

Life after *Veritas*

1. Pray and come to the Father with a sense of healthy and holy brokenness.
2. Allow Jesus to be the center of your life and cultivate a deeper dependence on the Holy Spirit.
3. Create a behavioral covenant and stick to it.
4. Form a prayer team. Do not despise the day of small beginnings.
5. Confront your current reality with hope, honesty, courage and faith.
 - Hold a council retreat to discuss *Veritas*.
 - Form a *Veritas* think tank team.
 - Play *X Marks the Spot* with the entire Council and then with the congregation.
 - Answer honestly the VIM questions for the congregation.
 - Conduct a congregational assessment using the forthcoming tools.
 - Form a *Veritas* cluster with other Covenant churches.
 - Contact your conference staff for his or her assessment.
6. Practice appreciative inquiry.
 - What drew you to this church in the first place?
 - Why have you stayed in this church?
 - What is a peak experience you have had in this church?
 - Who are you as a congregation when you are at your best?
 - How do you see God at work right now in your own life and in the life of your church?
 - For you, what is the heart of the matter in terms of where the church is right now?
 - What advice are you giving yourself these days?
 - How did your family of origin handle conflict and how does this affect the way you respond now?
7. Implement the strategies for your church type.
8. Find your Biblical story.
9. Craft a language of hope.
10. Celebrate small wins and get the “big mo” going.
11. Simplify and stop trying to please everyone.
12. Modify your council agenda to include balcony space. It takes a healthy missional Council to lead a healthy missional church.
13. Open the door to younger gifted lay leaders on your Council.
14. Plan a service of consecration.
15. Visit a healthy missional church.
16. Be aware of and alert to spiritual warfare.
17. Tomorrow at church, look through the eyes of a guest who is far from God.
18. Start thinking like a missionary.
19. Up the fun factor.
20. Schedule an evangelism training, CMJ or DCF workshop.
21. Download resources from the Congregational Vitality website: www.covchurch.org/vitality
22. Reexamine your constitution and bylaws.