

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

# Why Your Church Needs to Embrace Bold Moves - Episode 320

*How to Embrace Bold Moves in 2024*

Casting a multi-year vision often feels too far away in our current context. That's why we recommend churches focus on the immediate bold moves God has for them.

In this new series, we want to challenge pastors to think about what bold moves God is calling them to make in 2024 and what next steps they need to take to move in that direction. In this episode, Tony and Amy will define what a bold move is and explain why every church needs one.

## *Defining a "Bold Move"*

Mission describes who we are and why we exist. Vision describes where we're sensing God's taking our ministry in the future. **Bold moves are a more action-oriented way to think about our future vision** in a way that will rally our church, our leadership, our staff team, and our congregation to engage their prayers, their time, and their financial resources.

**The right bold move will compel and repel.** When it's specific and bold, a bold move rallies the vast majority of the people in our congregation and brings focus, alignment, and unity of purpose. At the same time, a clear bold move helps some people decide: If that's the direction this church is going, this probably isn't the church for me.

**Your bold move also needs to be measurable and point to tangible results on the other side.** If you *can't* define the action required to fulfill the bold move (future vision), then you probably just have another statement like your mission statement. Bold moves, on the other hand, have an action plan, including who's responsible for what by when.

You'll know it's measurable if you can answer one of these two questions:

1. What's the specific project or initiative that we're trying to complete? At the end of this journey, will we be able to say "yes" or "no" about whether or not we accomplished it?
2. What's the specific goal that we want to achieve? Again, will we be able to say "yes" or "no" about whether or not we accomplished it?

**When it comes to the number of bold moves**, we try to land on 1-2 specific moves that we think the church needs to engage TODAY in order to move the mission forward. Less is more—We don't want to have so many bold moves that we completely disperse the energy of the team.

If it's not something you plan to start engaging today, then you haven't really clarified your next bold move. If you don't have the urgency to start today, then you probably haven't identified a bold move that's actually going to help you move your mission forward.

## *Why Churches Need Bold Moves—But Often Fail to Embrace Them*

**Having a clear bold move in front of us is the opposite of being stuck as a church.**

A bold move is bigger than anything that any one of us could accomplish in our own effort. This will cause us to lean on God, to pray specifically, and to invite others to join us in the bold move with their prayers, time, financial resources, etc. It helps keep the church united in purpose.

A bold move also unites people and fosters unity and alignment. Without a bold move, people tend to focus on their own priorities which leads to ministry silos and, eventually, division.

However, many churches *fail* to embrace bold moves because:

- Ministry never stops, so we are too busy doing what we've always done.
- We aren't intentional about who is on the team around us (leaders vs. doers).
- We've shut out the voices around us. (It's a myth that senior pastors are solely responsible for the vision of the church.)
- We are waiting for perfect conditions.
- We are insecure leaders.
- We need an outside perspective.

## *Final Thoughts*

Before they can clarify their bold moves, churches need to first clarify their foundation: their core beliefs, mission, and their commitment to making new disciples of Jesus.

Clarity in your *foundation* helps us consider our future *direction* (where we decide what bold moves to make). It helps us establish **why** we engage the mission before we determine **how** we will engage the mission.

Listen to the full episode on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or at [theunstuckgroup.com/episode320](https://theunstuckgroup.com/episode320).

## *Webinar: Four Bold Moves for Churches & How to Make Them Happen*

Ready to make a bold move in 2024? [At this free 1-hour webinar on November 16](#), the Unstuck team and guests Derwin Gray, Rick Atchley, and Jonathan Smith will help you clarify the next bold move God may be calling your church to make—and unpack the next steps to get there.

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