

Wayne Church Leadership Moment ~ 8-19-2018

Good morning everyone, my name is John Wannenburg and I'm privileged to serve on Wayne Church's Leadership team under the spiritual and management guidance of Pastor Tom.

In the past several weeks, two of my co-members have made short report-back comments to you. Sue Scott brought you up to date on the new positioning of the church offices and the renewal of the parlor. Brian Ivey briefed you on the demographics tool we use to assist us in our outreach planning for our church moving forward.

What I have been asked to chat to you about this morning is a tool we've been using as a leadership team to measure our effectiveness by. It's titled the "Eight Common Characteristics of Successful Church Revitalizations".

We needed something to hold our feet to the fire as a leadership team. We have all heard of and know the statistic that nine out of 10 churches are either declining or growing so slowly that they are either not keeping up with the growth of or the changing demographic dynamic of their communities.

A few of these eight Characteristics include:

- The formation of an alliance of key influencers in the Church. This is the group that Pastor Tom identified as the leadership team and people he thought would be the most effective in identifying and leading change.
- The leaders and a growing number in the congregation made a commitment to move the church to look more like the community. In other words, more outwardly focused. Prime examples of these are Chosen 300, the expansion of our food pantry and the hands-on involvement and financial support in

restoring the RTCA which is on the brink of opening its doors in the community.

- The above flowed from a redefining of the church's mission: *to love and serve through Christ*. We, as a leadership team, revisit our activities regularly to ensure we remain on mission.
- The leadership, and particularly Pastor Tom, were willing to accept criticism as we charted the change from the inward to outward focus we needed to make Wayne Church more relevant,
- So these are a few of the eight Characteristics of Church Revitalizations.
- The one other I would like to cover is one we had, for some unknown reason, failed to address: The leadership team recognized the need for church revitalization and made a commitment to pray for it daily. So Pastor Tom every Monday texts the team a prayer and we have committed to pray the prayer every morning of that week at 7.45.

Here is an example from the last week:

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19.

1.) Pray for our churches slow turn from being staff led... to being lay led. Ask God for new leaders to rise up.

2.) Pray for our communication. With each other, with the community, and with new people who come.

3.) Pray for our upcoming charge conference. Pray for good turnover in our teams and work groups. Pray for our budgeting, and staff work, pray that all these things support our vision and mission.

I hope this short chat gives you some insights into how your leadership team approaches its task. We appreciate the continued support of you- our church family and ask you to continue to hold your leadership in prayer as we move our church to look like the community we serve. Thank you.