



## HELPING CHURCH LEADERS MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE

Number 31 October 30, 1995  
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### TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH ©

There is a lot of discussion these days about healthy churches. What do they look like and regardless of size, are there common characteristics of healthy churches? The Evangelistic Association of New England (EANE) recently published a document describing some of the values and characteristics of healthy churches. Based on the following ten characteristics, how healthy is your church?

- 1. God-Exalting Worship...** the healthy church gathers regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul, and strength of the people.
- 2. God's Empowering Presence...**the healthy church actively seeks the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for its daily life and ministry.
- 3. An Outward Focus...**the healthy church places high priority on communicating the truth of Jesus and demonstrating the love of Jesus to those outside the faith.
- 4. Servant Leadership Development...**the healthy church identifies and develops individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership and challenges them to become servant-leaders.
- 5. A Commitment to Loving, Caring Relationships...**the healthy church is intentional in its efforts to build loving, caring relationships within families, between members and within the community they serve.
- 6. Learning and Growing in Community...**the healthy church encourages believers to grow in their walks with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment.
- 7. Personal Disciplines...**the healthy church provides training, models, and resources for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines.
- 8. Stewardship and Generosity...**the healthy church teaches its members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenges them to sacrificial generosity in sharing with others.
- 9. Wise Administration and Accountability...**the healthy church utilizes appropriate facilities, equipment and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of its ministries.
- 10. Networking with other Churches...**the healthy church reaches out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, learning opportunities and united celebrations of worship.

**For an elaboration of the Ten Characteristics of A Healthy Church © and a diagnostic tool to evaluate your church, contact EANE at (617) 229-1990.**



A SERVICE OF  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK  
P. O. BOX 9100 · TYLER, TEXAS 75711-9100  
PHONE: 800-765-5323 · FAX: 903-561-9361