

Congregational Self-Assessment

Paths of Decline

Use the following list and identify which, if any, of these paths your congregation is on and how far along the path it is:

Slow Erosion (we are on a slow path of decline)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Past is Our Hero (we long for a return to the good old days)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Church Refuses to Look Like Our Community (our community is diverse, but we aren't)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Budget Has Moved Inward (much of our budget goes toward caring for ourselves and our property)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

The Great Commission Has Become Our Great Omission (we don't invest much in making disciples)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

We Are a Preference-Driven Church (we mostly do what we want not what others need or what God wants)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Pastoral Tenures Have Decreased (our pastors don't stay as long as they used to)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Church Rarely Prays Together (outside of formal prayers in worship we don't gather just to pray)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Church Has No Clear Purpose (we aren't very clear about our mission)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

Our Church Obsesses Over Our Facilities (taking care of our facilities is a top priority and funding focus)

_____ Not on This Path at All _____ Slightly on This Path _____ Well Down The Road _____ Crossing the "It is Finished" Line

These paths are further described in *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* by Thom S. Rainer.