



Vitality

A vital congregation is one that lives out God’s mission in their part of the world. These congregations connect with God, each other and the world. The following questions can help your congregation determine its current vitality (mission orientation).

	Poorly		Somewhat		Great	
How well do these phrases describe your congregation?	1	2	3	4	5	Copy number from column
<i>Example</i>			X			3
Worship nurtures people’s faith						
Deepens people’s relationship with God						
A clear sense mission						
Excitement about the congregation’s future						
Always ready to try something new						
A positive force in the community						
Works for social justice/advocacy						
How well does your congregation...	Hardly at all		Well		Very well	
Incorporate new members into congregational life						
Seek out and using the gifts of members of all ages						
Build strong, healthy relationships among members						
Manage disagreements in a healthy respectful manner						
Address social concerns (helping those in need)						
Equip members to share their faith with others						
Interact with the local community						
Help members live out their faith in daily lives						
Total all rows						
Vitality Score: (Divide total by 15)						

Sustainability

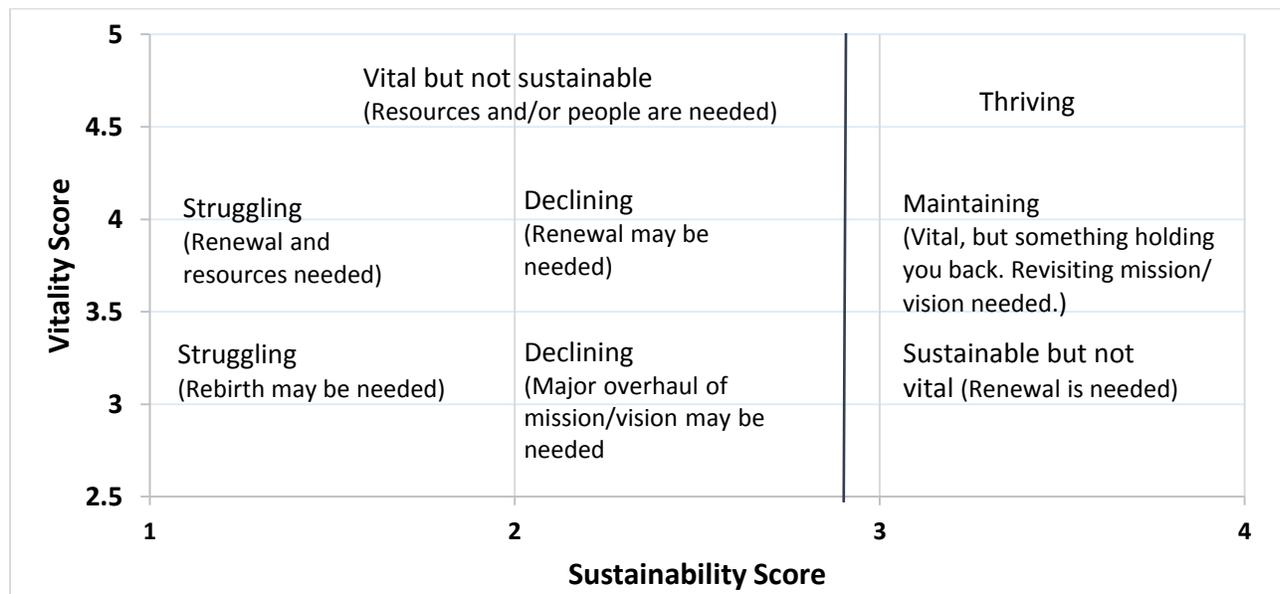
God inspires congregations for mission and blesses them with resources for ministry. The two clearest measures of a congregation’s ability to sustain ministry are money (to pay staff, fund ministries and maintain facilities) and people power (to engage in ministries). Use the following questions to estimate your sustainability.

	Declined to not sustainable	Declining but still sustainable	Maintaining	Growing or Increasing	Copy # from left
	1	2	3	4	
People Power Enough people with energy to lead and participate in worship & ministries					
Financial Resources To pay for facility, staffing, ministries, etc. Do you have what you need to maintain or expand ministry?					
Write the lower of these two numbers here:					

Since both people and financial resources are necessary for sustainability, the lower number represents the “weakest link” in your congregation’s sustainability chain.

Balancing Vitality and Sustainability

Use the following chart to mark where your congregation falls in the matrix. Find your sustainability at the bottom and move up until you are level with the vitality score from the first page. The placement on chart **estimates** your congregation’s most likely vitality/sustainability balance. This is not a perfect measure because these categories overlap some in real life.



A congregation needs to be both vital and sustainable in order to be thriving. Vital congregations that aren’t sustainable can’t continue God’s mission in their setting. Vital congregations that aren’t sustainable may not be able to continue God’s mission in their setting. What are your congregation’s strengths and challenges?

Now What?

Ask other people in your congregation to take this short survey and talk about your answers. Talk with your synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) to learn more about vitality, to take a longer congregation-wide survey, or to use the contributing factors worksheet.