

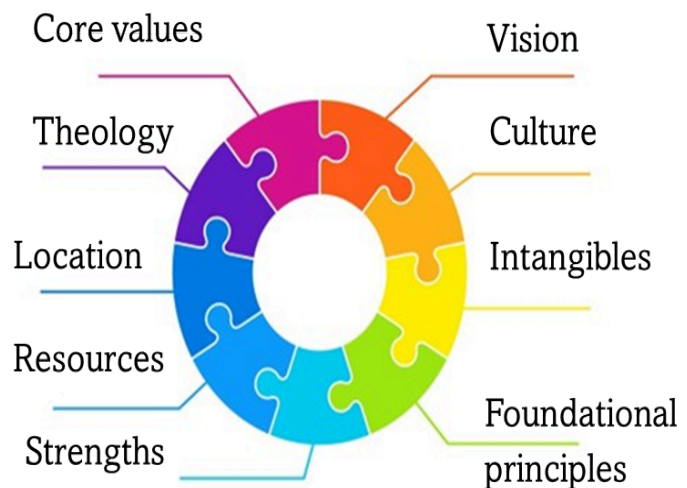
Spiritual DNA Summary

“Reflections” Where are we going?



Over the past 11 months, we have had the wonderful privilege of reviewing the spiritual DNA God blessed us with, and recently we entered a time of ‘strengthening our core,’ building up our key leaders and ministries. Over the last few weeks, our leadership teams have had a chance to review and synthesize all the information, and I now want to share those results.

If you remember, a church’s spiritual DNA is the sum of all the traits and characteristics that make a church unique, or in our case, congregation - the 1-of-a-kind imprint of God’s grace. This DNA not only tells us where we’ve come from, but it also informs us where and how we should be proceeding as we look to the future. Our natural tendency may be to ask why we don’t just trust God to lead, or allow the Holy Spirit to move us, but the task of ‘taking stock’ is actually a spiritual exercise of self-examination that we see in the life of Israel in the Old Testament.



Here are the results:

Core values: biblical foundation, intentional discipleship, active service, global missions, church-planting, cultural transformation

Theology: Calvinistic, premillennial, elder leadership, complementarian, expository preaching, baptistic.

Location: in the heart of Chinatown, situated on a major downtown street which provides an easy launching point into the multiethnic downtown core, close to universities, the financial district, and other key institutions, adjacent to an area of high-density inner-city development, as well as vulnerable populations like new immigrants and the homeless.

Resources: a physical building in the downtown core of the city, a strong financial situation, a diverse congregation with many gifts, a growing range of generations, and a multicultural mix.

Strengths: expository preaching and solid theology, great financial situation, strong spiritual leadership, willingness to embrace strategic relationships, intergenerational with many young families, ability to bridge generations of immigrants, a strong sense of servanthood and sacrifice, Gospel-oriented, intentional hidden peoples' missions emphasis, and a heart for children, youth, and young adults.

Church-wide Vision: the church-wide vision is a missional community seizing every opportunity to share the gospel

Culture: a wide Asian heritage of multigenerational families, embracing of other ethnicities, sacrificial servanthood and giving, multi-site unity of leadership and resources, continuity of founding values, and family-oriented.

Intangibles: an ethos of serving out of a deep love for God, welcoming of culturally diverse leadership, a prevailing sense of grace that permeates our relationships, embracing of others who are culturally different, a strong sense of commitment, community, and sacrificial servanthood, a strong desire for ongoing biblical learning, and a heart for children, youth, and young adults.

Foundational principles: a legacy of evangelism, humble and godly leadership, a strong desire for community, sacrificial servanthood and giving, a pioneering entrepreneurial spirit that's willing to take risks for the Gospel, an ethos of serving out of a deep love of God, and a commanding desire for the next generation to do better than themselves.

In a few weeks, I am going on sabbatical, but each person on our congregational leadership team has a specific plan of attack to work for 'strengthening the core,' and I know that they will serve you very well in my absence. I will be back from sabbatical on June 17th, and I'm

excited to look towards our fall 'reveal.' (Some suspense is always good) Please continue to pray for your leaders, and if you're thinking of serving in some way, please just ask.

May the Lord richly bless you this week.



Pastor Kevin

We have a limitless mission field at our own doorstep.

May the Lord continue to strengthen and use you this week to bring glory to his name.