

Church Consultation Overview

“...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

Purpose

The purpose of a church consultation is to help a congregation more effectively join God in His mission for the Church. It is a direct approach to consulting that assumes God has a clear mission for every church that focuses on the great commission and great commandment. God is most honoured when the local church proactively builds Christ's Kingdom in their own community and beyond.

Phase 1: Congregational Self Study

The first phase of the consultation process requires the church leadership to gather information. The information is used to determine the life cycle of the church, the current state of the church, and the trends within the church and local community. This gathering process needs to be forwarded to the consultant at least four weeks prior to the consultation weekend. The research that will be done include:

- History and description of the congregation
- Congregational demographics for the life of the church
- Church documents and samples of publications
- Community Study
- Beliefs and practices
- Digital video of regular church service
- Leader's self-study discussion

Phase 2: Congregational Survey & Leadership Survey

The second phase of the consultation process is a survey completed by the congregation, six to eight weeks before the consultation weekend. The leadership chooses the time to open the survey and the congregation is given the website and the access code in order for them to complete the survey. The 'Fellowship Pacific Ministry Centre' receives the surveys for tabulation and forwards the results to the FEB Central consultation team.

At the same time, a second written survey is completed by key leaders in the church, which typically includes, pastors, ministry staff, board members, and other key ministry leaders. This survey asks more questions about the church and ministries.

Phase 3: Consultation Weekend

The third phase of the consultation process is a weekend that is set aside for the consultation and discussion. On Saturday the consultation team presents the results with the with leaders (pastors, staff, and key influencers) in the congregation and provides training on what a biblically healthy church looks like. The leaders provide feedback that the consultation team will review and use to update the presentation to the congregation on Sunday.

Sunday is a key day in the weekend consultation. A member of the consultation team will preach in the Sunday service on a topic related to church health and leadership. Following the service there is a town-hall meeting with the congregation to go over the report, answering questions that they may have. Typically, the report will state four to six strengths of the church, limitations in current ministry, and prescriptions for their future.

Phase 4: Implementation and Follow Up

The final phase of the consultation is for the pastor and board of the church to plan the implementation of the recommendations. FEB Central will stay in regular contact with the pastor for coaching and encouragement on moving forward with the consultation recommendations. FEB Central is available to meet and help the church with follow up, and offer training opportunities as needed.