

## IS OUR CHURCH PLATEAUED

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Does your church suffer from the Sardis Syndrome, too? Is it plateauing or plateaued? The questions below offer clues to whether a congregation is plateaued. Honestly answer *yes* or *no* about the congregation in which you participate.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Is our neighborhood “draw area” either stable or declining?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Has our membership size either remained the same or shrunk for three consecutive years?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Does our nominating committee have difficulty enlisting leaders for our most demanding responsibilities?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Is our congregation 15 (or more) years old?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Is our congregation approaching either the 75, 125, 200, 350, 750 member levels?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Are our most active members unclear or not agreed on the church’s ministry direction?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Do we, as a church, fail to orient our new members to the unique traditions and vision of our congregation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Are most of our baptisms the children of our members?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Do we customarily lose more members each year to transfer and death than we gain through other means?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Do past traditions and routines guide our church more than planning for the future and creativity?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Does our church have one of less event per year that involves 75 percent (or more) of our members?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Does our church have one or less celebration or affirmation event per quarter?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Does our church have an entrenched power structure?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Does our congregation do inreach better than outreach?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Has our congregation developed a pattern of financial difficulty?

If you answered yes between one and five times, your church is likely pre-plateaued. Vigilance is recommended.

If you responded yes between 6 and 10 times, your church is at least plateauing and perhaps plateaued. Action is timely.

If you registered yes between 11 and 15 times, your church is definitely plateaued. Prompt response is necessary.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R. D. Baker, Truman Brown, Jr., and Robert D. Dale, 14.