



## APPLICATION TOOL 1

### Faith Assets Assessment

The Faith Assets can provide a common language to involve all members of the congregation in discovering their role in the lives of young people. Use this assessment tool to reflect on the *priority* and *practice* of the Forty-Four Faith Assets in the life of your congregation and youth ministry. The Assessment Tool can be used with church staff, key leadership, and leadership councils to conduct an overall assessment of the congregation's impact on young people. It can be used by the youth ministry team, as well church staff and key leaders, to assess the effectiveness of the youth ministry effort. This tool is best used in group settings where there can be discussion and shared analysis. Begin by giving people time to complete the assessment individually. Then, use the following process to share reflections and analysis, and plan for improvement in each of the four asset groupings.

### Assessment Process

1. Select your first Faith Asset grouping for analysis: (1) Congregational Faith and Qualities, (2) Youth Ministry Qualities, (3) Family/Household Faith, or (4) Leadership.
2. Develop a profile of current practices and activities for this Faith Asset grouping: *How does our congregation (as a whole community, as youth ministry, and/or as leaders) promote these Faith Assets?*
3. Develop a composite score of the group's assessment of the *priority* of the Faith Assets in this grouping. (How important is this assets to our congregation?)
4. Discuss the reasons for people's ratings using the following questions: (a) *Is this an accurate picture of our congregation's priorities in this asset area?* (b) *Why do we believe it is accurate or inaccurate?* (c) *Should a particular asset be a higher priority than it currently is?*
5. Develop a composite score of the group's assessment of the *practice* of the Faith Assets in this grouping. (How well are we doing in this area as a congregation?)

- Discuss the reasons for people's ratings using the following questions: (a) *Is this an accurate rating of our congregation's practices in this asset area?* (b) *Why do we believe our rating is accurate or inaccurate?* (c) *How does our rating compare with the quality and scope of our specific activities for these Faith Assets? Which assets do we need to develop more fully?*
- Identify the Faith Assets in this grouping that your congregation needs to make a higher priority and/or develop more effective practices.
- Plan for improvement to strengthen the Faith Assets that you have identified as important areas for growth: (1) brainstorm potential strategies to develop the Faith Asset, (2) select one or more strategies for action, and (3) develop an action plan with implementation steps, budget, leadership, and dates for completion.

### Part 1. Congregational Faith and Qualities

Priority of Importance <sup>*</sup>					Congregational Faith		Practice Effectiveness <sup>*</sup>				
1	2	3	4	5	1.	<b>Experiences God's Living Presence:</b> The congregation possesses a sense of God's living presence in community, at worship, through study, and in service.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	2.	<b>Makes Faith Central:</b> The congregation recognizes and participates in God's sustaining and transforming life and work.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	3.	<b>Emphasizes Prayer:</b> The congregation practices the presence of God as individuals and community through prayer and worship.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	4.	<b>Focus on Discipleship:</b> The congregation is committed to knowing and following Jesus Christ.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	5.	<b>Emphasizes Scripture:</b> The congregation values the authority of Scripture in its life and mission.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	6.	<b>Makes Mission Central:</b> The congregation consistently witnesses, serves and promotes moral responsibility, and seeks justice.	1	2	3	4	5

Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 1-6:

<sup>\*</sup> 1 = low    5 = high

Priority of Importance	Congregational Qualities	Practice Effectiveness
1 2 3 4 5	<b>7. Supports Youth Ministry:</b> Youth and ministry with young people are high priorities for the congregation.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>8. Demonstrates Hospitality:</b> The congregation values and welcomes all people, especially youth.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>9. Strives for Excellence:</b> The congregation sets high standards, evaluates, and engages in continuous improvement.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>10. Encourages Thinking:</b> The congregation welcomes questions and reflection on faith and life.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>11. Creates Community:</b> The congregation reflects high quality personal and group relationships.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>12. Encourages Small Groups:</b> The congregation engages members in study, conversation, and prayer about faith in daily life.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>13. Promotes Worship:</b> The congregation expands and renews spirit-filled, uplifting worship.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>14. Fosters Ethical Responsibility:</b> The congregation encourages individual and social moral responsibility.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>15. Promotes Service:</b> The congregation sponsors outreach, service projects, and cultural immersions both locally and globally.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>16. Demonstrates Effective Practices:</b> The congregation engages in a wide variety of ministry practices and activities.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>17. Participate in the Congregation:</b> Youth are engaged in a wide spectrum of congregational relationships and practices.	1 2 3 4 5
1 2 3 4 5	<b>18. Assume Ministry Leadership:</b> Youth are invited, equipped and affirmed for leadership in congregational activities.	1 2 3 4 5

Part 2. Youth Ministry Qualities

Priority of Importance					Youth Ministry Qualities	Practice Effectiveness				
1	2	3	4	5	<b>19. Establishes a Caring Environment:</b> Youth Ministry provides multiple nurturing relationships and activities resulting in a welcoming atmosphere of respect, growth, and belonging.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>20. Develops Quality Relationships:</b> Youth Ministry develops authentic relationships among youth and adults establishing an environment of presence and life engagement.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>21. Focuses on Jesus Christ:</b> Youth ministry’s mission, practices, and relationships are inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>22. Considers Life Issues:</b> Youth ministry is values and addresses the full range of young people’s lives.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>23. Uses Many Approaches:</b> Youth ministry intentionally and creatively employs multiple activities appropriate to the ministry’s mission and context.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>24. Is Well Organized and Planned:</b> Youth ministry engages participants and leaders in long range planning, implementation, evaluation and innovation in an atmosphere of high expectations.	1	2	3	4	5

Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 19–24:

Part 3. Family / Household Faith

Priority of Importance					Family / Household Faith	Practice Effectiveness				
1	2	3	4	5	<b>25. Possesses Strong Parental Faith:</b> Parents possess and practice a vital and informed faith.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>26. Promotes Family Faith Practices:</b> Parents engage youth and the whole family in conversations, prayer, bible reading, and service that nurture faith and life.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>27. Reflects Family Harmony:</b> Family members' expressions of respect and love create an atmosphere promoting faith.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>28. Equips Parents:</b> The congregation offers instruction and guidance that nurture parental faith and equips parents for nurturing faith at home.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>29. Fosters Parent-Youth Relationships:</b> The congregation offers parent-youth activities that strengthen parent-youth relationships.	1	2	3	4	5

Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 25–29:

Part 4. Leadership

Priority of Importance					Leadership of the Pastor	Practice Effectiveness				
1	2	3	4	5	<b>30. Exercises Spiritual Influence:</b> The pastor knows and models the transforming presence of God in life and ministry.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>31. Demonstrates Interpersonal Competence:</b> The pastor builds a sense of community and relates well with adults and youth.	1	2	3	4	5

Priority of Importance						Practice Effectiveness				
1	2	3	4	5	<b>32. Supports Youth Ministry:</b> The pastor understands, guides, and advocates for youth ministry.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>33. Supports Leaders:</b> The pastor affirms and mentors youth and adults leading youth ministry.	1	2	3	4	5

*Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 30–33:*

					The Leadership of the Youth Minister					
1	2	3	4	5	<b>34. Provides Competent Leadership:</b> The youth minister demonstrates superior theological, theoretical, and practical knowledge and skill in leadership.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>35. Models Faith:</b> The youth minister is a role model reflecting a living faith for youth and adults.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>36. Mentors Faith Life:</b> The youth minister assists adult leaders and youth in their faith life both one-on-one and in groups.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>37. Develops Teams:</b> The youth minister reflects a clear vision and attracts gifted youth and adults into leadership	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>38. Knows Youth:</b> The youth minister knows youth and the changes in youth culture and utilizes these understandings in ministry.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>39. Establishes Effective Relationships:</b> The youth minister enjoys effective relationships with youth, parents, volunteers, and staff.	1	2	3	4	5

*Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 34–39:*

Priority of Importance					Youth and Adult Leadership	Practice Effectiveness				
1	2	3	4	5	<b>40. Are Equipped for Peer Ministry:</b> Youth practice friendship, care-giving, and outreach supported by training and caring adults.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>41. Establish Adult-Youth Mentoring:</b> Adults engage youth in the Christian faith and life supported by informed leadership.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>42. Participate in Training:</b> Youth and adults are equipped for ministry in an atmosphere of high expectations.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>43. Posses Vibrant Faith:</b> Youth and adult leaders possess and practice a vital and informed faith.	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	<b>44. Demonstrate Competent Adult Leadership:</b> Adults foster authentic relationships and effective practices in youth ministry with a clear vision strengthen by training and support.	1	2	3	4	5

*Identify the Practices in Your Church that Promote Assets 25–29:*

# Planning for Improvement

Identify the Faith Assets that your congregation had decided to make a *higher priority* and/or develop more *effective practices*. Use this planning form to help you generate ideas for improvement and develop an action plan for implementing your improvement.

Faith Asset: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Brainstorm potential strategies to develop this Faith Asset.

2. Select one or more strategies and develop an action plan.

Strategy:

Implementation Steps	Budget	Leadership	Completion Date