

Hi CAC Family!

Are you ready for more information? But before that, let me share some personal reflections. I regularly read something called Dennison Forum and a recent edition on 9/11 shared the following,

“America’s growing disinterest in religion is now so often reported as to be routine news. Worship attendance has declined significantly; the younger you are, the less likely you are to be religious. The percentage of Americans who said they belonged to a church, synagogue, or mosque had fallen below 50% for the first time.

But here is my point: 70% of us claimed such a commitment in 2001, compared with 47% today. By contrast, around just 16% of Americans said they had no religious affiliation in 2001; that number has risen to 29% today.

Many reasons are typically cited for the decline of religious interest in America, from divisive political engagement to the pandemic to clergy abuse scandals to our busy lives. But we should not overlook this fact: 9/11 not only provoked a widespread reaction against Islam—it has been frequently cited by atheists and skeptics as proof that religion in general is dangerous to society.”

Wow, if there is ever a time that the church needs to step up and be relevant in our world, it is now. This is why we are going through such an extensive and rigorous process like PEAK. We want God to be relative to our world in 2023 as we seek to make a difference locally, regionally and globally. PEAK is the collective wisdom of many people (all of you), underscored with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to help us to gain a better understanding of how to help our world see the relevance of spirituality but more importantly, with having a relationship with Jesus.

We pray that this will be the collective desires of the people of Canby Alliance Church!

Brandon Lakes song, “There is a Move” expresses our hearts’ prayers:

We are here for you.

We are here for you, come and do what You do.

We are here for you (You’re the only thing that matters).

Come and do what you do (You’re the only one that matters).

We set our hearts on you.

Come and do what you do (Oh, do it Lord, oh we need you to move).

In this edition, I would like to focus on the first three of the nine Essential Elements:

1. **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**: Spiritual Leadership is led by biblically qualified leaders who serve the church in the model of servant leadership to protect and care for the body of believers while empowering, teaching and leading according to discernment of God’s will for the church. Titus 1;6-9, I Timothy 3:1-6.

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2. **PERSONAL GROWTH**: Personal Growth intentionally fosters the spiritual growth of people towards the image of Christ with an increasing desire to serve the church and reach the world for the Gospel. Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 28:18, Colossians 3.
 3. **MISSIONS FOCUS**: A Missions Focus advances the Kingdom of God by demonstrating and proclaiming the good news of Jesus to their community, region and world. Acts 1:8, Matthew 10, Luke 10.

The survey analysis looks at each of the 9 Essential Elements and breaks it down into more specific subcategories. This allows us to better understand the scores on a more detailed level.

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. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

- a. Seeks to discern God's will through prayer and the reading of God's Word: Leadership: 4.4. Non-leadership 4.5.
- b. Leads with a spiritual fervor and zeal through empowerment of the Holy Spirit: Leadership 4.0. Non-leadership 4.3.
- c. Cultivates love and care for the body of believers: Leadership 4.4. Non-leadership 3.9.
- d. Practices self-awareness with relational and emotional health: Leadership 4.1. Non-leadership 4.2.
- e. Manages conflict biblically in a wise, timely and restorative manner: Leadership 4.0. Non-leadership 3.8.
- f. Intentionally develops and empowers new leaders: Leadership 3.0. Non-leadership 3.3.
- g. Pastors and elders serve the church together in unity. Leadership 4.6. Non-leadership 4.4.

Comments: Our strongest sub-category is (g) which says church leaders serve together in unity. This is a definite strength that we can celebrate! Our lowest sub-category is (f) which has to do with intentionally developing and empowering new leaders.

II. PERSONAL GROWTH

- a. Develops a hunger and thirst for relationship with God through prayer: Leadership 4.1. Non-leadership 3.8.
- b. Understands and obeys the Word of God for personal spiritual growth: Leadership: 3.6. Non-leadership 3.8.
- c. Effectively utilizes and develops spiritual gifts: Leadership 3.5. Non-leadership 3.3.
- d. Evidences "christ-like" character and fruits of the Spirit through healing and transformation: Leadership 3.9. Non-leadership 3.5.
- e. Fosters an intentional process of discipleship: Leadership 3.1. Non-leadership 3.1.

Comments: Our best score is (a). We want to personally have a deep hunger and thirst for God because that is how our hearts change and how we become more sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our lowest score was in (e) which has to do with intentionally fostering a process of discipleship.

III. MISSIONS FOCUS

- a. Engages in prayer as the foundation of missions: Leadership 4.4. Non-leadership 4.3.
- b. Trains and equips the church to present the Gospel: Leadership 2.7. Non-leadership 2.9.
- c. Demonstrates the gospel in word and deed: Leadership 3.2. Non-leadership 3.1.
- d. Prays for and invests in the needs of the community and region: Leadership 4.1. Non-leadership 4.0.
- e. Develops regional partnerships to expand missional impact in the community and region: Leadership 4.1. Non-leadership 4.0.
- f. Fosters global partnerships for long-term impact: Leadership 4.8. Non-leadership 4.5.

Comments: Our highest score is in (f) which says we foster global partnerships for long-term impact. I suspect this is because of our long-term relationship with the Susu People Group. Our lowest scores are in category (b), (c) and (d). This has to do with training and equipping the church to share the gospel, demonstrating the Gospel in work and deed and praying and meeting the needs of our community.

This is a lot of very good information. We need to prayerfully chew on this information and understand it before we can formulate an action plan. This is what will happen in future sessions.

May God continue to move our hearts with these revelations through the PEAK surveys that we all filled out.

What is God saying to us?

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 9.3, I would like to focus on Loving Community, Worship Gathering and Vision Alignment.

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

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

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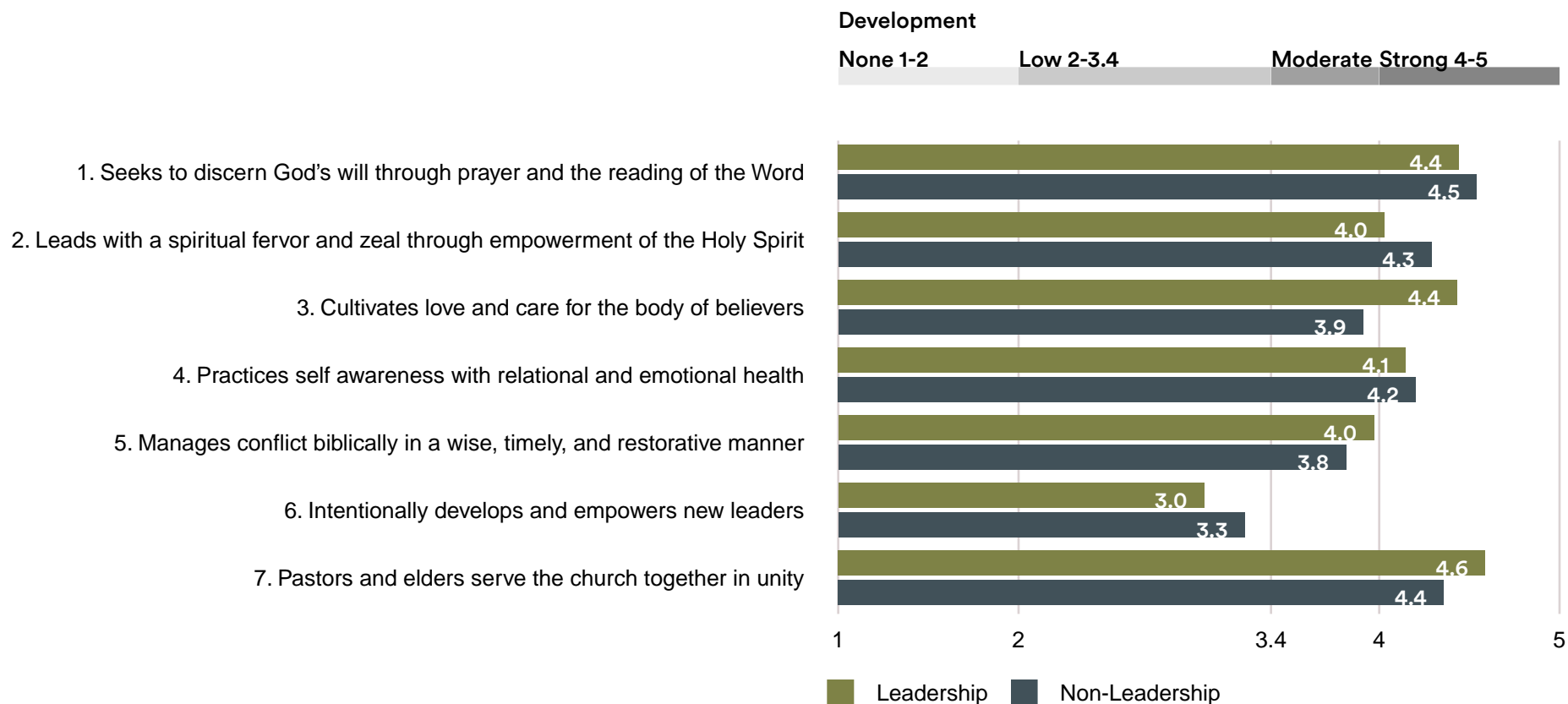
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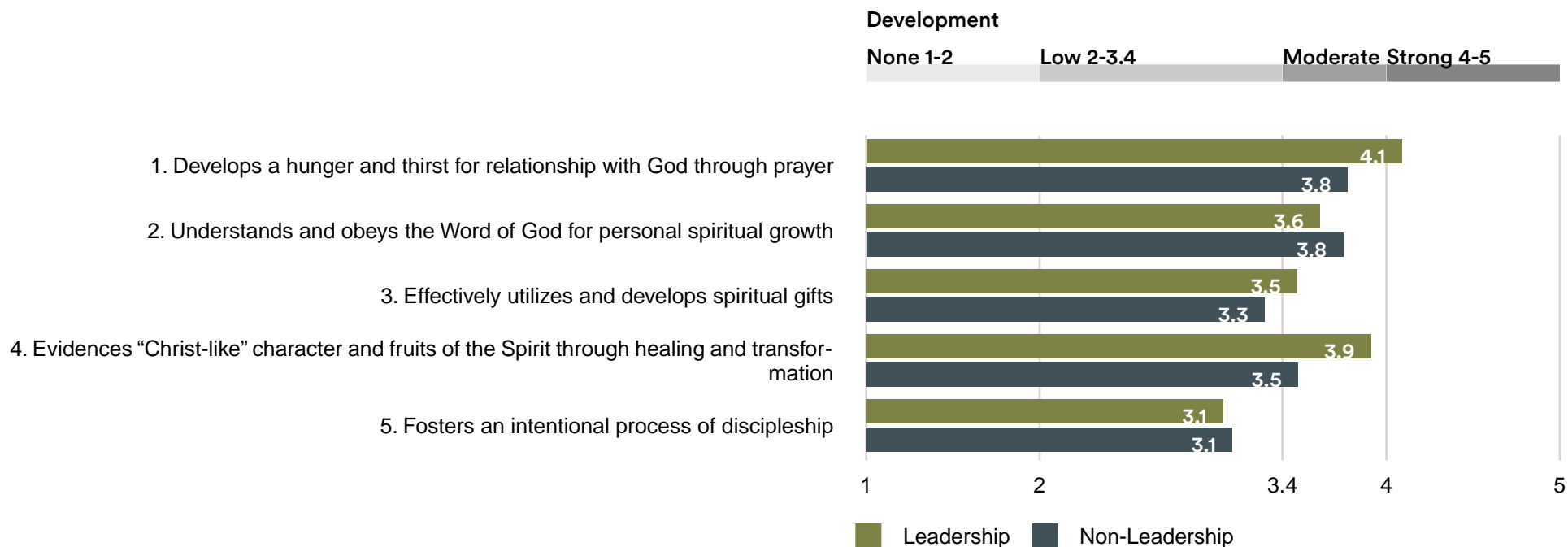
Spiritual Leadership

Spiritual leadership is led by biblically qualified leaders who serve the church in the model of servant leadership to protect & care for the body of believers while empowering, teaching and leading according to discernment of God's will for the church. - Titus 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-6



Personal Growth

Personal Growth intentionally fosters the spiritual growth of people towards the image of Christ with an increasing desire to serve the church and reach the world for the Gospel. - Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 28:18, Colossians 3



Missions Focus

A Missions Focus advances the Kingdom of God by demonstrating and proclaiming the good news of Jesus to their community, region and world. - Acts 1:8, Matthew 10, Luke 10

