

## Tool #24: Theological Survey

*This survey examines areas of theological beliefs related to the church's mission. For each set of statements listed below, please circle the number which you think best describes your beliefs. "1" means you would agree most with the statement on the left, "5" means you would agree most with the statement on the right, "3" means you would agree equally with both. If you disagree with both statements, put an "X" over the number next to the statements.*

If you agree most with  
this statement,  
circle 1 or 2

If you agree with both,  
circle 3

If you agree most with  
this statement,  
circle 4 or 5

### A. Salvation

- |   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 Conversion is a one-time event.   |   |   |   |   |   | Conversion is a gradual, long-term process.  |
| 2 Sin is systemic, associated with social, economic and political structures.                     |   |   |   |   |   | Sin is personal, associated with an individual's thoughts, choices and actions.                            |
| 3 God's plan of deliverance is for souls saved by faith, who will ultimately be resurrected.      |   |   |   |   |   | God's plan of deliverance is for all of creation, which will ultimately be renewed.                        |
| 4 The gospel means the good news that Christ offers persons forgiveness of sins and eternal life. |   |   |   |   |   | The gospel means the good news that God is bringing about greater peace, justice and wholeness in society. |
| 5 The way to share God's love with people is by telling them about Jesus.                         |   |   |   |   |   | The way to share God's love with people is by demonstrating it with caring actions.                        |

### B. The Christian life

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 6 The message of faith is one of challenge to complacent Christians.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The message of faith is one of comfort for struggling Christians.  |
| 7 Right Christian living means having a moral lifestyle.  |   |   |   |   |   | Right Christian living means having a lifestyle of compassion and justice.   |
| 8 Christian faith focuses on promoting wholeness and peace in the world.                                    |   |   |   |   |   | Christian faith focuses on growing in one's personal relationship to God.  |
| 9 Participation in outreach ministry is the responsibility of specially gifted individuals.                 |   |   |   |   |   | Participation in outreach ministry is the responsibility of every Christian.   |
| 10 Outreach ministry should focus on people's spiritual needs — the quality of their relationship with God. |   |   |   |   |   | Outreach ministry should focus on people's social and emotional needs — the quality of their health, economic condition, family life, etc. |

If you agree most with  
this statement,  
circle 1 or 2

If you agree with both,  
circle 3

If you agree most with  
this statement,  
circle 4 or 5

C. The church

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | The focus of God's transforming work is the church.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The focus of God's transforming work is the world outside the church.   |
| 12 | The church should focus on helping people here and now.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The church should focus on preparing people for eternal life after death.   |
| 13 | The task of the church is to work to change society.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The task of the church is to work to change the lives of individuals.   |
| 14 | Government is responsible for meeting the needs of the poor.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The church is responsible for meeting the needs of the poor.  |
| 15 | The church is the agent of God's work of restoration in the world, responsible for bringing about social change. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | The church awaits Christ's return to bring about social restoration, as human efforts cannot expect to change the world much. |

D. Society and social change

- |    |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Change in a person's circumstances comes when they change on the inside.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Change in a person's circumstances comes when they get the social aid they need.                                    |
| 17 | Poverty is largely due to a person's foolish choices or immoral lifestyle, such as laziness or drugs.                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Poverty is largely due to social, economic, and political factors, such as racism and lack of good jobs.            |
| 18 | Christians should improve society through organized action groups.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Christians should improve society by being good citizens and neighbors.   |
| 19 | Change in a community comes as individuals and families are transformed.   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Change in a community comes as social structures, laws, and culture are transformed.                                |
| 20 | Christians should look for wisdom about how to help persons and communities from any useful sources, including secular ones. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Christians should look for wisdom about how to help persons and communities from the Bible and Christian teachings. |