

Selecting A Transformation Process

Dr. Don Nations, DNA Coaching, 2008

There are many programs which claim to help a church transform. How do you decide which to use? What elements are most important to look for when making the decision? What criteria should be part of the selection process? The questions below represent a good starting point when evaluating your options.

- Is the program or process used by hundreds of churches? You want a process with a track record. You want to know that others have successfully used it. The use of a program or process by hundreds of churches does not guarantee its effectiveness but it does mean that many others have also made the decision to use it.
- Does the program or process aim to produce significant results within the first year? The journey of transformation is not completed in a year but in most turn-around situations there are signs of positive change within the first year. There is no reason to have to wait until the second or third year to see results.
- Does the program or process focus on increasing worship attendance and the number of professions of faith? These have been lifted up by church leaders as key areas and are widely understood to be two of the best measures of the amount of transformation being experienced by a church. Growing churches filled with people with changed lives will give, serve, love, change the community and embrace the world.
- Will this program or process provide extensive training to both laity and clergy in the key areas of transformation? This is another area which has been lifted up by church leaders as being key to the health and vitality of the church in the United States. Change in action often requires many hours every year in coaching, training, being exposed to new ideas, engaging in Q & A sessions and dialogue and it is important for this training to be shared by both clergy and laity.
- Does the program or process emphasize the importance of being connected and make such connection one of the measures of transformation? It is important that churches work together. For denominational churches it is essential that local churches support the fair share connectional giving system as it is that very system which is working to provide the resources needed for the transformation of the local church and the global community.
- Does the program or process make available to all churches what historically has only been available to the largest and most

wealthy churches, namely, the assistance of a highly qualified coach, access to a considerable array of resources and tools, a consultation report from a trained church consultant, a consultant on-call via email and ongoing training? Often the churches most in need of transformation are those least able to afford what typically has been a very large investment. All churches are called to be missionary outposts of the Kingdom of God and, hence, all deserve the opportunity to make choices that will lead to transformation.

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