

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Rhythm of Planning

Episode 348

How Healthy Churches Grow (Part 2)

You can make better decisions today regarding people, money, current priorities, etc. when you have clarity on what the future looks like. In this episode of our series on "How Healthy Churches Grow," Tony and Amy focus on the importance of making it part of your culture to have a regular rhythm of planning that involves the right voices.

Key Quotes

1. "As church leaders, we have to pause periodically and make sure we're working on what we need to be focused on next in order to continue to move the mission of the church forward."
2. "This should be an annual muscle that you're using. You should set aside a couple of days to go through those questions. Give yourself 12 months to work those plans and then do it again."
3. "In each of those areas—around reach strategy, spiritual formation strategy, future vision and multisite—we have to have a clear plan for how we are going to get to the place we're sensing God's calling us as a church."
4. "For lead pastors, when we start to talk about the planning process, you need to be engaged in this, but you can't own it. You can't be the facilitator of it."
5. "Good planning points to the future, brings clarity to the present and then actually creates the framework for follow through."

Self-Assessment

1. If you had to rate the way we annually plan for the future, would you give us a red, yellow or green?
2. When we plan, which of the questions below are the hardest to answer? What could we do to make them easier?
 - a. Where are we now?
 - b. Where are we going?
 - c. How are we going to get there?
 - d. How did we do?
3. As we think about the "How are we going to get there?" part, do we have clarity around our reach, spiritual formation, future vision and multisite strategies? What are our action priorities that align with each of those strategies?
4. What month should we be setting aside every year for these strategic conversations?

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