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## THE PARISH PAPER

### January 2019

#### **Defining Church Vitality: Let Me Count the Ways**

Most pastors, laypersons, and denominational leaders develop a personal theory that says one particular factor is the key to congregational vitality. Each of those theories is correct and incorrect. Each "favorite factor" is important, but church vitality is a result of a long list of factors.

#### **What Is the Church's Macro Mission?**

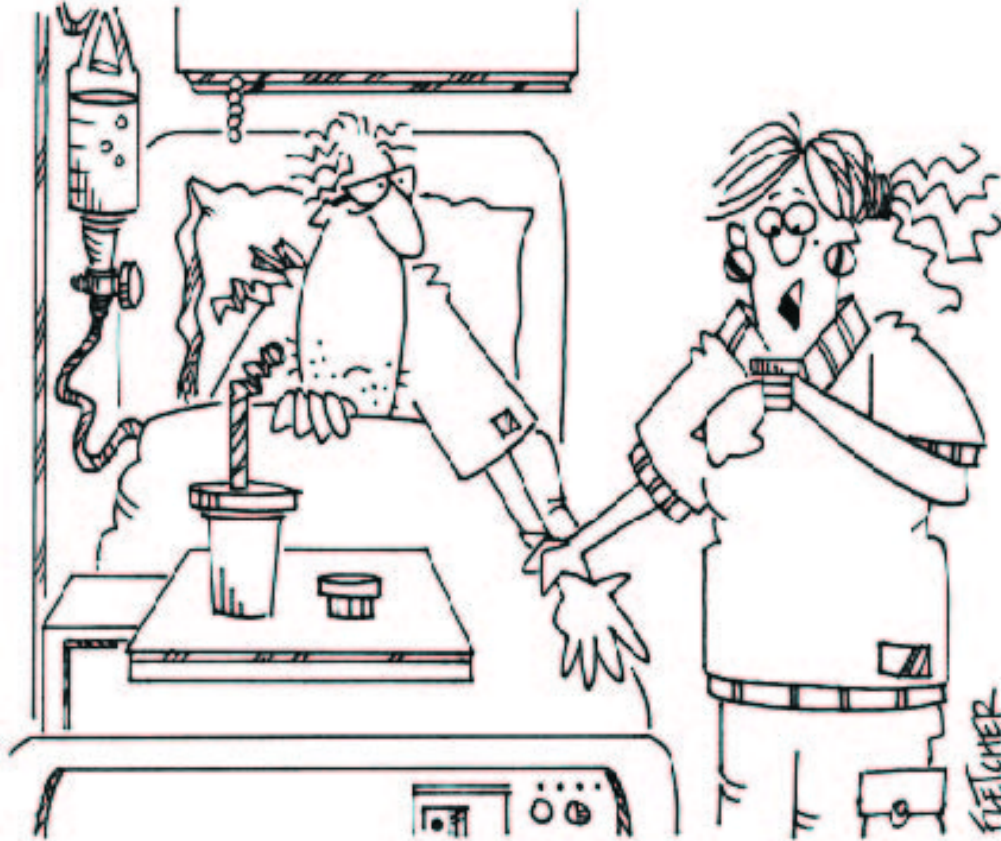
Looking at church vitality from the macro direction produces a list of classic, universal mission functions for churches of every size, in every generation, in every kind of community. From this perspective, all vital churches have the same mission. Theologians and church historians have summarized that macro mission with terms such as Koinonia (fellowship/relational/community), Diaconia (service), Didache (Bible teaching), Kerygma (proclamation), and Leiturgia (worship/communal prayer). We see this macro mission in the writings of theologians, the printed mission statements of denominations, and the preambles of local church constitutions. All of these

documents

are biblical, truthful statements of purpose.

Most church leaders and members feel adequately informed with the three verses in which Jesus answered

[Read the full article here.....](#)



"JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF VISITORS WHO SAID THEY LOVED YOU... YOU EITHER ATTEND A VERY AFFECTIONATE CHURCH, OR YOU'RE A LOT SICKER THAN I THOUGHT."

*~~from the Vermont Conference Resource Center and your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution to the Vermont Conference which makes this newsletter and numerous programs available to you and your church.*

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