ACTS 2:42 CHURCH FOCUS ASSESSMENT

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." **(Acts 2:42, ESV)**

Purpose: This instrument is designed to guide pastors, staff, and key leaders through a rigorous evaluation of the congregation's spiritual health. It moves beyond anecdotal observation to evidence-based assessment. The instrument is mostly self-directed, but if you would like training or assistance in using this, contact Jimmy Kinnaird at jimmy@fairburnba.org for more information.

Instructions for Facilitators:

1. **Individual Scoring:** Have each team member complete the grid individually first to avoid groupthink.

2. **Consensus Building:** Facilitate a discussion to arrive at a unified team score for each quadrant.

3. **Evidence Capture:** Do not accept a score without specific, observable evidence written in the provided fields.

I. The Four-Quadrant Grid: A Strategic Snapshot

A. Team Evaluation Grid

Instructions: Rate the current reality of the church in each of the four priorities. Circle the number on the scale that best represents the current state of the ministry.

- **1–3: Weak / Token** (Minimal presence; survival mode)
- **4–6: Functional** (Present but not central; maintenance mode)
- **7–8: Healthy** (Strong participation; growing)
- **9–10: Vibrant / Multiplying** (Central to the culture; Acts 2 reality)

Q1 – <u>D</u>OCTRINE (Apostles' Teaching)

Definition: The church is consistently taught the whole counsel of God, centered on the Gospel and sound doctrine.

Our Score:

[1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

Evidence of Strength:

· _____

· _____

· _____

Q2 – <u>C</u>OMMUNITY LIFE (The Fellowship)

Definition: Believers share life together through mutual care, accountability, and "one-another" ministry.

Our Score:

[1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

Evidence of Strength:

· _____

· _____

· _____

Q3 – <u>W</u>ORSHIP (Breaking of Bread)

Definition: The church gathers regularly to remember Christ (Lord's Supper), hear the Word, and respond in praise.

Our Score:

[1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

Evidence of Strength:

· _____

· _____

· _____

Q4 – <u>P</u>RAYER (The Prayers)

Definition: Prayer is the core expression of dependence on God, exercised corporately and individually.

Our Score:

[1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

Evidence of Strength:

· _____

· _____

· _____

B. Strategic Reflection

1. **Primary Strength:** Which quadrant is the strongest right now? What cultural factors have contributed to this vitality?

   ○ *Response:*

   _____

2. **The "Minimum Factor":** Which quadrant is the weakest? If this area remains unchanged for 3–5 years, what pathology will it produce in the body?

   ○ *Response:*

   _____

II. Deep-Dive Diagnostic Questions

Instructions: Use these questions to guide a deeper discussion on each quadrant. Appoint a note-taker to capture the team's honest answers.

A. Doctrine (The Apostles' Teaching)

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

(Acts 20:27, ESV)

1. **Diagnostic Questions:**
   a. How clear is our church's doctrinal center? Do members understand how our Statement of Faith shapes daily life and ethics?
   b. Are our primary teaching environments (pulpit, classes, small groups) aiming for disciple-making and obedience, or merely the transfer of information?
   c. Do we intentionally teach core doctrines (Theology Proper, Christology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology) systematically, or do we only react to immediate cultural issues?
   d. How effectively are new believers grounded in elementary doctrine? Is there a defined pathway for their stabilization?
   e. Are there any teaching voices (internal or external) that are confusing or diluting sound doctrine within the body?

2. **Self-Rating & Notes:**

   ○ **Doctrine Score:** [1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

   ○ **Greatest Gap or Danger:**

   _____

B. Community Life (The Fellowship)

"And all who believed were together and had all things in common." (Acts 2:44, ESV)

1. **Diagnostic Questions:**
   a. Do our people have genuine Christian friendships here, or do they primarily just attend events next to each other?
   b. How strong are our small groups as places of mutual care, accountability, and confession (James 5:16)?
   c. Are financial, emotional, and spiritual needs noticed and met within the body, or do people often suffer in silence?
   d. How frictionless is the path for a "visitor" to become a "known, loved, and involved" member of the family?
   e. Are reconciliation, peacemaking, and forgiveness normal practices in our relationships, or is there lingering bitterness?

2. **Self-Rating & Notes:**

   ○ **Community Score:** [1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]

   ○ **Greatest Gap or Danger:**

   _____

C. Worship (The Breaking of Bread)

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes…"
(Acts 2:46, ESV)

1. **Diagnostic Questions:**
   a. Is our corporate worship clearly Christ-centered, Word-saturated, and Gospel-shaped, or is it driven by preference and performance?

b. How regularly and meaningfully do we celebrate the Lord's Supper as a proclamation of the Gospel and a unifying family meal?

c. Are people prepared for worship (heart, mind, expectations) before they arrive, or do they mostly come as passive consumers?

d. Does our gathered worship form disciples for the rest of the week, or does it serve as an isolated spiritual "event"?

e. How do we help different ages and backgrounds participate in the worship service, rather than just watching it?

2. **Self-Rating & Notes:**

   ○ **Worship Score: [1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]**

   ○ **Greatest Gap or Danger:**

   _____

D. Prayer (The Prayers)

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken..." (Acts 4:31, ESV)

1. **Diagnostic Questions:**

   a. If an outsider audited our schedule, budget, and announcements, would they conclude that prayer is the central engine of this church?

   b. Where does corporate prayer show up beyond token openings and closings of meetings?

   c. How are members trained and encouraged in the disciplines of personal prayer and family prayer?

   d. Do we regularly pray for mission, the lost, the city, and other churches, or are our prayers mainly focused on internal needs?

   e. Are there stories of answered prayer that are known and celebrated across the congregation?

2. **Self-Rating & Notes:**

   ○ **Prayer Score: [1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10]**

   ○ **Greatest Gap or Danger:**

   _____

III. Ministry Alignment & Elimination Audit

"Simple Church" principles warn that churches often become over-programmed and under-focused. This section requires the courage to eliminate what does not align.

A. The Ministry Inventory

List ongoing ministries, programs, and standing committees. Assign a primary quadrant (D, C, W, P) and evaluate fruitfulness.

Ministry / Program Name	Primary Quadrant (D / C / W / P)	Fruitfulness (High / Med / Low)	Action Required (Keep / Realign / Stop)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

B. The "Simple Church" Focus Exercise

1. **Clarity:** In one or two sentences, describe your church's disciple-making process centered on these four priorities.

    Draft: "Our process is to..."

    _____

2. **Misalignment:** Which ministries listed above do not clearly fit this process or duplicate other efforts?

    a.

    _____

    b.

    _____

3. **The "Sunset" List:** Identify ministries to stop or sunset over the next 12–18 months to reclaim energy for the priorities.

    (1) Ministry: _____ Date: _____

    (2) Ministry: _____ Date: _____

IV. Resource & Energy Audit

Consultants note: "Show me your budget and your calendar, and I will show you your actual theology."

A. Financial Stewardship

Roughly what percentage of your annual budget is directly invested in each quadrant?

1. **Doctrine** (Teaching pastors, curriculum, training, resources): _____ %
2. **Community Life** (Small groups, care, hospitality, benevolence): _____ %
3. **Worship** (Services, music, tech, facilities for gathering): _____ %
4. **Prayer** (Prayer ministries, retreats, intercession materials): _____ %
5. **Administrative / Other** (Not clearly serving a priority): _____ %

B. Leadership Time Investment

For pastors and key staff, estimate weekly hours devoted to each area:

1. **Doctrine:** _____ hours
2. **Community Life:** _____ hours
3. **Worship:** _____ hours
4. **Prayer:** _____ hours

Discussion Question: Where is the largest mismatch between what we *say* is important and where our resources actually go?

V. Healthy-Church Principles Integration

Research from Natural Church Development (NCD) highlights key qualities of growing churches. To map this, your church will need to have taken the NCD assessment. For more information about this assessment, contact Jimmy Kinnaird at jimmy@fairburnba.org. Map these onto your Acts 2:42 quadrants.

1. **Doctrine Quadrant:** Corresponds to *Empowering Leadership* and *Gift-Oriented Ministry*.

2. **Community Life Quadrant:** Corresponds to *Holistic Small Groups* and *Loving Relationships*.

3. **Worship Quadrant:** Corresponds to *Inspiring Worship Service*.

4. **Prayer Quadrant:** Corresponds to *Passionate Spirituality*.

Reflection Questions:

1. Which of these NCD qualities seems strongest in our context? _____

2. Which is the weakest? _____

3. Does this confirm our "Minimum Factor" identified in Section I? (Y/N) _____

VI. 12–24 Month Focus Plan

Convert insights into concrete action. Set one main outcome goal per quadrant.

A. Strategic Goals

1. **Doctrine – Outcome (12–24 months):**

   - *Goal:* "In 1–2 years, we want our church to be more doctrinally healthy by..."

   - *Action Step:*

     _____

2. **Community Life – Outcome (12–24 months):**

   - *Goal:* "In 1–2 years, we want our church to be more relationally connected by..."

   - *Action Step:*

     _____

3. **Worship – Outcome (12–24 months):**

   - *Goal:* "In 1–2 years, we want our gathered worship to be more..."

   - *Action Step:*

     _____

4. **Prayer – Outcome (12–24 months):**

   - *Goal:* "In 1–2 years, we want prayer to be more central by..."

   - *Action Step:*

     _____

B. The 90-Day "First Steps" Plan

Start small to build momentum. Define "Simple Experiments."

1. **START** (One new practice or tweak):

   ○ _____

2. **STOP / REDUCE** (One ministry or activity that doesn't align):

   ○ _____

3. **STRENGTHEN** (One existing ministry that serves a priority):

   ○ _____

Owner(s): _____ **Check-in Date:** _____