

Turning Point



next steps for struggling churches

WELCOME

Are you struggling?

God calls the Church the bride of Christ and proclaims that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. He makes us the unstoppable disciple-making engine. Still, many congregations across the United States today find themselves in increasingly difficult positions.

We can help.

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference is here for member churches that find themselves struggling. You are not alone!

There is hope.

We have options. We have people who can help you to sort through options. We even have people who can help you live out Jesus' passion that his people love God, love others, and make disciples.

START HERE

THE PROCESS

Write a Covenant

We will need to enter into an agreement. The help that the Conference offers happens within a relationship; it requires trust. The church must be part of the Conference, forthright about the situation as it exists, and willing to take concrete steps to navigate this turning point. The Conference must be present, pastoral, and missional. We will reflect this relationship in an agreement between the church and the Conference. This covenant will include what the church will do, what the Conference will do, and a commitment to finish this discernment process.

Determine What's Happening

A team from the Conference will work with the leaders of the church to assess the current situation. This will usually involve an in-person visit by a representative of the Conference who will want to work on site with leaders of the church to study trends in attendance and giving as well as the demographics of the surrounding community, church structures, financial health, and the condition of any property.

Assess Leaders

The Conference will assess the fit and flourish in ministry of the following:

- + Pastor
- + Key Leaders
- + Any Pastoral Candidates

The Conference may use “The Call” assessment training and an assessment interview.

Determine Course of Action

A representative of the Conference will gather data to assist in completing the decision tree and then discuss the findings with the church's leaders. This will lead to a conclusion about the best option the Conference has to offer.

Implement the Ministry Partner Agreement

The Conference will work with the church leaders to identify next steps and to implement a Ministry Partnership Agreement to navigate this turning point. The agreement will include governance, structures to support the identified work, and some necessary documents.



OPTIONS

#1. Directed Development

The Church Development Team can assist your church to strategically reengage your local harvest field using some targeted processes guided by a thorough assessment. With the right leadership and congregational participation, focusing on just a few key areas of ministry and structure uniquely identified for your specific congregation can yield great results. Churches can improve enough to then engage the full developmental process in just a few short years.

#2. Restart

The Church Multiplication Committee can come alongside of you to help define a new season of ministry for your church. We would help you to discern what is best and most relevant about your congregation. Then we would identify a leader who would come alongside you to create a new church with a fresh perspective on ministry for a new day. The new church would carry forward the best of the existing church, but the church planted would be new at the same time. It is possible for the existing congregation to participate in the new church.

#3. Legacy Care

We can help churches whose ministry for the Kingdom is coming to a close. Through a caring process, we provide any needed conflict coaching; we help the church celebrate God's work through her over her history. We may supply an intentional interim pastor to guide the church through her final stages. The Legacy Fund provides for the consolidation and conservation of assets which can then be used to plant new churches and renew others. We will try to help relocate people to other church families where they can continue to worship and grow.



NEXT STEPS

Directed Development

1. Conduct a Natural Church Development (NCD) assessment.
2. Identify one or two critical areas of ministry for targeted improvement.
3. Write a Ministry Partnership Agreement with a timeline.
4. Secure any needed resources for that targeted improvement (e.g., demographic reports, specialize training, etc.).
5. Implement the structures and steps indicated in the Ministry Partnership Agreement.

Restart

1. Write a Ministry Partnership Agreement.
2. Study the demographics of the community surrounding the church.
3. Conserve, consolidate, and/or raise fiscal resources in order to support a restart.
4. Identify a leader for the restart.
5. Devise a complete plan for a restart in partnership with a church multiplication hub and/or coach.

Legacy Care

1. Intercessory prayer
2. Conflict coaching & conciliation ministry
3. Specialized Intentional Interim Ministry to close with grace, celebrating their Kingdom contribution
4. Kingdom-oriented consolidation and conservation of financial resources so that through the Legacy Fund the church's work for the Kingdom may continue
5. Helping people settle into nearby CCCC congregations and/or other local evangelical churches



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CONFERENCE

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