

The Engaging Church

Core Study designed by Church Growth, Inc. 6-8 Weeks Study of Evangelism

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About Church Growth, Inc.

Church Growth, Inc. (CGI) is a 23-year old ministry organization dedicated to the research and dissemination of how local churches grow.

In the most basic understanding, churches grow in one of a combination of three methods: biological growth, transfer growth, and conversion growth. CGI believes, and operates under the assumption, that while all kinds of growth are desirable growth, the primary call of Christ to his church is the pursuit of conversion growth — the reaching out to, winning, and assimilating of previously un-reached people into the local congregation.

CGI holds to the underlying conviction that "It's God's will that His church grow,, and His lost children are found." CGI is dedicated to resourcing and helping local churches who share this conviction that Christ is calling them to continue his own purpose: "... to seek and to save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10)

With this singleness of priority, CGI endeavors to provide personal and practical support to church leaders in the form of [Growth Products & Resources](#), [Conferences](#), [Workshops & Speaking Engagements](#), Individual Church Consulting, Articles & Newsletters, and other relevant activities. CGI has no singular denominational roots or connections. Protestant churches across the denominational and theological spectrum have used the resources of CGI, and find that the church growth principles and strategies communicated are relevant and applicable.

CGI is a ministry committed to communicating the principles and strategies of church growth, and assumes each local church and larger church body will integrate these insights into their own particular theological paradigm. CGI believes that while theological convictions are an important part of the "growth mix" of a local church, it is not the role of an outside, para-church organization to endorse or promote any one particular theological view.

CGI does, of course, subscribe to the basic tenants of the traditional Christian faith. None of the principles or strategies disseminated through CGI are in conflict or contradiction to the essential components of the Christian faith and doctrine of Christ's death, burial and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life of all those who accept him as personal Lord and Savior. The only conviction that CGI requires of churches with whom it cooperates is the church's commitment to follow Christ in his timeless "great commission" — to go and make disciples.

The History of Church Growth, Inc.

Church Growth, Inc. (formerly the Institute for American Church Growth) was founded in 1973 by Dr. Win Arn. Having studied at Fuller Theological Seminary under Dr. Donald McGavran, Dr. Arn determined that the principles and insights from the church growth movement had considerable relevance to the American Protestant Church. Prior to 1973 the study of church growth had been focused almost exclusively on the third world. The School of World Mission at Fuller Seminary (which McGavran founded in 1965) had faculty representing expertise in China (Arthur Glasser), Columbia (Peter Wagner), and Guatamala (Ralph Winter.)

Week #1 - “What is an ‘Engaging Church’?”

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Goal of this study - To help you better **understand the ingredients in an effective outreach strategy**, and **to integrate these factors into a plan that is appropriate for our community and productive for Lonoke Missionary Baptist Church.**

- an effective outreach strategy requires individuals with the right attitude about Christ and the church.
 - understand the ingredients in an effective outreach strategy, and – Proverbs 4:7
 - to integrate these factors into a plan that is appropriate for our community and productive for Lonoke Missionary Baptist Church. Proverbs 11:30
- LADCOP Learning, Autonomy, Dedication, Consecration, Obedience, and Productivity

Slide 6 The **Evangelistic** Process is a tripod: This will be a recurring theme

1. **Attracting** outsiders
2. **Connecting** visitors
3. **Integrating** new members

Slide 7 Assumptions...**Meaning index**

- 1. “Outreach” means
- 2. Why we are here
- 3. Efficient and effective

Assumptions...**Meaning**

1. “**Outreach**” means **proclaiming** Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, **persuading** people to become his disciples and responsible members of a **local church**.
 - A. Proclaiming – **workman that needeth not to be ashamed** ... 2 Timothy 2:15
 - B. Persuading – **by the foolishness of preaching we** ... 1 Corinthians 1:21
 - C. Responsible members of a local church Luke 12:48
 - 1) [Ideal member study](#)
1 Thessalonians 1:2-7, 2:13 and 3 John 1-5
 - 2) [Ten Marks of a Growing Church](#) see pages 32-36 in booklet handout

An ideal church member is defined as being a person who attends **at least** one corporate service a week, involved in **at least** one small group a week, and actively ministering to and/or serving others in some form (John 12:26; Matt 20:25-28; Matt 25:43-46); unless certain extenuating circumstances apply—bad health might keep a person home-bound or in a nursing home (we identify those as sick and shut-in members). Military service might take members away from home, family, and the local church for a time, and even the occasional vacation is grounds for missing a week or two.

An ideal leader of church members is defined as a person who is actively doing all of the above and, in addition, they are aggressively pursuing Christian education, they are goal oriented and has God first in their lives.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-7; 2:13

1. Your work of faith
2. Your labor of love
3. Patience of hope
4. Became followers
5. Became Examples
6. Received the Word
7. Applied the Word

3 John 1-5

1. Balance
2. Good Report
3. Consistency

Slide 8 Assumptions...What is **Your reason for coming?**

2. **You are here for this series because** you want to **make disciples** for Christ and see Lonoke grow.
 - A. Make disciples for Christ – **follow me and I will make you fishers of men.** Matthew 4:19
 - B. Help Lonoke to grow (how can you see it without helping it) Acts 2:47

Slide 9 Assumptions...**Hard work is not necessarily effective work**

3. Church leaders can work **hard** and still not reach people. Noah’s example 1 Peter 3:20

Slide 10 What is an “Engaging Church?”

- Poll the group using terms mentioned –
 - Engaging
 - Church -- [Defined](#) see page 28 in booklet handout
- Contrast – church –vs- club/civic organizations, etc.
- Answer:

Fulfilling the “Great Commission”

Making disciples –vs- gaining members

– Disciples = follower/learner

--- Membership = entitlement (misconception of church membership = Christian).

Acts 11:26 (KJV) **26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Matt 28:19 (NKJV) **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt 4:19 (KJV) **19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Growth

Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV) **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church[8] daily those who were being saved.

1. A church that has the highest priority for **making disciples**. ... continued in the apostles doctrine.
2. A church that is willing to meet and connect with unreached people **where they are**.
 - A. Unreached people
 - 1) Unsaved
 - 2) Unchurched
 - 3) Inactive Members
 - a. While the membership is above 200 the Attendance is often less than 100
 - b. Inactive members of other churches
 - 1) Connect them to Christ
 - 2) Advise them to work out their attendance with their membership church.
 - 3) Remember the goal to get them in a Christian environment.
 - 4) Sick and Shut-in (Mission work)
 - B. Where are they?
 - 1) Streets
 - 2) Clubs (other entertainments)
 - 3) Distracted by others:
 - 4) Working
 - 5) Bed
 - a. Sick
 - b. Tired
 - c. Lazy

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3. A church that prioritizes **relationships** rather than **programs**
 - Relationships
 - A. Leaders
 - B. Members
 - 1) Family
 - 2) Friends
 - 3) Foes
 - C. Visitors
 - D. Lost
 - Programs
 - E. Activity merely for entertainment

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Summary/review of lesson covered

An “Engaging Church” is a growing Church

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Week #2 - “The Foundation for Outreach”

-Starts with who and where we are-

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Six Building Blocks of Identity...

1. Mission “Why do we exist?” -----

Purpose

Purpose - (1) The purpose of this congregation is to give visible form to that faith and fellowship to which God has called his people; **(2)** to acknowledge ourselves to be a local manifestation of the universal church through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by his Holy Spirit; **(3)** to *seek to fulfill this calling through corporate worship services*, through a program of Christian nurture by which our members may be *built up in their faith and love*, through proclamation of the gospel by *word and deed*, and to minister to human needs in the name of Christ. ([1 Peter 2:5-12](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#))

Purpose Summary including the foundational elements (or the components of purpose):

- 1) As God’s people we are to be examples, become mentors, and make friends of one another.
- 2) Informed membership and an understanding of our identity in Christ.
- 3) Function components:

1. **Worship Services (Worship)** – Priorities (God First Promotions) and Attendance/consistency efforts. – The praise and exaltation of God. In this aspect of its activity, the church centers its attention upon who and what God is, not upon itself. It aims at appropriately expressing who and what God is, not at satisfying its own feelings. Although worship emphasizes God, it is also intended to benefit the worshipers ([Hebrews 10:25](#))

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections to whom we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

2. **Christian Nurture (Edification)** – Revamp Education Department – Mutual up building by all the members of the body. There are several means by which members of the church are to be edified: fellowship, teaching, and preaching. [2 Timothy 2:15](#) i. e. Make Disciples.

___ We believe that Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is therefore a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ’s people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is coordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

3. **Proclamation of the Gospel (Evangelism)** – Inreach and Outreach Plans – The call to evangelize is a command. The attention is on non-Christians. [Matthew 28:19](#) {Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: }

We believe that it is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man’s spirit by God’s Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ.

A. Inreach – Identify spiritual educational needs, develop curriculum, and activate inactive members.

B. Outreach – Corporate and personal targeting witness strategy

4. **Minister to human needs (Social Concerns)** – Benevolent help, corporate screening, individual contact, and personal assistance. – Responsibility to perform acts of Christian love and compassion for both believers and non-Christians. It is clear that Jesus cared about the problems of the needy and the suffering. [Matthew 25:40](#) {And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.}

We believe that every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the Spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless, and the sick; to seek to bring industry, government and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love; to promote these ends Christians should be ready to

work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and his truth. All means and methods used in social service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend on the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Mission Statement

LONOKE'S MISSION STATEMENT: We present Jesus Christ as the absolute solution to sin. As His servants, we will provide services which will consistently meet the holistic need of people and God's expectation. ([Matthew 25:31-40](#))

Our Corporate Vision is to have Mature, Ministering Members

Connected in carrying out the "Great Commission"

1. To be effectively training converts into Christian beliefs, character, and behavior.
2. To be united in purpose and devoted to Christ.
3. To have love, respect, and obedience to God which is dominating in our life styles.
4. To be speaking prophetically and to have our Lord's message influence community planning.
5. To have support groups helping one another through life's difficult experiences.
6. To have members sacrificing to be available and are providing resources for effective ministries.
7. To be coordinating individual members, their skills, and their talent in committee work, which is glorifying God and leading others to a salvation experience.

To achieve Corporate Vision each Member Goal: Lonoke Sam (The Ideal Member)

1. As a born again Christian.
2. To be a devoted church member.
3. To worship regularly.
4. To have mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction.
5. To walk by Faith.
6. To live like Christ.
7. To know my Purpose.

Corporate Objectives (Overlay Key)

1. Christian Conversion - To lead each person to a genuine experience of the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. (Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9)
2. Church Membership - To guide each Christian into intelligent, active, and devoted membership in a New Testament Church. (Acts 2:47)
3. Christian Worship - To help each person make Christian Worship a vital and constant part of his expanding experience. (John 4:24)
4. Christian Knowledge and Conviction - To help each person grow toward mature Christian knowledge, understanding, and conviction. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:1-3)
5. Christian Attitude and Appreciations - To assist each person in developing such Christian attitudes and appreciations that he will have a Christian approach to all of life. (Romans 8:28)
6. Christian Living - To guide each person in developing habits and skills which promote spiritual growth and in applying Christian standards of conduct in every area of life. (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
7. Christian Service - To lead each person to invest his talents and skills in Christian service. (Matthew 25:24-30)

-Victory through Jesus Christ-

PASTORAL OBJECTIVE

To Teach, Equip, and Unite the People of God in ministering the message and living the life of salvation by the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and to facilitate the fulfillment of Christ functions in the individual and the corporate mission.

Pastoral Mission: To Encourage Harmony of the whole “Body of Christ,” in spite of its diversity.

Pastoral Motto: “It’s better to have hundreds working as one than one doing the work of hundreds.

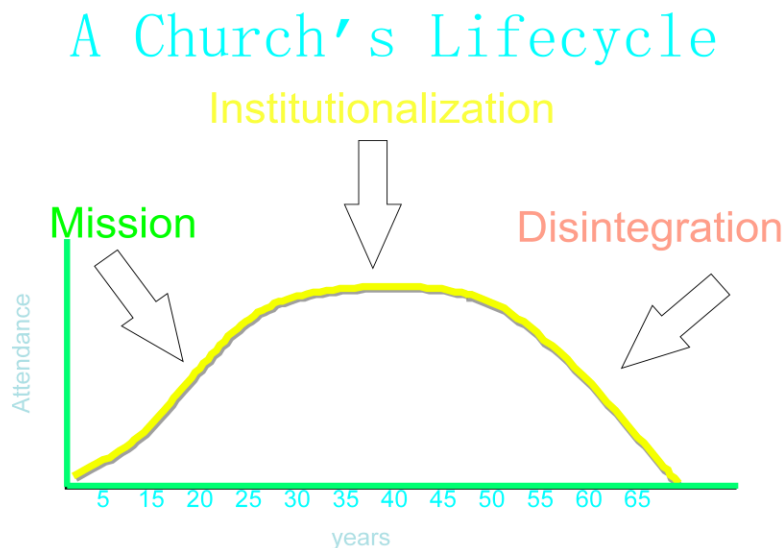
Role of the Pastor – 1 Cor. 10:26-11:1

1. Pastoral Objective
 - a. To Teach
 - b. To Equip
 - c. To unite in ministry
 - d. To Facilitate purpose and mission
2. Pastoral Mission
 - a. Achieving harmony
 - b. Handling diversity
3. Pastoral Motto
 - a. Coordinated ministry
 - b. Cooperating members

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A Church’s Lifecycle

The longer a church exists the more concerned it becomes with self-preservation...and the less concerned with its original purpose.



<u>Mission</u>	<u>Institutional-ization</u>	<u>Survival</u>
Future-oriented	Present-oriented	Past-oriented
Vision-driven	Program-driven	Structure-driven

Community-focused	Congregation-focused	Core-focused
\$ — Investor	\$—Provider	\$—Preserver
Conversion Growth	Transfer growth	No growth

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2. Community “In what context do

we accomplish our mission?” 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

- **geographic** - Geography as a discipline can be split broadly into two main subsidiary fields: [human geography](#) and [physical geography](#). The former largely focuses on the [built environment](#) and how humans create, view, manage, and influence space. The latter examines the natural environment and how [organisms](#), [climate](#), [soil](#), [water](#), and [landforms](#) produce and interact. The difference between these approaches led to a third field, [environmental geography](#), which combines physical and human geography and looks at the interactions between the environment and humans.
 - 1) human geography -- the built environment and how humans create, view, manage, and influence space
 - 2) physical geography -- examines the natural environment and how organisms, climate, soil, water, and landforms produce and interact.
 - 3) environmental geography -- combines physical and human geography and looks at the interactions between the environment and humans.
- **psychographic** - In the fields of [marketing](#), [demographics](#), opinion research, and [social research](#) in general, **psychographic variables** are any attributes relating to personality, values, attitudes, interests, or lifestyles. They are also called IAO variables (for Interests, Activities, and Opinions). They can be contrasted with demographic variables (such as age and gender), behavioral variables (such as usage rate or loyalty), and [firmographic](#) variables (such as industry, seniority and functional area).
 - 1) **psychographic variables** are any attributes relating to
 - ✓ personality,
 - ✓ values,
 - ✓ attitudes,
 - ✓ interests,
 - ✓ lifestyles.
 - 2) They are also called IAO variables
 - ✓ for Interests,
 - ✓ Activities, and
 - ✓ Opinions).
- **demographic** - **Demographics** are the most recent statistical characteristics of a [population](#). These types of data are used widely in [sociology](#) (and especially in the subfield of [demography](#)), [public policy](#), and [marketing](#). Commonly examined demographics include gender, [race](#), age, disabilities, mobility, home ownership, employment status, and even location. *Demographic trends* describe the historical changes in demographics in a population over time (for example, the average age of a population may increase or decrease over time). Both distributions and trends of values within a demographic variable are of interest. Demographics are about the population of a region and the culture of the people there.
 - 1) Commonly examined demographics include
 - ✓ gender,
 - ✓ [race](#),
 - ✓ age,
 - ✓ disabilities,
 - ✓ mobility (the mixing of social groups),
 - ✓ home ownership,
 - ✓ employment status, and

- ✓ even location.
- 2) *Demographic trends* describe the historical changes in demographics in a population over time
 - ✓ for example, the average age of a population may increase or decrease over time.

Demographic Summary - http://www.clrsearch.com/Hope_Demographics/AR/

Census & demographics

- *Hope population
- Ancestry of people in Hope
- *Housing in Hope
- *Income in Hope
- Marital status of adults in Hope
- Place of birth of people in Hope
- Residence in 1995, of people in Hope
- *School enrollment & education levels in Hope
- Transportation & commute times in Hope
- Hempstead County data
- *Fastest-growing counties in Arkansas
- State data - Arkansas
- Data by street address
- Historical census records (*Ancestry.com*)

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3. People “Who has God given us?”

- 1 John 2:19, 1 John 4:6 – Determine who God has not given – Disconnect themselves (Heb 10:25); Listen with confirmation from the Spirit
- John 17:12
No leader can help everybody
- John 6:60-70
Christ’s view of falling away (John 17:12)

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4. Resources “What do we have to work with?”

- places
- things

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5. Program “What activities do we engage in?”

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In terms of “inward-focused” vs. “outward-focused” ... how do we allocate our:

- * people
- * resources
- * programs

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6. Image “How do others perceive us?”

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“Image” includes your:

- * church name
- * logo

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- * signage
- * brochures
- * web site
- * communication materials
- * building
- * high-visibility events/publicity

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Week #3 - "Connecting With Newcomers"

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Overview

- I. Integrating Visitors
 - II. The Spiritual Imperative
 - III. The SEVEN LAWS of Assimilation.
-

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- I. Integrating Visitors

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Stages of Ministry -- Acts 2:7-47

- **Pre-Evangelism** – Warm them to Christ - Acts 2:7-8, 37
- **Evangelism** – Win them to Christ - Acts 2:38-40
- **Assimilation** – Win them to the church - Acts 2:41
- **Spiritual Formation** – Resource them to grow - Acts 2:42-43
- **Ministry/Mission** – Empower them to serve - Acts 2:44-47

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The People Dynamic

- **Pre-Evangelism** – Sense of Relevance
- **Evangelism** – Sense of Need
- **Assimilation** – Sense of Belonging
- **Spiritual Formation** – Sense of Progress/Change
- **Ministry/Mission** – Sense of Purpose/Fulfillment

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- II. The Spiritual Imperative
Stewardship is the Key Spiritual Issue - 1 Corinthians 4:2

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Biblical Empowerment

Rule One – Don't do it alone - Luke 10:1-3; Romans 12:3-5

Rule Two – Church Growth is no mystery; get the "parts" working - Ephesians 2:19-22

Rule Three – Empower the pastor to function in the Biblical office – Acts 6:2-4

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- III. The SEVEN LAWS of Assimilation

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Law #1 - Visitors represent 100% of Lonoke's growth potential – Matthew 22:2-10, 9

Exercise: What does Lonoke do that shows you believe Law #1

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Law #2 - "Visitor Retention" is between 10 to 20 times more significant than "Visitor Volume"

Exercise: What does Lonoke do that shows you believe Law #2

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Leading Growth Indicators

1. **Visitor Volume rate**
2. **Visitor Retention rate**
3. **Back Door rate**

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Forecasting

"Leading Growth Indicators" can be used to predict the future growth or decline of a church

The Church Growth Calculator provides an ability to run what if scenarios

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[Lonoke Church Growth Calculator](#)

(see powerpoint)

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Defining Church Growth Obstacles

1. "Visitor Volume" problem – are they coming and how many?
2. "Visitor Retention" problem – how many are joining?
3. "Back Door" problem – how many members are leaving?

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Solving Church Growth Obstacles = how to increase and decrease?

1. Low "Visitor Volume" = increase it!
2. Low "Visitor Retention" = increase it!
3. High "Back Door" = decrease it! – John 6:66-68

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Law #3 - It Takes People to Reach People – John 1:41

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Rule One – Involve **lay people**; they are more effective

Enables the guest to be more at ease

Rule Two – Put volunteers in **control** of their involvement

flexibility to serve at home, ability to accept or reject calls, and control the number of assignments.

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Rule Three – Find the right **people** for the right **place** – Romans 12:3-8

have a wide spectrum of volunteers to match your visitor profiles; match involvement with spiritual gifts, experiences and passion.

Rule Four – Advertise for the right **core characteristics** 1 Corinthians 12:31

The core characteristic for assimilation team members is compassion

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Law #4 - Set Expectations and Meet Them

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Rule #1 – Be honest with your visitors about your intentions from your first contact with them.

Rule #2 - Set expectations that you are a caring church and then fulfill them with loving contacts. It works!

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Law #5 - Be Proactive to Connect People – Luke 19:10; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

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Rule #1 - Without intentional effort, a church will become more and more focused inward on its congregants.

Rule #2 – It takes **intentional leadership to transform a church from a passive mindset to a proactive posture towards outsiders.**

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The Passive-Inward focused church

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The Proactive-Outward focused church

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Law #6 - It Takes Time to Connect People – 2 Corinthians 8:10-12; 1 Thess 5:14; 2 Peter 1:5-8

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Rule #1 – The research shows the more a visitor visits a church the greater the odds are that they will eventually become a part of that church.

Rule #2 – Churches will receive a far greater return on investment in 2nd and 3rd and subsequent visitors.

Rule #3 – **Protracted** follow up is essential to effective visitor assimilation.

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Rule #4 – **Timing is Critical** Contact guests within 48 hours of their visit. – Proverbs 25:11; Eccl 3:1

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- Visitor retention rates

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- Initial Issues

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- Integration Issues

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Law #7 - **Listen to Your Visitors** – Proverbs 18:13

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Rule #1 – It is impossible to **see** yourself in the same way that others **see** you.

Rule #2 – There is often a stark contrast between the way **outsiders** and **insiders** view the same church.

Rule #3 – Establish a reliable **feedback mechanism**.

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Week #4 - “Visitors: A Last Minute Check-up”

What Do You Call **Them**?

Visitor “a person who resides temporarily; one who goes or comes to inspect; one who makes a short stay at a place for a particular purpose.”

Guest “a person welcomed into one’s house; a person to whom hospitality is extended; a person held in honor who is due special courtesies.” - Hebrews 13:2

What Do You Call **Yourself**?

Greeter “one who meets or extends welcome in a specified manner; one who gives a formal salutation at a meeting.”

Host “one who receives or entertains socially; one who opens his or her home for a special event; one who takes particular care and concern that guests are well accommodated.”

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What Are Visitors/Guests Looking For?

- Friendliness and warmth of the church - Proverbs 18:24
- Character of the worship service
- Place for children
- Adult program
- Church building
- Reputation in the community

What Are Visitors/Guests Looking For?

FOCUS GROUPS:

“But, what did you really think?”

How do newcomers determine the “friendliness” of a church?

- **The number of people who talked to them**

When do newcomers determine the “friendliness” of a church?

- **The first ten minutes following the conclusion of the service**
After-service hosts

Where are our hosts?

- After-service hosts
- Parking hosts
- Lobby hosts
- Class hosts
- Service hosts
- Coffee hosts

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“Evaluating Our Church’s Welcome - Hebrews 13:2

Discussion Question:

- What are our visitor welcome procedures?
- How satisfied are we?
- What could we do to improve?

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Week #5 “Increasing Visitor Flow”

Four Principles of Attraction ...

1. Use strategic **timing** - John 16:12

- Religious Holidays
 - ✓ Christmas
 - ✓ Easter
 - Secular Holidays
 - ✓ Mother's Day
 - ✓ 4th of July
 - ✓ Other Dates (see powerpoint)
 - Shared Cultural Experiences
 - Key events in people's lives
 - ✓ Moving into the neighborhood
 - ✓ Even strange/different acting people
2. Identify a **Receptive** Audience - Mark 6:11
 - Relational Proximity
 - Demographic Proximity
 - Geographic Proximity
 - Spiritual Proximity
 – The range is from Hostile – Active Believer; our focus should be in between (Neutral, seeking, and lapsed believer)!
 3. Present a **compelling** message – Acts 11:4; A compelling message will: Exodus 3:2-6
 - Get their attention – Exodus 3:2
 - Capture their interest – Exodus 3:3
 - Prepare their minds/hearts to hear the gospel – Exodus 3:4-6
 4. **Communicate** with an appropriate method
 - **Personal** communication – works best with friends, relatives, associates
 - **Mass** communication – works best with
 - larger, regional church
 - support personal and direct
 - **Direct** communication – works best with
 - For reaching a specific geographic
 - Demographic audience

Two proven rules of communication

- Redundancy
- Multi-sensory

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Week #6 “From Purpose to Process” Fulfilling Purposes Through Healthy Processes

OUTREACH MINISTRIES: baptisms, church planting, door-to-door, evangelistic events, group witness, inner-city, invitation counselor, missionary, one-on-one witness, park ministry, street evangelism, support missionaries (visit, letters, contacts), tract distribution, visitation, visitor follow-up (letters, phone calls, visits)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| • apostle | • missionary |
| • evangelism | • prophecy |
| • exhortation* | • tongues/interpret. of* |
| • miracles* | • wisdom* |

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Five Signs of a Healthy Engaging Church

1. Understand our **purposes** - John 18:37; Luke 19:10; Luke 10:3
2. Understand ministry **processes** - 2 Peter 1:5-10
3. Achieve purposes **through** processes
4. Know how to **develop** and **implement** good processes
5. Know how to **troubleshoot** and **improve** ministry processes

Slide 112

10 Things You Need to Know About Processes

1. **Every** church has a ministry process. Is it **healthy** or **unhealthy**

2. Ministry processes are the turf that is most **resistant to change**
 3. All church processes are not necessarily **ministry** processes
 4. Ministry processes are **interrelated** systems
- Slide 117**
5. **Effectiveness** is more important than efficiency in ministry processes
 6. Ministry processes are not **spiritual** they are **practical**
 7. Every church can **Learn** and **Improve** their ministry processes
 8. Few churches are **Process-Oriented** enough to excel at more than one ministry process – most churches are **department oriented**
 9. Ministry processes are the key to a church **fulfilling all** of its purposes
 10. Ministry processes can be **measured**

APPENDIX

"How to Be an Ideal Church Member"

1 Thessalonians 1:2-7, 2:13 and 3 John 1-5

An ideal church member is defined as being a person who attends **at least** one corporate service a week, involved in **at least** one small group a week, and actively ministering to and/or serving others in some form (John 12:26; Matt 20:25-28; Matt 25:43-46); unless certain extenuating circumstances apply—bad health might keep a person home-bound or in a nursing home (we identify those as sick and shut-in members). Military service might take members away from home, family, and the local church for a time, and even the occasional vacation is grounds for missing a week or two.

An ideal leader of church members is defined as a person who is actively doing all of the above and, in addition, they are aggressively pursuing Christian education, they are goal oriented and has God first in their lives.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-7; 2:13

- 1. Your work of faith
- Your labor of love
- Patience of hope
- Became followers
- Became Examples
- Received the Word
- Applied the Word

3 John 1-5

- Balance
- Good Report
- Consistency

Hebrews 10:25-26

Neglecting the meetings of the church is a major problem that most churches consider a sin and church discipline should be used in the cases of unrepentant sin. Church discipline not only restores wayward/lost sheep, but also removes unbelievers from the church and protects the corporate witness of the local church. If a member is not attending, it is likely that the member is living in some sin which distracts their interest to be among the congregation of the righteous (Psalm 1, esp. v. 5); and, if so, the member becomes a liability to the church's corporate testimony.

When a member moves away without informing their church family, it should not be a surprise to them that their church family is concerned. Local church membership provides us with the blessing of accountability. It would be wrong for us to forsake a member of the church and end our relationship of accountability with them simply because they have stopped attending the church. In fact, this is the time accountability is most important.

Hebrews 10:25-26

1. Attendance
2. Helping one another – Let us v. 22-24
3. Willful sin

Psalm 1

1. Follows wise counsel
2. Associational (partnership)
3. Hungry for the word
4. Stable/consistent
5. Productive

Lonoke Church Membership Goals

- **Corporate Overlay Objective 2:** Church Membership - To guide each Christian into intelligent, active, and devoted membership in a New Testament Church. (Acts 2:47)

- **Lonoke Sam an Ideal Member Objective 2:** To be a devoted church member.
- **Corporate Vision Objective 2:** To be united in purpose and devoted to Christ.

Church Members should be Examples of a Biblically Based Christian

Biblical Introduction: The Title Christian Appears Only Three Times in The Scriptures

- 1st) It implies that a person who is a Christian is one who is a follower of Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26).
- 2nd) It implies that those who are Christians will be witnesses to the world (Acts 26:28).
- 3rd) It implies that those who are truly Christians will likely suffer persecution (1 Peter 4:16).

In Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-34 We See Christianity In Action.

Churches Are Made Up of People. By definition a church is a visible assembly of called out believers who have been baptized and who have covenanted together to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Official Definition and National Baptist Doctrinal Position: XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only Scriptural officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

- **Every True Christian Ought To Be A Member Of A Local Church.** There has been much damage done to the name of Jesus Christ because of unfaithfulness and ignorance on the part of many Christians concerning the expectations of the Lord and their responsibilities to fellow Christians. Romans 10:1-4
- **No Church Member Is Perfect** and is not likely to behave totally victorious all the time, yet there is much in the Bible that we should consider that will help us to live more pleasing to God (2 Peter 1:12-13, 3:1-3; 1Tim. 4:6).

Some characteristics of an Ideal Church Member.

- I. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE SAVED AND SURE OF IT**
(John 1:11- 13; Eph 2:8, 9; 1 John 5:13).
- II. The Biggest Problem With Christianity Today Is - the fact that churches all over America are filled with unregenerate church members. Paul challenged the church of Corinth to, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2 Cor 13:5.
- III. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE BAPTIZED BIBLICALLY** (Matthew 28:18-21; Rom 6:1-7).
Baptism Is A Picture Of Christ Death, Burial & Resurrection (Identification).
Baptism Is A Picture Of The New Birth (New Creation).
Baptism Is The First Step Of Obedience In The Christian Life (Submission).
Three Things Are Necessary For Scriptural Baptism.
 1. Proper Candidate.
 2. Proper Method.
 3. Proper Authority.
- IV. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD ATTEND THEIR CHURCH FAITHFULLY**
(Acts 14:27; Heb 10:25).
- V. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE COOPERATIVE** (Acts 2:46, 4:32).
We Are To Exhort, Build-Up And Encourage One Another (1 Thess. 4:1, 5:12-22). Heb 3:13 exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
We Should Never Be Guilty Of Causing Dissension Within God's Church (2 Thess 3:11-15).
- VI. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE CONSISTENT** (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

One Of The Most Difficult Problems A Church Faces Is A Testimony Damaged By The Inconsistent Living Of Careless Church Members.

We Should Be Careful About Our - Associations, Activities, Music, Language, and Appearance.

- VII. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE STUDENT'S OF THE BIBLE** (2 Timothy 2:15).
- VIII. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER** (Luke 18:1). Praying for souls, unity, missionaries, pastor, deacons, Sunday school teachers, etc.
- IX. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE GIVERS** (Malachi 3:7-11).
- X. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE SPIRIT FILLED SOUL WINNER'S** (Acts 1:8; Eph.5:18; Gal. 5:22-25).
- XI. **CHURCH MEMBER'S SHOULD BE COMMITTED** (1 Cor 15:58).

TEN MARKS OF A GROWING CHURCH

(Acts 1-2)

GROWING CHURCHES INDEX...

1. Place A Definite Priority on Prayer ([Acts 1:14](#))
 2. Place An Emphasis on Unity Not Uniformity - "all joined together" (one accord) = One mind
 3. Spirit - Filled Membership ([Acts 2:2-4](#))
 4. Practice Lifestyle Evangelism Daily
 5. Aggressively Seek To Reach Their Communities ([Acts 2:5-13](#)); [Acts 2:6](#)
 6. Willingly submit to God's chosen leaders - Peter ([Acts 2:14](#)) - "hearken unto my words"
 7. Effectively close the back Door ([Acts 2:41-42](#)) - they were added/they continued.
 8. Experience a genuine sense of worship when they gather ([Acts 2:43](#))
 9. Exercise a generous spirit in giving
 10. Encourage one another ([Acts 2:46-47](#))
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GROWING CHURCHES...

1. Place A Definite Priority on Prayer ([Acts 1:14](#))
 - A. They Prayed
 - B. They Persevered - Constantly = Continued (Their prayer meeting lasted ten days).
 - C. They Petitioned God
2. Place An Emphasis on Unity Not Uniformity - "all joined together" (one accord) = One mind
 - A. In Devotion ([Acts 1:14](#)) - "all continued with one accord"
 - B. In Direction ([Acts 2:1](#)) - "In one place"
 - C. In Determination ([Acts 2:46](#)) - "continuing daily"
3. Spirit - Filled Membership ([Acts 2:2-4](#))

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE ("The Spirit filled life is yielding every decision to the control of the Spirit." John McArthur).

 - A. The Source of the Filling ([Acts 2:2](#)) - from heaven
 - B. The Stipulation - - a condition, demand, or promise in an agreement or contract ([Acts 2:3](#))
 - C. The Subjects ([Acts 2:4](#))
4. Practice Lifestyle Evangelism Daily
 - A. Cultivate Relationships With Seekers ([Acts 2:46](#)) - in the temple daily, from house to house, ate with gladness and singleness of heart.
 - B. Build On Those Relationships ([Acts 2:47](#)) - "having favor with all the people."
 - C. Compel The Lost To Be Saved. ([Acts 2:40](#)) - "many other words."

compel•ling \kəm-ˈpe-lɪŋ\ *adjective*

1606 : that compels: as

a : **forceful** <a *compelling* personality>

b : demanding attention <for *compelling* reasons>

c : **convincing** <no *compelling* evidence> — **compel•ling•ly** *adverb*

[Acts 20:7-9](#); [1 Kings 18:26](#); [Joshua 8:34-35](#); [Nehemiah 8:5-8](#); Six hour reading - [Nehemiah 9:1-3](#)

DR. CRISWELL RESTAURANT STORY

- i. Are you reaching your family and friends for Christ?
 - ii. If you were lost would you want to come to this church?
5. Aggressively Seek To Reach Their Communities ([Acts 2:5-13](#)); [Acts 2:6](#)
 - A. Identify Their Audience (congregation). - "God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven." ([Acts 2:5](#))
 - B. Identify With Their Audience (congregation). - "each one heard them speaking in his own language." ([Acts 2:6](#))
 - C. Adjust Their Methods - "Then Peter stood up" ([Acts 2:14](#))

Sitting to teach

Moses sat to teach the people ([Exod. 18:13](#)); the scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat ([Matt. 23:2](#)); Jesus sat down in a boat and taught ([Matt. 13:2](#); [Mark 4:1](#)); Jesus sat down to preach ([Luke 4:20-22](#)); day after day I sat in the temple teaching ([Matt. 26:55](#)); he sat down and called the 12 ([Mark 9:35](#)); Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the people ([Luke 5:3](#)); he sat down and taught them ([John 8:2](#)).

- D. Anyone, anytime, anywhere = Open enrollment
6. Willingly submit to God's chosen leaders - Peter ([Acts 2:14](#)) - "hearken unto my words"
 - A. Called By God - [Matthew 16:17-19](#)

- B. Care For God's People. ([Acts 2:15-21](#)); [John 21:15-17](#)
- C. Committed To God's Word ([Acts 2:14-36](#)) v. 16
- D. Longevity of Great Pastors
Criswell 40+ years

Wallie Amos Criswell, Ph.D. (December 19, 1909 – January 10, 2002), was an [American pastor](#), author, and a two-term elected president of the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) (SBC) from 1968 to 1970. Supporters have described him as one of the 20th century's greatest expository preachers, and the [patriarch](#) of the "[Conservative Resurgence](#)" within the SBC.

In 1944 Criswell was called to replace [George W. Truett](#) as pastor of the First Baptist Church in [Dallas](#). He would spend the remainder of his life at First Baptist, preaching more than four thousand sermons from its pulpit. During his tenure membership grew from 7,800 to 26,000, with weekly Sunday School attendance in excess of 5,000. The church expanded to multiple buildings covering five blocks in downtown Dallas, eventually becoming the largest Southern Baptist church in the world. The popular evangelist [Billy Graham](#) joined the church in 1953, became a close friend of the Criswell family, and remained a member of the Dallas congregation for 55 years.

Rodgers nearly 20 years

Adrian Pierce Rogers (September 12, 1931 – November 15, 2005) served three terms as [president](#) of the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) (1979–1980 and 1986–1988), a [Southern Baptist pastor](#), and a [conservative](#) author.

Rogers was born in [West Palm Beach, Florida](#), and decided to enter into the [Christian ministry](#) at the age of nineteen. He graduated from [Stetson University](#) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Rogers was ordained by Northwood Baptist Church (now known as The Village Baptist Church) in West Palm Beach. His first job as a senior pastor was at Fellsmere Baptist Church, a small congregation in [Fellsmere, Florida](#). He performed his first baptism in the C-54 Canal, near [Fellsmere](#). In 1972, he became the senior pastor of [Bellevue Baptist Church](#) in [Memphis](#), where he remained until March 2005. During this period, the church's membership grew from 9,000 to 29,000, and the church moved into a new, [megachurch](#) facility.

7. Effectively close the back Door ([Acts 2:41-42](#)) - they were added/they continued.

- 1) Help Them Belong ([Acts 2:41](#)); Attract outsiders, connect visitors, and integrate new members. (Next series of bible study: "The Engaging Church." A study of Evangelism/Outreach = "Outreach" means [proclaiming](#) Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, [persuading](#) people to become his disciples and responsible members of a [local church](#).)
- 2) Help Them Grow ([Acts 2:42](#)) - How do we grow? by systematic teaching and interactions.
- 3) Help Them Develop Friendships/"fellowship" - "The essence of fellowship is FRIENDSHIP."

FELLOWSHIP The [bond](#) of common purpose and devotion that binds [Christians](#) together and to [Christ](#).

"Fellowship" is the English translation of words from the [Hebrew](#) stem *hbr* and the Greek stem *koin-*. Fellowship ("a common life together") is essential for the church. In away, Fellowship involves being together, loving each other, and communing together. It includes listening to someone who has a concern, praying with someone who has a need, visiting someone in a hospital, sitting in a class or a Bible study, and even singing a hymn with someone you've never met.

Fellowship also involves sharing prayer requests. Do you open your life to others? Do you share your problems with others who also have problems so you can minister together? SUPPORT GROUPS - Be committed to fellowship!

- 4) Help Them Become Involved
- 8. Experience a genuine sense of worship when they gather ([Acts 2:43](#))
 - 1) Deliberate Reverence Of God
 - 2) Demonstration Of The Power And Presence Of God
- 9. Exercise a generous spirit in giving
 - 1) Of Themselves ([Acts 2:44](#))
 - 2) Of Their Possessions ([Acts 2:45](#))
- 10. Encourage one another ([Acts 2:46-47](#))
 - 1) By Their Presence ([Acts 2:46](#))
 - 2) By Their Perseverance ([Acts 2:47](#))
 - 3) By Their Praise

XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only Scriptural officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

1. A congregation of baptized believers .
2. Observing the ordinances of Christ .
3. Governed by His laws .
4. Exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word .
5. Scriptural officers.

I. A Visible Church

1. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by:

A. Covenant in the faith

- 1) Predicate
- 2) In The Church
- 3) At Home and Before The World
- 4) Mutual Care
- 5) Change of Residence

B. and Fellowship of the gospel;

- 1) **FELLOWSHIP** – The bond of common purpose and devotion that binds Christians together and to Christ.

II. Practices and Governance

2. observing the ordinances of Christ; [Mark 16:16](#); [1 Cor 11:1-3](#)
3. governed by his laws; [1 Thess 5:22](#); [1 Peter 2:11](#); [Romans 10:2-3](#)
4. and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; [Romans 12:6](#); [1 Cor 12:4-11](#); [1 Cor 14:1](#); [Heb 2:4](#);
5. that its only Scriptural officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

Sustaining Integrity in Ministry Processes, Systems, and Structures

<http://mobilyzr.com/model/integrity.html>

Leaders in a Model mobilyzr Church work within the following principles to guide their actions in systems and structures:

- ***Strength-Based Service.*** People serve better and longer in ministry when they are well matched with the jobs they do. This involves identifying their spiritual gifts and areas of ministry passion first, so they can serve based on strengths and not on guilt. Then, they need to receive ongoing equipping that develops their gifts, and to spend the majority of their service time in areas of passion.
- ***Clear Job Requirements/Parameters.*** All expectations with regard to serving are clear, and they are communicated “up front,” both in writing and in person to those new to the church or to that ministry team/position.
- ***Growth Environment.*** Those involved in the spiritual and leadership formation of others are responsible to create a constructive environment that promotes development through equipping, empowering, and encouraging.
- ***Team-Based Ministry.*** Teamwork creates ministry systems that are stronger and more sustainable, in large part because each member’s gifts, strengths, and abilities complement what another member lacks. Leaders intentionally seek to create strength-based and gift-balanced teams so the comprehensive needs of the unit are covered through the total composite of contributions from all participants.
- ***Mentoring for Sustainability and Succession.*** Every leader intentionally mentors/apprentices other people. This is part of an overall system that multiplies the total number of volunteers, strengthens the spiritual depth in each volunteer, and prepares some volunteers to take over advanced leadership roles when appropriate.
- ***Intentional Improvement to Systems.*** Leaders listen to suggestions for creating new ministries and for improving existing ones. They seek to make those who make suggestions feel valued, they implement what helps improve the systems for both the short run and long run, and they let those who made suggestions know the outcomes.

Leaders in a Model mobilizr Church show wisdom and integrity in implementing ministry infrastructures, accountability, and sustainability.

- **Ministry Development.** Leaders make intentional efforts to create multiple points of entry into ministry for those at various levels of spiritual interest and maturity. A clear and complete job description is developed for every service position before it is advertised, before people are interviewed, and before appropriate candidates are recommended for the opportunity. The church also has written guidelines available for volunteers who wish to be given consideration for starting a new ministry or partnership, inside or outside of the church.
- **Missional Development.** It is impossible for all church members to be involved in ministry only in the church setting. So, church leaders make intentional efforts to find, create, or advocate community-based service opportunities as part of being missional. They also strive NOT to slot ill-suited volunteers into a ministry role just because someone is needed; instead, the goal is to help God's people find meaningful ministry that is appropriate to whom God made them to be and what they are passionate about doing.
- **Strategic Stewardship Promoted.** Leaders encourage people to consider doing 80% of their service in passion-driven ministry (i.e., strength-based/using specific spiritual giftedness) and 20% in need-based ministry (i.e., program-based/using general spiritual disciplines). Ministry opportunities inside the church and in the community are promoted through a variety of means and at various times. Training opportunities for both general and specific equipping are made available regularly and promoted extensively. Staff and volunteers are evaluated annually to ensure people are not overcommitted to their ministries and thus burning out. Recognition of service occurs through a variety of means and at various times.
- **Real and Realistic Job Descriptions.** Each job description gives clear and sufficient detail about responsibilities, boundaries, and accountability procedures. It does not involve a range of tasks that would likely be impossible for any one person to do. Each job description suggests the gifts, abilities, and spiritual interest/maturity level needed for a good fit with the position. It also lists the name of the person or title of the position responsible to oversee those serving in this role.
- **Background Checks.** Given the realities of today's society, it is essential to have written policies and procedures in place regarding background checks, and to follow them completely and consistently. All required background checks and reference checks will be conducted according to procedures and in a timely way, in order to maintain integrity and avoid liability. This applies to all potential ministry staff and volunteers, most especially to anyone working with anyone under the age of 18.
- **Orientation Before Serving.** All new ministry volunteers receive a general orientation before they can begin serving in a ministry sponsored by the church or any of its partnerships. Each ministry volunteer receive a customized orientation to their new team before they can begin serving with the team. This may or may not be a lengthy process, but it includes necessary equipping in skills, as well as an orientation to the job description for the position or tasks, and any related boundaries, procedures, and systems for supervision. Orientations and trainings are evaluated by presenters, participants, and outside observers in order to improve their clarity, quality, and relevance.
- **Supervision and Evaluation.** Supervision is valued as an integral part of spiritual formation/discipleship. All volunteers and ministry leaders are supervised individually. They are also given constructive feedback regularly and a formal review periodically. All ministry leaders receive formal training in skills of supervision, regardless of whether they are paid staff or volunteers. They also receive continuing education in leadership skills (e.g., team building, mentoring, conflict resolution) so the church can avoid the twin problems of micro-management and hands-off non-supervision.
- **Multiplication of Ministry.** The church is committed to discipling people who will disciple others. This includes supporting, equipping, and resourcing volunteer leaders who will be training other volunteers.