

Level 5 Comprehensive Consultation Expectations

The Society has specific expectations for the content of a Level 5 comprehensive consultation.

There are several underlying reasons for these expectations:

- The mission of the Society is to make an impact on the revitalization of churches. Thus, the Level 5 project should seek to help a church become revitalized to greater health and effectiveness for the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20).
- Level 5 should also be a practical application of the depth and breadth of the content of the Society's Levels 1-4 training. A significant number of topics are covered in our training. All these topics are designed to prepare you for how to consult.
- Level 5 should be based on a comprehensive definition of church health that is both biblically and contextually sensitive. Context includes, geography, demography, church size, and specific local church history.

Based on the above, the following is a guiding list of the content of a comprehensive church health *assessment consultation:

1. Ask the church to complete a questionnaire that addresses many aspects of church health. This should include attendance, financials, church polity, disciple making process, assimilation, leadership development, decadal age of congregants, cities where congregants live broken down by per centages, communication systems, volunteer mobilization, and important initiatives for change the church is pursuing or would like to.
2. A church health survey, preferable Church Answers' Know Your Church Report which is now an online tool (see <https://churchanswers.com/solutions/tools/kyc/know-your-church/>).

3. A demographic study such as MissionInsite (<https://www.acstechnologies.com/missioninsite/tools/demographic-intel/>).
4. Interviews of all paid staff, board members, and key lay leaders using open ended questions. Your interview questions should be informed by what you seen from your questionnaire response, the demographic information, and the church health survey.
5. Participate in and observe worship and utilization of the facility. Adequacy of worship, education, and fellowship space, and parking space.
6. Full facility tour for cleanliness, observation of storage/clutter, and adequacy of signage.
7. A presentation to the church of your consulting method, your findings, and your recommendations. This presentation may be to pastor and board, all staff and the board, a leadership forum, or the entire church. Plan on one to two hours of presentation.
8. A comprehensive written report for the church including your method, the church health survey, the demographic data, the results of your interviews, the results of observing worship and the facility tour, and your recommendations. Plan on at least 100 pages. (The church health survey and the demographic data are usually 80 pages.)

*As an alternative to a church health assessment, you may facilitate comprehensive strategic ministry planning. If you do, it should include something like the following:

1. Formation of a strategic leadership team (SLT), including the pastor, to Refreshing or establishing a church mission, vision, and values. The team should have diverse representation of adults.

2. Planning work to refresh or establish biblical mission, vision, and values.

3. Planning work to develop 4-7 strategies or initiatives that will make the church healthier and building consensus by the SLT that these are important.

4. Planning work to prioritize the initiatives and create a timeline for implementation.

5. Planning work to define who will lead each initiative and how the church will follow up to monitor progress and to adjust priorities as needed.

6. The facilitated planning work described in 1-5 above should comprise approximately 60 hours or more of consultation work.