

Church Consultation

We believe that the outcomes of being an association of “Community Impacting Churches” happens one congregation at a time

Elements of the consultation weekend:

Friday

- Interview and meet with the pastor on Friday afternoon
 - Friday evening we will ask the leadership to put together a focus group 20 – 25 individuals who represent a cross section of the church. Ex. Age, backgrounds, length of time in attendance
 - Note: The pastor and leaders would not be invited to this focus group for two reasons:
 1. Leaders would be given other opportunities to talk
 2. We want the focus group to feel free to share their views
 - We ask three questions:
 1. What is it that you like about this congregation?
 2. What is it that you would change about this congregation to make it better?
 3. Assuming that getting enough people and money are not problems, what would you like to see this congregation accomplishing in the next five years?
- Note: If there is time we would then ask questions about major issues that were surfacing as the data was being accumulated.
We also ask people, who were relatively new to the congregation, about how easy or difficult it was to become a part of this group.

Saturday

- 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM—Pastor and board
- Note: If comfortable, other leaders from the church could be invited
- Elements of the 6 hours
 - Interviewing the board about key issues that arose from the data and focus group
 - Give an interpretation of the data received
 - Talk to the leaders of what it would take to be a healthy “community impacting church”
 - End the time with a specific prescription, usually listed in priority order

Sunday

- In the service, preach about hope, vision, and encouraging the congregation to embrace change
- Following the service is a meal together
- We then gather for a church meeting

- Agenda is similar to that of the Saturday with the leaders, only in abbreviated form
 - We want the congregation to hear what is promising and disappointing about their situation
 - We share the prescription

After weekend

- Regional Minister will sit down with the pastor and leaders to lay out each month's activities to be able to accomplish the prescription.

Data needed from the church before consultation:

1. Congregational and community history
2. Congregation's purpose, goals, and programs
3. Congregational governance, staffing, structure, and beliefs
4. Basic demographic information and numerical records
5. Financial and stewardship information
6. Documents and materials in print
7. Natural Church Development results in last 12 months