Performance of the Board

All board members are asked to assess the board's performance by answering a series of questions based on recognized roles and responsibilities of nonprofit boards. The questions are divided into the following sections:

1. Overseeing the Mission and Vision
2. Ensuring effective strategic planning
3. Building a competent Board
4. Conduct productive Board meetings
5. Organizational Practices

**Mission Statement of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Fill in the ministry mission statement]**

**Core Values of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[Fill in the ministry core values]**

**The Board’s effectiveness in overseeing the Mission and Vision**: One of the board's fundamental roles is setting direction for the organization. This begins with the board's responsibility for establishing the mission and defining a vision of the future. A mission statement is a concise expression of what the organization is trying to achieve and for whose benefit. A vision statement is an inspiring verbal picture of the organization's desired future. These statements serve as the foundation for making decisions. The board, working closely with the chief executive, should review them periodically and revise them if necessary.

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| **Rate the Board’s performance in the following areas (place an X in the box that best reflects your assessment of the Board’s performance)** | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Good** | **Excellent** |
| Board’s performance in supporting the mission |  |  |  |  |
| Agreeing on how the ministry should fulfill its mission |  |  |  |  |
| Articulating a long term vision for ministry that is distinct from the mission |  |  |  |  |
| Articulating strategic objectives to support the ministry mission |  |  |  |  |
| Comments (please make suggestions on how the Board might improve performance in this area) |

**Ensure effective Strategic planning**: To carry out its role in setting direction, the board is actively involved in strategic planning and thinking. Typically the board engages in a formal planning process every few years. Then, it monitors progress against that plan. The board also needs to understand those the organization serves and stakeholders, as well as the internal and external operating environments, so that it can respond appropriately as opportunities and challenges arise. It focuses its efforts primarily on long-term, strategic issues, rather than short-term operational and administrative matters.

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| **Please place a check in the box that best reflects your assessment of the Board** | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Good** | **Excellent** |
| Setting the ministry’s strategic direction in partnership with the CEO |  |  |  |  |
| Assessing and responding to changes in the ministry’s strategic environment |  |  |  |  |
| Engaging in an effective strategic planning process |  |  |  |  |
| The Board evaluates all new initiatives based on mission alignment and the “value added” to the ministry’s strategic objectives |  |  |  |  |
| Comments (please make suggestions on how the Board might improve performance in this area) |

**Build a Competent Board:** An organization's board is a critical resource and the board is responsible for its own composition and leadership. A good board is made up of individuals who contribute critically needed skills, experience, perspective, wisdom, contacts, time, and other resources to the organization. A well-conceived board-building plan helps the board to identify and recruit members and cultivate officers. New members are oriented to the board's responsibilities and the organization's activities. Board member rotation ensures that the board is infused with new ideas yet remains a manageable size.

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| **Please place a check in the box that best reflects your assessment of the Board** | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Good** | **Excellent** |
| Ensuring the current board has the capacity to lead the organization into the future. |  |  |  |  |
| Examining the board’s current composition and identifying gaps, e.g. in expertise, influence, ethnicity, age, gender. |  |  |  |  |
| Effectively orienting new board members. |  |  |  |  |
| Effectively evaluating the effectiveness and contributions of the current board members. |  |  |  |  |
| Comments (please make suggestions on how the Board might improve performance in this area)  |

**Conduct Productive Board Meetings:** Boards carry out much of their work in meetings. Meetings that are carefully structured and efficiently conducted will help board members feel that their time is well spent and that the board adds value to the organization. Effective boards have meeting agendas that focus on important issues, allow for discussion, and lead to action. To ensure efficiency, board members receive and review agendas and background materials prior to the meetings. To tap into the collective wisdom of the board, boards pay careful attention to boardroom culture, group dynamics, and decision-making processes.

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| **Please place a check in the box that best reflects your assessment of the Board** | **Poor** | **Fair** | **Good** | **Excellent** |
| Fostering an environment that builds trust and respect among board members |  |  |  |  |
| Allowing adequate time for board members to ask questions and explore issues |  |  |  |  |
| The ministry staff reports given to the Board are valuable and informative |  |  |  |  |
| The Board packet information  |  |  |  |  |
| Identify three (3) to five (5) improvements the Board could make to improve the Board meetings: |