

Notes: Shabbat – September 6, 2014

Start: 10 am

Order of Service:

Meet and Greet
Introduction (if new people)
Announcements
Open in Prayer for service
Ma Tov
Praise and Worship Songs
Liturgy – Sh'ma
Message
Kaddash - Time of Prayer
Aaronic Blessing
Kiddush
Oneg

Introduction: What Comprises a Successful Congregation?

I was listening to Dr. Michael Brown last week and he asked the following question:

According to Pastors, how do they define if there congregation is successful?

First keep in mind Dr. Brown didn't reference the survey or any percentages but just the 5 most common responses.

1. Attendance
2. Giving
3. Number of Programs
4. Square Footage
5. Number of Staff

How do we know if we are truly successful as a congregation from Adonai's perspective?

The first place to start, is with our vision statement...

Is the congregation aligned to the vision statement?

Is it moving in the direction of the vision?

What is a vision statement meant to do, specifically for us as a congregation?

It is...

An aspirational [description](#) of what an [organization](#) would like to [achieve](#) or [accomplish](#) in the mid-term or [long-term](#) future. It is intended to [serve](#) as a clear guide for choosing [current](#) and future courses of [action](#). See also [mission statement](#).

Pro 29:18 Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint; but he who keeps Torah is happy.

Hopefully by now many of you who have been here for awhile are familiar with our vision. I am not asking you to quote it word for word, but that you are here, not just because Adonai directed your path here, aligning what has been in your heart with a place to express it, but because you have embraced this vision that comes from Adonai...

Kehilah Portland, (The Congregation at Portland) a Messianic Jewish Synagogue is a manifestation of God's present day regeneration and restoring work in the House of Israel.

Kehilah Portland is a faith community where Jewish people can embrace their Jewish identity and heritage as believers in King Messiah, Yeshua.

Kehilah Portland encourages non-Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua, who desire to embrace the Jewish heritage of their faith and come along side Jewish believers to serve and express their faith in worshiping the God of Israel.

Where there is vision, there must be a purpose behind that vision...

The reason behind the vision...

Why are we here?

Kehilah Portland is a Messianic Jewish Synagogue with the purpose to proclaim the redemptive power and purpose of God through His servant, our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). This proclamation is to all people, with the express desire to connect them with the God of Israel through prayer, worship and community.

To equip people to serve, to grow to maturity and to inspire believers everywhere to recognize the irrevocable calling of God upon the Jewish people, encouraging the nations (Gentiles) to fulfill their biblical mandate to come alongside Israel as co-heirs to the covenants of promise.

In order to accomplish what we have been directed to do by Adonai, requires action. This is seen through the mission portion of our statement.

One of our action items we will be doing tomorrow...

Support Israel and the Jewish people in opposing all acts of hatred (anti-semitism) brought against them.

Speak of the "March"...

Our support for Israel and the Jewish people is a key tenant to our Purpose and cannot be separated from our Vision.

Given that this position is as identified by Alan Pue in his book *Rethinking Sustainability* what he calls a "nonnegotiable"

This position of the congregation is a non-negotiable position. This will not change.

To be on the front line of a spiritual battle will invoke attacks that are not only physical but spiritual

Throughout Sha'ul's letters, he addresses the challenges we as believers will face...

2Co 1:6 So if we undergo trials, it is for your encouragement and deliverance; and if we are encouraged, that should encourage you when you have to endure sufferings like those we are experiencing.

2Co 1:7 Moreover, our hope for you remains staunch, because we know that as you share in the sufferings, you will also share in the encouragement.

Trials directly as a result of our belief in Yeshua.

In the news, around the world, believers are being persecuted and killed.

Jewish Believers in Israel are not always embraced by the community, but are making a difference.

I have shared with you a few of the organizations we as a congregation support in Israel...

Messianic believers in the land who by their action are conveying a love of Messiah...

Isa 49:6 he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya`akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

Raising up the tribes of Ya'akov and restoring the offspring of Israel.

With such a challenging mission, we will encounter tsuris (troubles)

Yeshua recognizes the challenges congregations would endure...

Rev 2:18 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Thyatira, write: 'Here is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like burnished brass:

Rev 2:19 I know what you are doing, your love, trust, service and perseverance. And I know that you are doing more now than before.

Rev 2:8 "To the angel of the Messianic Community in Smyrna, write: 'Here is the message from the First and the Last, who died and came alive again:

Rev 2:9 "I know how you are suffering and how poor you are (though in fact you are rich!), and I know the insults of those who call themselves Jews but aren't — on the contrary, they are a synagogue of the Adversary.

2Co 1:21 Moreover, it is God who sets both us and you in firm union with the Messiah; he has anointed us,

2Co 1:22 put his seal on us, and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee for the future.

Going back to my introduction – just how is a congregation deemed to be successful...

It boils down to the more we are challenged, the greater the impact we are having on the adversary.

His goal is to knock us down, destroy us, defeat us.

If we are without impact, if we are “playing synagogue” You will not see the tsuris. It is only when we are making an impact that you will see troubles in your lives.

If we are going to endure such things, how is that being successful?

It means we are overcoming the enemy for the purpose of Messiah and His vision...

Sha'ul conveys the following to us...

2Co 12:7 Therefore, to keep me from becoming overly proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from the Adversary to pound away at me, so that I wouldn't grow conceited.

2Co 12:8 Three times I begged the Lord to take this thing away from me;

2Co 12:9 but he told me, "My grace is enough for you, for my power is brought to perfection in weakness." Therefore, I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me.

2Co 12:10 Yes, I am well pleased with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties endured on behalf of the Messiah; for it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Rom 5:1 So, since we have come to be considered righteous by God because of our trust, let us continue to have shalom with God through our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah.

Rom 5:2 Also through him and on the ground of our trust, we have gained access to this grace in which we stand; so let us boast about the hope of experiencing God's glory.

Rom 5:3 But not only that, let us also boast in our troubles; because we know that trouble produces endurance,

Rom 5:4 endurance produces character, and character produces hope;

Rom 5:5 and this hope does not let us down, because God's love for us has already been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh who has been given to us.

Rom 12:11 Don't be lazy when hard work is needed, but serve the Lord with spiritual fervor.

Rom 12:12 Rejoice in your hope, be patient in your troubles, and continue steadfastly in prayer.

Rom 12:13 Share what you have with God's people, and practice hospitality.

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you — bless them, don't curse them!

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.