



## ***“A Thriving Church Needs...”***

## *Ephesians 4:11-16*

February 1, 2026

## *Pastor Bear Clifton*

1. What are some of the things we've learned about thriving this past month?
2. It's not only people who need to work on thriving. Churches do as well. What do we learn from the Seven Churches in Revelation 2 & 3?
3. Ephesians 4 is one of the clearest descriptions in the Bible of what a thriving church looks like. What two things does Paul mention?
  - a. In a thriving church you'll find \_\_\_\_\_.  
*In what ways does this show itself?*
  - b. In a thriving church, you'll find people \_\_\_\_\_.  
*In what ways does this show itself?*

4. How does an individual congregation get to a point where it is thriving in unity and growth? It needs 3 essential things:

- It needs \_\_\_\_\_ who are thriving.

### *15 Thrive Practices: A Tool For Leadership Accountability and Growth*



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# **2026 Ministry Plan**

## **Activate the \_\_\_\_\_ In The Church Body**

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” – 1 Cor.12:7*

Re-envision the church body with the “priesthood of all believers” concept found in our FULL Member plan

Offer a 201 *Gifts and Call Discovery* class as a followup to our Mem-Sem

Encourage growing volunteerism in support of our Sunday service, which then branches outwards

## **Unleash The \_\_\_\_\_ Capacity of the Church**

*“Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.” – 1 Thessalonians 4:9*

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ...For each will have to bear his own load.” – Galatians 6:1-5*

Train and utilize existing Life Groups as our front line of Community Care

Teach each member self-examination skills for Self-Care, then move toward 80% church-wide participation in small coaching triads or quads with followup and support

Identify church members with the spiritual gift of mercy, and create a dedicated Compassion Team (i.e. Diaconate), an expansion of our BridgeHelps team

## **Equip The \_\_\_\_\_ In The Church Body**

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...” – Colossians 3:16*

*“Equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Sion of God, to mature manhood.” – Ephesians 4:12-13*

Equip every church member to prepare an annual Discipleship Growth Plan

Enable a thorough launch of our Journey discipleship ministry

Establish a regular “Saturday Seminar” for training; and a twice-a-month midweek Bible study open to the church – the Saturday Seminars will be used for our church 101-201 classes, and also provide training in theology, leadership, and family discipleship.

## **Deepen the Roots of \_\_\_\_\_ Across the Church Family**

*“I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” – 1 Timothy 2:1*

Host 2-3 Churchwide Prayer Concerts

Train the church in “Prayer Skills” (e.g. Praying Scripture, Fasting, Scripture Praying, Praying the Hours, Using the Lord’s Prayer Model, Learning to Listen, etc.)

## **Train The Church To Become Vibrant \_\_\_\_\_**

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8*

Emphasize apologetics – the defense of the faith – throughout the year

Encourage churchwide participation in giving 60-Second Testimonies. Create a video library of these testimonies.

During Lent, we will share in a “There’s No One Like Jesus” campaign.

## **Help PBC To ‘Lead From His Strengths’**

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” – 1 Peter 4:10*

Adjust preaching rhythm

Decentralize ministries: more ministry, fewer meetings (such as quarterly ML meetings)

Simply our events – create an ecosystem of relationship building and simple outreach

Simplify our worship services by making it more about training and participation

Add staff