



### **Session III - Coping**

## **Team, Leaders and Congregation**

**"Imagination is more important than  
knowledge."**

**Albert Einstein**

### **Small, strong churches live and share as a team:**

- They focus on the whole, not the parts.
- They understand the diversity of gifts.
- They appreciate the gifts of their pastoral leader.

**Small, strong churches serve the whole  
person and the whole family – they see life  
as a whole, not a collection of parts.**

**Small, strong churches understand the  
Biblical principle that there is a diversity of  
gifts, not a hierarchy of gifts.**

### **The primary competencies important for a pastor in small, strong churches are:**

- good shepherd
- helpful preacher
- wise, caring leader
- community pastor
- team participant

**In small, strong churches leaders possess these attributes:**

- capacity for imagination and creativity
- gifts of encouragement and coaching
- appreciation for the process of loving, listening, learning and leading

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**Strong, small churches have a continuity of key leaders and pastor because leadership tends to flow informally through relationships.**

**"Imagination is more important than knowledge."**

**Albert Einstein**

## **Space and Facilities**

**"A house does not make a home, people do."**

**Author unknown**

**Small, strong churches are healthy and vital because their facilities are:**

- adequate for their mission
- both sacred and shared
- a blessing, not a burden

**The steps in becoming a small, strong church:**

**mission, team, future, service**

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

**Matthew 28:19**

**When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.**

**Luke 7:20-23**

**"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"**

**Matthew 25:34-36**

**"Here is the church  
and here is the steeple.  
Open the doors  
and see all the people."**

**In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people who own a mission build a congregation.**

**A space is sacred when it is filled with the grace of God; it is holy when it is filled with the compassion of Christ; it is hallowed when it is filled with the hope of the Holy Spirit; it is blessed when it is filled with the mission God sends it.**

**Shared space is sacred space, sacred space is shared space. The sharing of space is a sacred art. Space that is not shared is not sacred – it is selfish.**

**Too many facilities can be a burden to mission:**

- **inward instead of outward focus**
- **plant not people focus**
- **"cornering the building"**
- **downsizing**

**Small, strong churches remember that Jesus was born in a manger, not a mansion. The grace of God enables them to find nontraditional ways to do mission well with whatever space God provides.**

**"A house does not make a home, people do."**

**Author unknown**

## **Giving and Generosity**

**We love God, because God first loved us.**

**1 John 4:19 KJV**

**Members of small, strong churches live an informal, incredibly generous life with one another. Thus, the nature of their giving is informal in five ways:**

- **spontaneous giving**
- **seasonal giving**
- **major project giving**
- **annual giving**
- **legacy giving**

**People give the way they live. Most living is done on impulse, without thought or planning; thus much small church giving is done spontaneously as a result of emotions being touched.**

**People who live in a harvest economy give in a harvest way, seasonally; people give as they receive.**

**People want to give to something that is specific and concrete; they do not give to generalized statements of glowing sentimentality.**

**People in small, strong churches tend to give to a need more than to support a line item budget. Formal stewardship campaigns stressing "a need to give" have little appeal.**

**We love because he first loved us.  
1 John 4:19**

**Questions?**  
**Breakout Session**