

MULTIPLY THROUGH RESTART

For Churches Wanting to Partner with a Restart Church

YOUR ROLE IN A RESTART

- Funding Source
- A seat at the table (with a vote)
- Provide some ambassadors from your church
- Provide some talent from your church
- Connect people to help advise on technology
- Prayer support

SEVERAL DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES

- Becomes a campus with your brand
- Maintains its own identity but becomes part of your network
- Walk with the church just for a season until it is established
- Merge the churches together
 - The healthier church has a larger role in determining the new DNA
- Catch and Release

CAUTIONS

- Make sure the changes in structure are reflected in by-laws and corporation papers
- Insist on a covenant adopted by the restart church
- Be open to the possibility that a new leader may be needed.
- Establish expected benchmarks for financial support
- Talk about the end game that may include diminishing financial support
 - Restart churches are weening off of the support of their core that might leave or withdraw after changes are made. Older congregations will lose funding after each death.

ADVANTAGES

- You get a church plant with a much smaller investment.
- The ability to multiply healthy DNA
- The possibility of partnering with churches in higher needs areas that can be a base of ministry.
- Provides a lower risk proving ground for rising leaders in your church.
- Encouragement to you and your church of seeing God use a church many had given up on.

WHERE TO BEGIN

- Start with Existing, strong relationships.
- Speak with your local jurisdiction.
- Most dying churches won't want to be approached about the topic
- Let churches know in your network that you are willing to be a part of a restart and let them respond to you.

RESTART BEST PRACTICES

DON'T RESTART ALONE

- Leadership help
- Funding sources
- Outside perspectives
- Coaching
- Creative ideas
- Ready-made systems
- Graphics & music help

MAKE THE CHANGE EVEN IF IT HURTS

- Things not in line with your new culture will eventually sabotage your efforts
- De-structure
- Eliminate ministries
- Make staff changes
- Music
- Facility

DO THE SHUTDOWN

- You will need the extra energy and resources to prepare for launch
- Need to signal a drastic change – this isn't business as usual
- Shutdowns come in many different forms. The key is providing a tangible sense that massive change is happening.

DEVELOP A COVENANT

- Signed by leaders and members
- Specifically outlines the path forward

BUILD A NIMBLE STRUCTURE

- Bylaws often read like the remedy for the wounds the church has faced
- Bylaws can be simplified to just a few pages in most cases
- Operating Procedures may be sufficient for the first few years
- Don't let dysfunctional people shape the life of the church
- Use a Governance Model of Leadership
 - Reduce the board to around 5 members (with outside participants)
 - Fewer meetings and more ministry
 - Let leaders lead and give them the authority to make decisions

GET SPECIFIC ABOUT NEW TARGET GROUP

- Age, Families, Education, Single
- What can we do best? Realize your limitations.
- How is God shaping us for a new day?
- Reach out, down, and up
 - Reaching people with high needs also requires people capable of funding effort

LIMIT YOUR MINISTRIES

- Only do what you can do with excellence
- It's okay to *NOT* have a youth program, singles ministry, divorce care, etc.
- Find a ministry someone else is doing well and support it – it still counts!
- NWCC started with children's ministry for first several years before adding youth ministry much later.

ESTABLISH AN ONGOING COMMUNITY PRESENCE

- Needs-based evangelism
- What are the biggest needs in your neighborhoods?
- Utilize Community Partnerships

MAKE YOUR FACILITY WELCOMING

- Do whatever it takes!
- Nursery & Bathrooms!
- For most restart churches, their existing facility is a detriment both because of its lack of upkeep and because it is seen as a traditional space.
- Consider partnering with a developer to create housing or retail. *Get creative!*

SYSTEMS, SYSTEMS, SYSTEMS

- Keeps you from re-designing the wheel every time
- Get your newcomer system up and running first!
- Contact within 24 hours, Card, Newcomer session, Gift, Call, etc.
- System Example: email template for first and second time guests
- Check out Nelson Searcy Books & Resources

GET THE WORD OUT

- 90% of people who visit find NW Community on our website
- Banners, Flyers, Listservs, Postcards, Facebook, Google,
- Big Events (4 each year)
- Restart churches will have marketing sticker shock.
- Do it anyway!

CHOOSE GRACE AND BE OKAY WITH THE MESSINESS

- Get ready for people with messy lives.
 - They may not attend or give as frequently (at first)
 - They have lots of sin issues, both past and present
- Restart churches let people serve and sometimes even lead that would never be allowed to in the previous church.
 - NWCC chooses leaders at times that may not have it together but may respond to more accountability.
- Counterbalance the chaos felt by the remnant with the adherence to mission.

SHARE YOUR VISION

1. Have you thought through the potential questions and arguments?
2. Why do you believe God wants you to do this?
3. You will be explaining this over and over. Get it straight!
4. Make it plain and simple so your leaders can replicate it.
5. Five Parts of “*The Talk*” **M.A.P.T.O.**

M: MOTIVATION

- What is the driving motivation or crisis for considering a restart?
- Teaching Opportunity
- *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, Mission* by Donald G. Bloesch ([Link](#))
- Gives glory to God (Ps 29:1-2)
 - Corrupt environment
 - Distorted message
 - Heavy conflict
- Teaching and Discipling (Ephesians 4:11-13)
 - Lack of Pastor or Leaders
- Gathering for Worship (Hebrews 10:25)
 - Loss of facility or critical mass
- Reaching the lost with the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - Insularism, lack of mission

A: ANGLE

- Give them a new viewing angle
 - Impacting my community
 - Lives being transformed
 - Growing, fruitful body

P. PERSONAL

- Make it personal.
- Your personal conviction and willingness to take the risk

T. THEOLOGICAL

- Your theological reflection on restarting
- Wesleyan Quadrilateral, Anglican 3-Legged Stool

SCRIPTURE

- Mega-Theme: Resurrection comes on the other side of death and the tomb.
- Mark 8:34-35

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Workshop Session 4: Dying to Restart: Churches Choosing a Strategic Death for a Multiplying Life

- John 12:24
Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.
- John 15:2
He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful.
- Ezekiel 37:2-3
He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into **one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

TRADITION

- The early church eventually died.
 - Ephesus: Forsaken 1st love – I will come and remove your lampstand
 - Sardis: You are dead...wake up! You are about to die
- Churches didn't start building until after Constantine (A.D. 313)
- How do churches begin? Small Group with little more than relationships

REASON

- Wealth of information on the lifecycle of organizations.
- Organizations have key decision points that require drastic action

EXPERIENCE

- Not included in Anglican 3-legged stool
- The movement of churches that have died to relive
- Pastoral experience that tells you when drastic change is needed

O. OTHERWISE

- What will happen if we don't do this?
- Who will miss experiencing God's love and grace?
- What will the future of the church look like?
- What will I do if the church isn't willing to take the risk?