

Hi CAC Family!

Hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather we have been blessed with these last few days. I planted 49 garlic bulbs (yes, I know it is a little early but they always seem to do fine whether I plant them in Sept or October) this evening and I noticed a cold wind blowing. I think Fall is coming!

We are trying our best not to overwhelm you with too much information too fast but the PEAK Survey has so much data in it that it is almost impossible not to overwhelm you. My sincerest apology! We have 2 more (9.4 and 9.5) for September and then you will have the entire PEAK Survey results.

The information from these 3 categories reminded me of something Lori (my wife) sent me back on August 7, 2023. She shared a Daily Bread story from that date. The title was, "A Thousand Dots of Light." In this devotional, the author talks about glow worms and how they hatch and glow this brilliant blue luminescence and when there are thousands of these glow worms bioluminescing together, they produce this breathtaking display of light!

Have any of you ever seen this? If you have, tell me about it!

How does this apply to this edition of Elder Newsletter 9.3?

It troubled and saddened me that one of our lowest Essential Element categories was in LOVING COMMUNITY and another one of our lowest subcategories in WORSHIP GATHERING was establishing a welcoming environment for believers and non-believers. Hmm,...what is God saying to us?

The author of this Daily Bread goes on to say,

“When we get discouraged, thinking our life testimony is just one little dot in a midnight culture of pitch black, we might take assurance from the Bible. We’re not alone. Together, as God guides us, we make a difference and glow a brilliant light. It seems that a whole congregation of glow worms might attract a whole lot of interest.”

I do believe that together, if we are able to join our hearts together in wanting to make a difference in our community, that we can be like these glow worms. Individually, our bioluminescence may not give off much light but when we join our hearts together and shine together as a community (a LOVING COMMUNITY), we can really be a brilliant light for our community. Jesus said, they will know we are Christ followers by our love. This just came to me: “bio” means life. When we let our luminescence shine together,

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we are able to share “life” to those around us. May God continue to grow us in the area of Loving Community.

In this newsletter, we want to focus on the next 3 of the 9 essential categories:

1. **LOVING COMMUNITY**: A Loving Community fosters a welcoming environment where people feel a sense of belonging and can build loving and caring relationships to grow in community with God and others. Acts 2:45-47, Matthew 18:15-19, Hebrews 10:25.
2. **WORSHIP GATHERING**: A Worship Gathering welcomes the Spirit of God, glorifies God, and exemplifies the Gospel relevantly to children, youth and adults. I Corinthians 2:4-5, Psalms 100, Isaiah 6:1-8.
3. **VISION ALIGNMENT**: The church aligns their ministry according to God’s unique mission, vision, and values for the church. Jeremiah 29:11, Psalms 32:8-11.

As a quick reminder the scores mean the following:

- 1.0-2.0: No development.
- 2.1-3.4: Low development.
- 3.5-3.9: Moderate development.
- 4.0-5.0: Strong development.

I. **LOVING COMMUNITY:**

- a. Offers welcoming hospitality personally and corporately: Leadership 3.4. Non-leadership 3.2.
- b. Develops opportunities for everyone to connect to the church community: Leadership 3.8. Non-leadership 3.4.
- c. Lives in community by fostering authentic, caring and transformative relationships: Leadership 4.0. Non-leadership 3.7.
- d. Regularly prays and cares for one another: Leadership 3.4. Non-leadership 3.0.
- e. Intentionally reflects the diversity of the community: Leadership 2.4. Non-leadership 2.5.
- f. Practices biblical models of conflict resolution: Leadership 3.6. Non-leadership 3.4.

Comments: This is 1 of 2 categories with our lowest scores. Our highest in this category was (c). This says we have a community that fosters authentic, caring and transformative relationships. Our lowest subcategory was (e) which says we do not intentionally reflect the diversity of our community.

II. **WORSHIP GATHERING:**

- a. Orients worship services around welcoming and experiencing the presence of God: Leadership 4.5. Non-leadership 4.3.
- b. Practices worship to glorify God and receive the power of the Gospel: Leadership 4.2. Non-leadership 4.3.
- c. Proclaims the word of God clearly and powerfully: Leadership 4..6. Non-leadership 4.4.
- d. Establishes a welcoming environment for believers and non-believers: Leadership 3.2. Non-leadership 3.2.

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- e. Effectively organizes and administrates worship services: Leadership 4.2. Non-leadership 4.2.
  - f. Culminates in inspiration and practical application for living the Christian life: Leadership 4.1. Non-leadership 4.1.

Comments: Overall, we scored fairly high in this category. Our highest subcategory was (c) with (a) being pretty close. We proclaim God's work clearly and powerfully and we want to welcome and experience the presence of God in our worship service. Our lowest subcategory was (d), establishing a welcoming environment for believers and non-believers.

### III. VISION ALIGNMENT:

- a. Clearly and consistently communicates the Mission, Vision and Values: Leadership 4.4. Non-leadership 3.9.
- b. Permeates church culture with Mission, Vision and Values: Leadership 4.0. Non-leadership 3.5.
- c. Effectively aligns programs, ministries, and events to the Mission, Vision and Values: Leadership 3.5. Non-leadership 3.7.

Comments: The highest subcategory was (a) and lowest was (c). We clearly and consistently communicate the Mission, Vision and Values but we need to be more effective at aligning our programs, ministries and events to the Mission, Vision and Values.

Here are the remaining sessions:

*October 3 – Compass Session—What aligns us? First understand what we mean by Leadership, Mission and Discipleship so we can have a common understanding of these terms. Determining the cardinal directions in Leadership, Missions and Discipleship.*

*November 7 – Impact Session part 1—What is our “Critical Gospel Impact”? Understanding how this intersects in the context which God has placed us.*

*December 5 – Impact Session part 2*

*January 9 – Story Session—what do we need to know about our church so we can repeat what is good, redeem what needs to be accounted for and restore wounds we have inflicted or received.*

*January 30 – Map Session—How will we know we are on track? MAP provides a framework to ensure we stay on track with our cardinal directions, CGI and what our story revealed to us.*

*March 5 – Remember Session—what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?*

Future Elder Newsletters:

Elder Newsletter 9.4, I would like to focus on Alliance Partnership, Financial Stewardship and Effective Organization.

Elder Newsletter 9.5, I would like to finish with Volunteer Engagement and the Leadership Team Evaluation.

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Dennis Beatty, Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley,

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Adam Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase.

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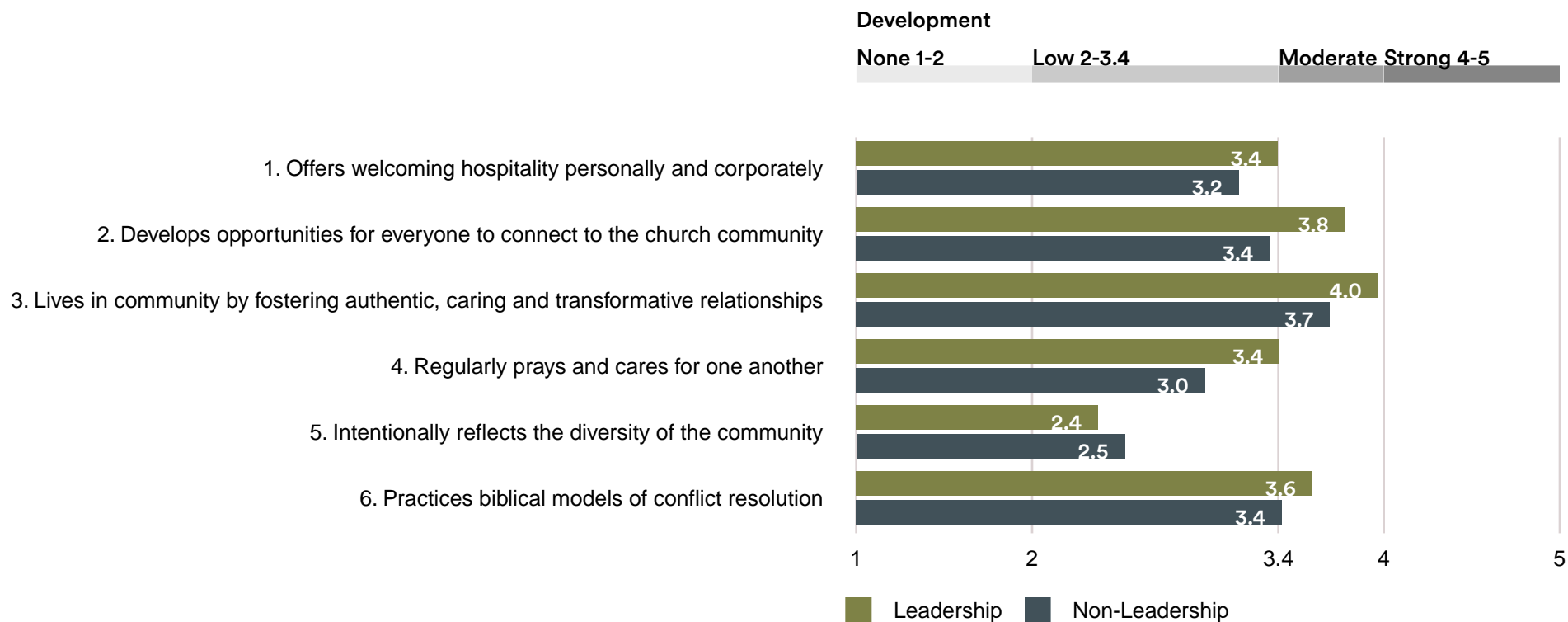
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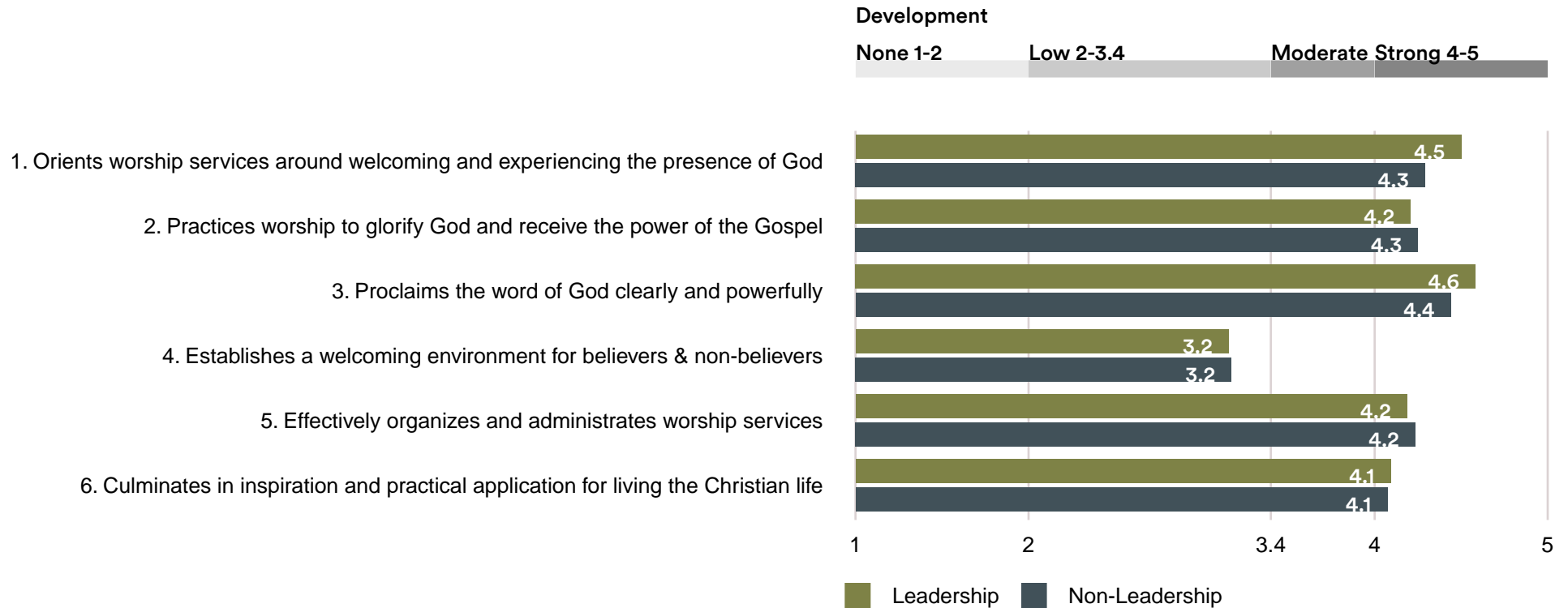
# Loving Community

A Loving Community fosters a welcoming environment where people feel a sense of belonging and can build loving and caring relationships to grow in community with God and others. - Acts 2:45-47, Matthew 18:15-19, Hebrews 10:25



# Worship Gathering

A Worship Gathering welcomes the Spirit of God, glorifies God, and exemplifies the Gospel relevantly to children, youth, and adults. - 1  
 Corinthians 2:4–5, Psalm 100, Isaiah 6:1-8



# Vision Alignment

The church aligns their ministry according to God's unique mission, vision, and values for the church. - Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 32:8-11, Proverbs 15:22

