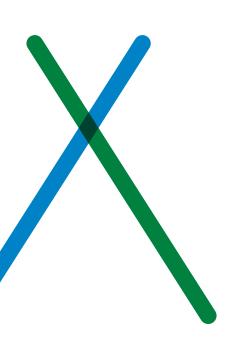
REVITALIZE

Options for Revitalizing Your Church to Make Disciples





The North American Mission Board reports that 70-75 percent of Southern Baptist churches in North America have plateaued or are declining in number with another 10-15 percent at or near risk. This means that 80-90 percent of Southern Baptist Churches are not healthy, disciple-making congregations.

Some common characteristics of healthy disciple-making churches:

- * People are consistently coming to Christ
- * Healthy disciples are being reproduced
- * Members are living out the Word in their daily lives
- * Members are serving and meeting significant needs in the community
- * Leaders are looking for ways to send missionaries and start churches







Life Cycle of Churches



Incline

Future-oriented Vision-driven Community Focus Innovative High-risk Faith Faith Decision \$ = Investor Serve by Gifts New Leadership Conversion Growth



Recline

Present-oriented Program-driven Congregation Focus Routine Low-risk Faith Resource Decision \$ = Provider Serve by Slot Stagnant Leadership Transfer Growth



Decline

Past-oriented Structure-driven Core Focus Complacent No-risk Faith Indecision \$ = Preserver Serve by Default Incumbent Leadership No Growth

How Would You Describe Your Church? (Choose one answer per set)

A. Future-Oriented A. Invests Finances For Mission B. Present-Oriented B. Provides Finances For Ministry C. Preserves Finances For C. Past-Oriented Maintenance 2 8 A. Members Serve Based on Spiritual Gifts C. Structure-driven B. Members Serve Based on Programs of Church 3 C. Members Serve Because A. Focused on Your Community No One Flse Will Do It B. Focused on Your Congregation C. Focused On Core Group A. New Leadership B. Routine C. Complacent 10 A. Conversion Growth 5 B. Transfer Growth A. Demonstrates High-risk Faith C. No Growth B. Demonstrates Low-risk Faith C. Demonstrates No-risk Faith 6 A. Decisions based on Faith B. Decisions based on Available



Now, compare your answers with the chart on page 5.

- Your "A" answers correspond with "Incline"
- Your "B" answers correspond with "Recline"
- Your "C" answers correspond with "Decline"

Higher numbers of "B" and "C" answers indicate a need for some type of Revitalization.



Models for Revitalization

Internal Revitalization

The church has the ability and the people to do the hard work. This may range from minor adjustments to a major overhaul of systems and structures.

Partnership

The church establishes a covenant with a strong, healthy sister church to provide help for a specified amount of time. The stronger church may provide staff as well as material and/or financial resources. The church needing revitalization must be willing to follow the leadership of the stronger church.

Merger

Sometimes two churches find themselves in a situation where a merger provides the necessary resources of finances and people to revitalize into one new church. Usually another name is chosen and considerations given to provide for a smooth transition between or merger of church staff.

Acquisitional Revitalization

The church yields property and leadership to a stronger church for a satellite campus or new church start.

Restart

The church, working with local leaders in the association and the state convention, disbands so that a new ministry, based on local context, can be launched at the current location.

Next Steps



Step One: Pray

Start immediately with intentional, fervent prayer. Ask God to reveal His plan to you. Gather key leaders in the church to pray with you for God's direction.

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Step Two: Count the Cost and Commit

There is hope for every church, BUT it requires hard work. Revitalization is not for the faint-hearted! There are many aspects of revitalization. There is no "silver bullet." Revitalization usually will not happen quickly. You will have to make hard decisions and wrestle with tough ideas. However, those who are desperate enough to depend fully on God and work diligently and strategically for the Kingdom can see revitalization begin.

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Step Three: Contact

The Church Strengthening Team of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) can help you evaluate your current situation and make recommendations. As you choose the path that is right for you, we want to assist you as the Lord leads you through the revitalization process.



REVITALIZE

Your BSCNC Contact:

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The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.