

## The Church Passivity Assessment

The following looks at the church from a negative point of view. But the way to turn it into a positive force for your church life is this. Make copies of this listing for each member of your elders, council, or outreach committee, and ask them to use this to evaluate your church. Suggest to them to write a 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 at the left of each statement, with “one” being most true and “five” being least true with “three” being the middle point. Add up the numbers pertaining to each statement, and select the five weakest areas of church life. Then appoint five good leadership people to each gather two or three others around him/her to brainstorm how those areas of church life can be improved. At your next meeting have each person report, and begin with prayer and serious concern to work as a congregation to make these weak areas stronger.

The congregation tends to focus on, and care only, for its members rather than giving much attention to unchurched people who live in the general area of the church.

The congregation does not have a well-planned welcoming system for first-time visitors.

The average worship attendance begins to drop.

The average Sunday school attendance declines.

There is a succession of two to four-year pastorates.

Those in leadership (especially the treasurer) see a decrease in the number of households that underwrite most of the annual expenditures.

There is a decline in the number of new members received by letter of transfer or by confession of faith.

References to the past begin to overshadow plans, dreams, and hopes for the future.

There is a decrease in the number of baptisms.

There seems to be a church-club atmosphere that makes it difficult for new people to fit into.

There is a decline in net worth of all capital assets.

At least one-half of today's members joined more than ten years ago.

At least one-half of today's policy makers and leaders joined more than ten years ago.

Week after week those in congregational worship disappear within 10-12 minutes after the closing prayer.

The congregation begins cutting back on programming, such as regular church choir, congregational dinners, spiritual emphasis series, etc.

There is a drop in total dollars to missions.

There seems to be an inability to design or implement a 2-3-year plan.

The congregation begins noticing a decrease in the number of teenagers.

The congregation begins noticing a decrease in the number of children.

Appointments to positions in the church are based on seniority, tenure, and friendship ties instead of skill, wisdom, creativity, competence, experience and commitment.

Emphasis on corporate and individual prayer has diminished.

The response to financial problems is to cut back more and more.

The median age of members is on the rise.

There are no smaller groups for relationship building, Bible study and prayer.

There is a decision to cut back on the Sunday schedule during the summer.

The majority of potential volunteers asked to accept an assignment refuse.

Lay leaders choose to worship elsewhere locally from time to time.

Any changes in worship style, programming, and organization are met with suspicion by many of the members.

There is little cooperation with other churches or organizations who wish to unify for some community mission or service project.

It seems that many congregational members don't seriously believe that unbelievers - those who have not become Christians - truly matter to God.

Dr. Tom Cheyney

Dr. Terry Rials

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