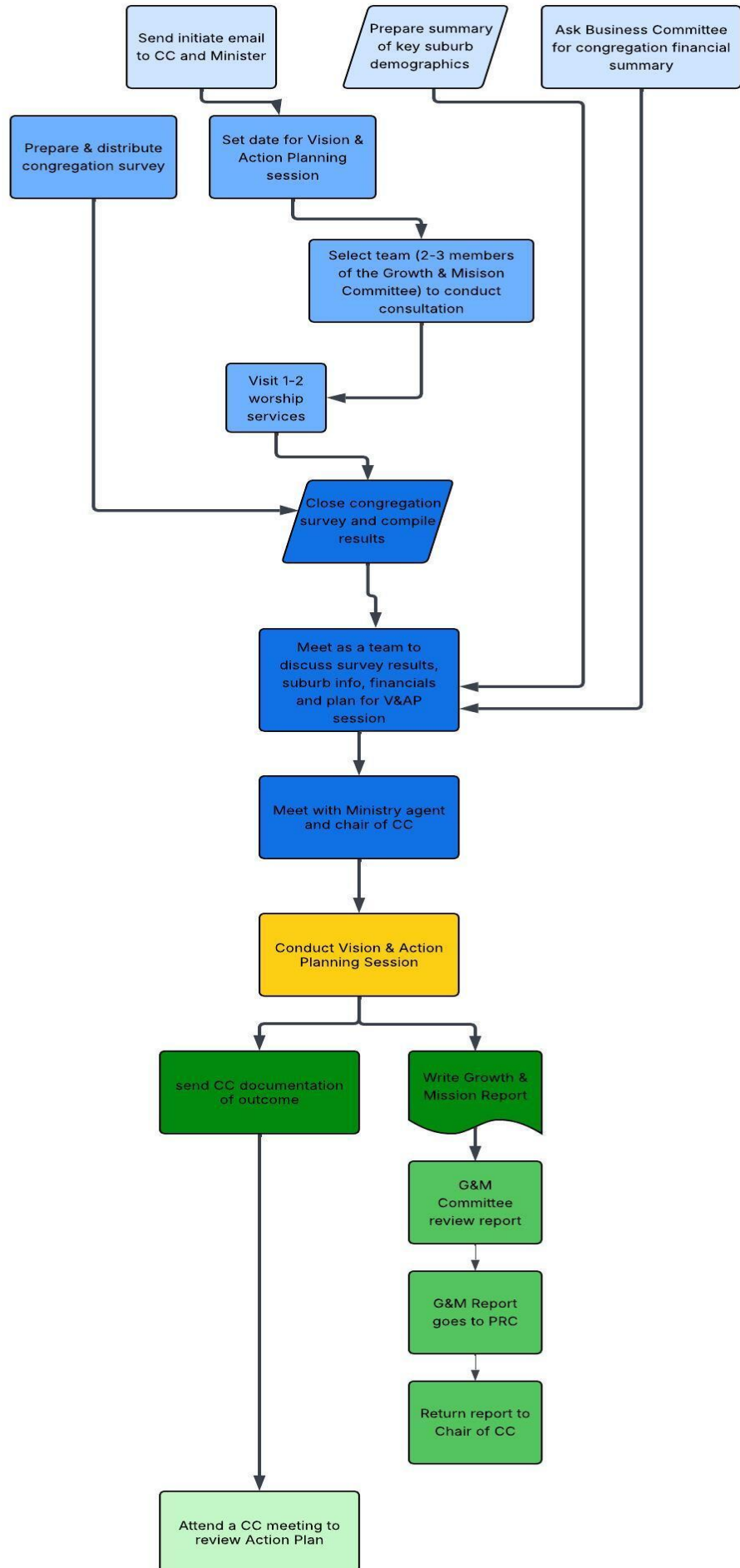
Resources for Growth & Mission Consultations

1. Timeline of Growth & Mission Consultation process
2. Questionnaire for Attenders
3. Health Report
4. Vision, Values & Outreach groups Worksheet
5. Values for Congregations Handout
6. Action Plan Example
7. Action Plan Worksheet

Timeline



Growth & Mission Consultation Process



Name of Congregation:

Questionnaire for Attenders

You are invited to share your views on ministry within this Congregation, by responding to the following questions and statements.

- i. Please consider the statements and questions carefully and tick the box that best indicates your response or answer the question as best as you are able. Any comments that you wish to add of a general or specific nature at the end would be welcomed.
- ii. Share from your own experience – your perceptions and feelings are important.
- iii. You need not sign the Questionnaire. Your responses will be treated confidentially. Members of the team will be available for private conversations or phone calls during the Consultation. This can be organized through the Team leader.

About you:

1. **a. When do you attend worship Services at this Uniting Church, and how regularly?**
b. Do you usually attend: online/zoom ☐ in person ☐
2. **Do you regularly attend worship at another church (either another Uniting Church congregation or one of a different denomination)?**
YES OCCASIONALLY NO
3. **What groups or activities are you involved in with this Congregation or church family?**
4. **Your Age:**
Under 25 ☐ 26-40 ☐ 41-60 ☐ 61-80 ☐ 81 and over ☐
5. **Gender:** Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to answer ☐
6. **How long have you been a member of this congregation?**
2 years or less ☐ 3-10 years ☐ More than 10 years ☐
7. **What are three things that have contributed to your spiritual growth in some way, over the past few years, at this Uniting Church?**
8. **What is something that you didn't connect with in the life of the congregation over the past few years** (something you didn't see the point in or didn't see the need for)?
9. **About the Church:**
"I feel accepted and have a sense of belonging to this Congregation or church family."
(same options for each statement)
Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐
"I generally find worship in this Congregation to be spiritually enriching."
"This Congregation provides adequate opportunities for my nurture and growth in faith."
"I am encouraged to use my gifts and abilities within this Congregation and beyond."
"I feel my faith or commitment has grown or been encouraged within this Congregation over recent years".
"I feel that my voice is heard, and my concerns are acted upon"
10. **What are some good things that are happening in the life of this Congregation?**

11. What are things that frustrate or disappoint you or you feel could be done better in this Congregation?

12. What are the best/most impactful ways in which the Congregation interacts with the community?

13. What are things you feel could be done better in reaching out into the community?

14. Reflect on the time you have attended this Congregation. How has your involvement changed?

Become much ☐ Become a little ☐ No change ☐ Become less ☐
more involved more involved involved

Reason: _____

15. As I understand them the congregation goals are: _____

16. “I feel that I understand the Congregation’s mission goals.”

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

“I am supportive of the congregation’s mission goals.”

“I have a good understanding of how the congregation plans to achieve its mission goals.”

“I am willing to contribute time and effort to achieving the congregation’s mission goals.”

“There are sufficient lay leaders to enable the Congregation to achieve the goals and mission plan”

“I have an understanding of the financial position of the Congregation.”

“I feel that the property and other assets of the Congregation are well utilized for ministry and mission.”

17. What is your vision of where you would like this Congregation to be in 3 years’ time?

18. Would you like to make any other comments?

Health Report Questions

A) Who Are We

1. Congregation/Faith Community Name
2. Church Contact Details (Website, Email address, Address, Office Phone, Social Media Accounts, Facebook)
3. Worship Services (Name of Service, Day, Time, Average Weekly Attendance by Age)
4. Average attendance at Congregational meetings in the last 12 months
5. Number of Baptisms/Confirmations in the last 12 months (Infant Baptism, Profession of Faith Baptism, Confirmation)

B) Leadership

6. Ministry Agents (Title & Name, Email address, Phone, % stipend, Month/Year placement commenced)
7. Paid staff (Name, Role, Hrs/week, Pastor Y/N, Phone, email address)
8. Church Council Members (Name, Office, Phone, email address)
9. Other Office Bearers (Name, Office, Phone, email address)
10. Presbytery Representatives (Name, email address, Phone)
11. Retired Ministers (Name, email address, Phone)
12. How many volunteers are active in the congregation?
13. How many leaders have completed safe church training? Do you maintain a register?
15. How many leaders have a verified Working with Children's Check? Do you maintain a register?
16. Are decisions made by consensus (with the blue and yellow cards) a. at Church Council?
b. in congregational meetings?
17. Lay Preachers (Name, Are they accredited?, Phone, email address)
18. In the last 12 months, has your congregation offered training (Topic, Taught by, Resources used, No. Attending)

C) What do we do?

19. Number of people involved in small groups devoted to discipleship activities (prayer and/or Bible study)
20. Number involved in small groups for fellowship/social connection
21. List any special services the congregation has held in the last 12 months (No. Attending)
22. List activities the congregation runs (Activity Name, How often it meets, Day/Time, attendance by age, non-church-members attending, No. Staff/ Volunteers required)

- 23. Are there Community activities that use the church facilities?
- 24. How many new songs have been introduced into worship in the last 12 months?
- 25. List any new ongoing initiatives the congregation commenced in the last 12 months?
- 26. How many times in the last 12 months has the Vision and Action Plan been reviewed?
- 27. Has the congregation utilised any external consultants? (Consultant Name, Area of Expertise)

D) Stewardship of Financial Resources

- 28. How many hours per week does the congregation use the property for church activities (including worship)?
- 29. How many hours per week is the property rented by external organisations?
- 30. How many hours per week do other groups use the property at no cost?
- 31. What was the date of the last inspection of all property?
- 32. Does the congregation have any tradespeople they regularly use? (Tradesperson's Name, Area of Expertise)

E) Communication

- 33. How does the congregation communicate with members/attendees?
- 34. How does the Church Council communicate its decisions to the Congregation?

Congregation

Date

Vision and Action Plan

Vision: Why does your congregation exist?



Your Vision will be the motivation for everything you do



New ideas for mission should fit with your Vision



Your Vision helps you evaluate whether activities have been successful

Values: How will you treat each other?



Values shape the congregation's culture

Outreach Groups: How are you going to fulfil your vision? (name 3 or 4 target groups)

1

2

3

4



Each activity you do should fit in one of these

Values for Congregations

Values are usually identified as part of the visioning process anyway, but if a congregation is struggling below are some values that may be relevant to congregations:

Acceptance: to be accepting of others
Authenticity: to be authentic, genuine, and real; to be true to myself
Caring: to be caring toward others, the environment, etc.
Compassion: to act kindly toward others in pain
Connection: be fully present with others
Contribution and generosity: to contribute, give, help, assist, or share
Cooperation: to be cooperative and collaborative with others
Courage: to be courageous or brave; to persist in the face of fear, threat, or difficulty
Creativity: to be creative or innovative
Curiosity: to be curious, open-minded, and interested; to explore and discover
Encouragement: to encourage and reward behaviour that I value in myself or others
Fairness and justice: to be fair and just to myself or others
Fitness: to maintain or improve or look after my physical and mental health
Friendliness: to be friendly, companionable, or agreeable toward others
Forgiveness: to be forgiving toward others
Fun and humour: to be fun loving; to seek, create, and engage in fun-filled activities
Gratitude: to be grateful for and appreciative of myself, others, and life
Honesty: to be honest, truthful, and sincere with myself and others
Industry: to be industrious, hardworking, and dedicated
Kindness: to be kind, considerate, nurturing, or caring toward myself or others
Love: to act lovingly or affectionately toward myself or others
Persistence and commitment: to continue resolutely, despite problems or difficulties.
Respect: to treat others with care and consideration
Responsibility: to be responsible and accountable for my actions
Safety and protection: to secure, protect, or ensure the safety of others
Supportiveness: to be supportive, helpful and available to myself or others
Trust: to be trustworthy; to be loyal, faithful, sincere, and reliable

**Adapted from A Values Checklist © Russ Harris 2013 russharris@actmindfully.com.au
www.actmindfully.com.au**

Where the outreach groups were:

1. Provide activities to promote mental and physical health,
2. Introduce people to a Christian Approach to Spiritual Health
3. Provide suitable worship opportunities

Action Plan: The detail of what you are going to do.

These can be new activities or adapting existing activities to make them more intentional, and to fit with the Vision.

Activity	Outreach Groups (1,2,3,4)	Steps	Logistics (resources)	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Evaluation
Host Jazzercise and Pilates classes for retirees each week of school terms	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer Christian Jazzercise and Pilates instructors a discount to use the church hall for classes for seniors • Advertise in the local over 55s housing estate and on the local Facebook Groups • Encourage young retirees in the congregation to attend the classes for their own health and to build relationship with other attendees • Start Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church hall availability • Christian Jazzercise & Pilates instructors • Produce Fliers • Volunteers for letter box drop • Create social media ad. • Church Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate • By 31/3 • By Easter • By 10/5 • By 10/5 • By 10/5 • 17 May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Smith Mary Jones Amy Walsh Bob White Amy Walsh Amy Walsh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Council to review progress on 4/4 and 20/5 Church Council to evaluate benefit of the activity on 15/11.
Have Prayer Request Boxes at each activity	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a box marked "Prayer Requests" in the hall at the registration desk for the classes • Assemble several people to pray for prayer requests • Explain the presence of the Prayer Request Box to participants as they register for the class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box labelled "Prayer Requests" • People to collect the requests and pray regularly for them • Someone to explain the box at the registration desk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 10/5 • By 15/5 • By 15/5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ross Black Jenny Small Mark Green 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Council to evaluate benefit of the Prayer Request box on 15/11.
Hold a talk by a Christian Health Coach on 12/8	1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Christian Health Coach James Blogs to give a talk on physical, mental, and spiritual health • Minister to finish the evening with a short devotion on Living Life to the Fullest and an invitation to special worship service the next Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Blogs & Minister • Church Hall • Welcomer & Supper team • Flier & social media ad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 31/5 • By 31/5 • By 25/7 • By 12/7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Blogs John Smith Mark Green Amy Walsh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Council to evaluate benefit of the evening and assess the process on 31/8

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book the hall, arrange someone to welcome at the door and a group to provide supper • Advertise to participants at the exercise classes and more widely within the over 55s complex and local social media groups 	
Hold special health-themed worship service on 17/8	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise to participants at the exercise classes and more widely within the over 55s complex and local social media groups • Arrange for congregation members who participate in the Jazzercise or Pilates classes to be on welcoming for the service • Minister to preach on spiritual health • Special Healthy Morning Tea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create social media • By 15/7 ad. & Flier • Volunteers for letter • By 26/7 box drop • Church Newsletter • By 31/7 • Confirm Welcoming • By 3/8 and Morning Tea volunteers <p>Amy Walsh Bob White Amy Walsh</p> <p>Church Council to evaluate the running of the service and benefit of it on the 24/8</p>

Action Plan: The detail of what you are going to do. These can be new activities or adapting existing activities to make them more intentional, and to fit with the Vision.

Activity	Outreach Groups (1,2,3,4)	Steps	Logistics (resources)	Time Frame	Person Responsible	Evaluation