**DIVINE DNA DISCERNMENT EXERCISE**

***Each local church is unmistakably unique and incomparably different. God delights in uniqueness and doesn’t mass produce His church. Therefore, the starting point for discerning our church’s future is not determining where we want to go or exploring what is working for other churches, but understanding “how we are unique.”***

***The questions below represent four sources of uniqueness to help us discover and begin to think strategically about the matchless divine DNA of our identity as an expression of Christ’s body.***

**OUR UNIQUE LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**“What are the unique needs and opportunities for ministry in our community?”**

1. What are the unreached or under reached people groups in our area that present an opportunity for ministry?
2. Because of our specific location and facilities, what opportunities do they offer and what solutions could we provide that no other church in our area can do as well?
3. What opportunities exist for our church to address the issues of poverty, education and healthcare?
4. What are the two or three most significant changes in our community in the last decade and what needs and opportunities do they create?

**OUR UNIQUE CAPABILITIES**

**“What are the unique resources, strengths, gifts and capabilities that God brings together in us?”**

1. Who do we reach most effectively based on such factors as ethnicity, age, education, life stage, occupations, zip code and spiritual maturity? What spiritual gifts seem prominent in our church?
2. Why do people drive by other churches to come to our church? What are we known for?
3. What ministries have had the biggest Kingdom impact in our church’s history?
4. If you brought a guest to the church for the first time, what singular promise about what they will experience would you be most willing to make?

**OUR UNIQUE MISSIONAL PASSIONS**

**“What particular focuses have most energized and deeply moved our leadership?”**

1. What visions and passions have been most frequently expressed by our past and present leaders?
2. What shortcomings of the church have most bothered our past and present leaders?
3. What mission opportunities have most stirred the hearts of our past and the present leaders?
4. Who are your church heroes from our past and present? Why do you admire them?

**OUR UNIQUE HOPES AND FEARS**

***“What might our church look like in the future?***

1. What are your hopes and dreams for our church?
2. If we had unlimited resources and couldn’t fail, what would you like to see our church attempt?
3. What are your concerns and fears for our church?
4. What are the greatest challenges ahead for our church?