

Social Justice Self-Assessment Tool



The following is a helpful tool for assessing your church's current response to the world's poor and vulnerable. Use this tool individually for practical reflection or corporately to prompt dialogue.

The survey fields are interactive and can be used to enter your responses. Print or email the survey to yourself to save your responses. Please also email your responses to us so we can tabulate and create a profile of the Canadian Church in its response to issues of poverty and social justice.

The characteristics of a responding church is a church in which:

1. The Preaching and Worship Service:

- Reflects a “holistic” understanding of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as being “good news” that displays concern for both spiritual and social needs.
- Acknowledges God’s concern for the poor and vulnerable and consistently highlights their needs in a compassionate, respectful, and hopeful manner.
- Regularly includes a (monthly) call for social action.

How is our Church doing in raising awareness of the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our worship service?

Poor			Well				Exceptional		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Reset

2. The Programming:

- Engages youth and children in understanding the root causes of poverty.
- Encourages and models personal responsibility for just responses to the poor and vulnerable. (Micah 6:8)
- Includes adult education/resources that engage topics of affluence, stewardship, global community, simple/responsible living, and protecting the dignity of the poor and vulnerable.
- Equips the library with a segment of current, inter-generational Christian resources that address issues of poverty and social justice.
- Offers the building to organizations serving the poor and vulnerable to host community promotional and fundraising events.
- Offers public exposure to ministries serving the poor and vulnerable through prime bulletin board space, public announcements, bulletin inserts, mailbox information, website etc.

How is our Church doing in equipping its members to grow in understanding and response to issues of poverty and social justice?

	Poor			Well				Exceptional		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Locally										
Globally										

Reset

Reset

3. The Prayer Life:

- Includes regular public prayers for poor and vulnerable (local and global).
- Promotes and offers resources that encourage active private prayers for issues of poverty, social justice and global disasters (i.e. bulletins, hand-outs).

How is our Church doing in encouraging its members to pray for the world's poor and vulnerable?

	Poor			Well				Exceptional		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Locally										
Globally										

Reset

Reset

4. The Giving:

- Includes intentional annual target setting for increased budget allocations to local and global concerns beyond the congregation (i.e. targets of 10-25% of total church budget).
- Includes a significant portion (25%) of the mission budget allocated to organization(s) that specifically focus on serving the humanitarian needs of the poor in the majority world.
- Includes frequent and timely opportunities for above budget offerings to respond to local and global emergencies.

How is our Church doing in responding with justice-based generosity on behalf of the world's poor and vulnerable?

	Poor			Well				Exceptional			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Locally											Reset
Globally											Reset

5. Christian Service Activities:

- Include opportunities for face-to-face fellowship and interaction with the poor and vulnerable.
- Educate, promote, and plan for congregational participation in advocacy activity (at least annually).
- Display individual participation and congregational support for persons called to work with ministries serving the poor and vulnerable.
- Encompass personal lifestyle choices reflecting a commitment of support and solidarity with the poor and vulnerable (i.e. child sponsorship; planned giving, purchasing behaviours, self-motivated educational/devotional choices, volunteering, advocacy).

How is our Church doing responding practically to the needs of the poor and vulnerable?

	Poor			Well				Exceptional			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Locally											Reset
Globally											Reset

6. The Leadership:

- Promotes individual and models organizational behaviour that is socially responsible (i.e. buy fair trade coffee, biodegradable materials).
- Chooses to use pastoral continuing education allowances to grow in their understanding of issues of poverty and social justice (i.e. reading, conference attendance, traveling).
- Encourages and facilitates pastoral staff in these choices.

How is our Church doing in encouraging leaders to be equipped in leading a congregational response to social justice issues?

	Poor			Well				Exceptional			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Locally											Reset
Globally											Reset

Submitted by:

Church:

Date:

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view on-line programs and resources

Print or email to self to save your responses.
 Adobe Acrobat Reader will not save your content.

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