

Life Cycle of Churches



Incline

Future-oriented
Community Focus
Innovative
Faith Decision
\$ = Investor
Great Local Response
Steady Attendance
New Leadership
Active in community
Conversion Growth



Recline

Present-oriented
Congregation Focus
Routine
Resource Decision
\$ = Provider
Little Local Response
Attendance Decline
Stagnant Leadership
Small Roll in Community
Transfer Growth



Decline

Past-oriented
Core Focus
Complacent
Indecision
\$ = Preserver
No Local Response
Major Attendance Decline
Incumbent Leadership
No Roll in Community
No Growth

Start Now

1

Where am I?

Together with your key leaders, take the **assessment** on page 5 to determine your need for revitalization. This is a good opportunity to begin important conversations with leadership.

2

What can I do?

Based on your responses, we'll continue the **conversation** about whether revitalization, fostering, adoption, marriage or replanting is God's plan for your church.

3

When can I start?

There is hope for every church, but it requires hard, diligent work. Revitalization involves difficult decisions and wrestling with tough ideas. We'll walk you through a decision to confirm your **commitment** to the revitalization process.

REVITALIZATION *Assessment*

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 2:7). This is Jesus’ refrain in His letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit is still speaking to His Church today, admonishing her to engage in the mission of God. Yet many churches are struggling and discouraged.

The goal of revitalization is to see God glorified as churches return to their mission of impacting lostness by making disciples.

Dying churches do not reflect God’s heart! In Haggai 1:5, the Lord commands His people to consider their ways and return to His mission. In the same way, God’s people today must take stock of their ministries and their mission and return to the Lord’s purpose of becoming missionally a healthy, disciple-making church.

Some common characteristics of missionally healthy, disciple-making churches:

1. There is a culture of sentness
2. Leaders equip and empower
3. Authentic community is present
4. Members are expressing passionate worship
5. Measurable disciples are being produced
6. Biblical doctrine and execution is apparent

How would you describe your church?

(Choose one answer per question)

Discuss these questions with the leadership in your church to assess your current reality.

- | | |
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| <p>1 A. Future-oriented
B. Present-oriented
C. Past-oriented</p> <p>2 A. Focused on the community
B. Focused on the congregation
C. Focused on a “core group”</p> <p>3 A. Innovative
B. Routine
C. Complacent</p> <p>4 A. Based on faith
B. based on available resources
C. Indecision</p> <p>5 A. Invests finances for mission
B. Provides finances for ministry
C. Preserves finances for maintenance</p> <p>6 A. Has seen great response from the local community via programs and/or events
B. Has seen little or dwindling response from the local community via programs and/or events
C. Has seen no response from the local community via programs and/or events</p> | <p>7 A. Has experienced no attendance decline over the last 5-10 years
B. Has experienced some attendance decline over the last 5-10 years
C. Has experienced substantial attendance decline over the last 5-10 years</p> <p>8 A. Our church attracts and develops young leaders
B. Our church slowly attracts and develops young leaders
C. Our church rarely attracts and develops young leaders</p> <p>9 A. Our church plays an important role in the community
B. Our church plays a small role in the community
C. Our church plays no role in the community</p> <p>10 A. Conversion growth
B. Transfer growth
C. No growth</p> |
|--|--|

My Answers

1 _____	6 _____
2 _____	7 _____
3 _____	8 _____
4 _____	9 _____
5 _____	10 _____

Now, compare your answers with the chart on page 4.

- Your “A” answers correspond with “Incline”
- Your “B” answers correspond with “Recline”
- Your “C” answers correspond with “Decline”

More “B” and “C” answers indicate a need for some type of revitalization.

