

## **FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS**

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#### RADICAL HOSPITALITY

- Train ushers and greeters to help visitors feel welcome and gain access
- Create a culture of Christian invitation and welcome in every member
- Invest time with every ministry to pray, plan for, invite, receive newcomers
- Communicate in intentional, strategic, open, visitor-friendly ways about the church to the public through mailings, advertising, media, ...
- Follow up with visitors after major events and ongoing invitation is crucial
- Learn about hospitality from other churches, books, articles and solicitation of feedback from newcomers and continually evaluate your progress
- Keep lists of visitors on record and utilize in a constant effort to reach out and include them in the life of the church without giving up on any
- Launch new ministries, classes and groups to reach new people
- Genuinely engage people, listen to them, make them feel accepted/connected
- Insure that facilities are visitor friendly, clean, updated and appealing

#### PASSIONATE WORSHIP

- Plan and prepare the worship experience well by working together
- Pastors should put forth their best effort always learning and growing to achieve excellence in preaching
- Teach people how to pray and worship in every aspect of life and ministry
- Music needs to be done with excellence, it sets the tone for worship
- Timing, balance, variation, flow, theme, and movement are all important means to achieve a multi-sensory experience to draw people to worship
- Actively engage, genuinely connect, personally address and deeply challenge congregants to anticipate and expect God's presence
- Pastors and other worship leaders need to nurture their own spiritual lives
- Connect people in community through worship as they experience common encouragement, exhortation, a sense of belonging, and love
- Practice and teach the Sacraments in a way that brings them to life
- Design worship that reaches visitors and woos them into the congregation

#### INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

- Offer traditional SS as well as new opportunities to mature in faith
- Offer a variety of learning experiences to reach as many as possible

- Start new groups to invite new people into the development process
- Highlight the importance of faith development constantly
- Make good use of available technology to assist in the process
- Encourage all small groups to incorporate Christian growth
- Take risks to try new approaches and don't fear failure
- Train people well to lead studies, small group discussions, ...
- Ideas shape people and people shape people, content and relationships are both important in the process
- Inventory and evaluate current programs to assess effectiveness

### RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

- Give financial support, but more importantly send people into mission
- Establish long-term and meaningful relationships with those you are helping
- Do mission with people, not ministry to them, both groups benefit this way
- Be humble, treat all people with respect, expect nothing in return
- Motivate people to extraordinary service, encourage them to take risks
- Celebrate mission and service regularly in the life of the church
- Involve children and youth to teach them the importance of helping others
- Collaborate with other groups and churches for the good of all
- Include visitors, newcomers and unchurched as an entry point to church
- Streamline the process of approval in order to expedite ministry
- Get involved globally as well as locally, big problems as well as small

### EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

- Speak confidently and faithfully about money, giving, tithing and generosity
- Focus on the need of the giver to give, not the needs of the church
- Focus on joy of giving, ministry that takes place, and people that are helped
- Provide a compelling vision to make a difference for Christ in the world
- Hold high quality annual pledge opportunities with wide participation
- Invite lay persons to speak to the church about their giving practice
- Emphasize the importance of stewardship throughout the year
- Express appreciation to those who give, both verbally and written
- Practice generosity collectively as a congregation
- Leaders not only teach, but model tithing to the congregation
- Offer workshops and events to help people with personal finances
- Make certain to use confidentiality, transparency and integrity when dealing with the church's finances and handling it's money