

# Why Some Churches Are NOT in Decline

## Episode 361

People are often surprised when they read our reports for the first time.

Our data shows contradictory trends to much of what we read in general research.

For example, in our most recent edition of The Unstuck Church Report, the average year-over-year attendance increase was 17%. There's clearly something different about the churches engaging with our surveys. Despite the headlines, we know 100s of churches that are NOT in decline.

So, are U.S. churches stuck or unstuck? Over the next two episodes, we're going to try to explain what's so different about unstuck churches—based on real-life examples—and give you some practical ways to make sense of the things contributing to church growth or decline.

### Key Quotes

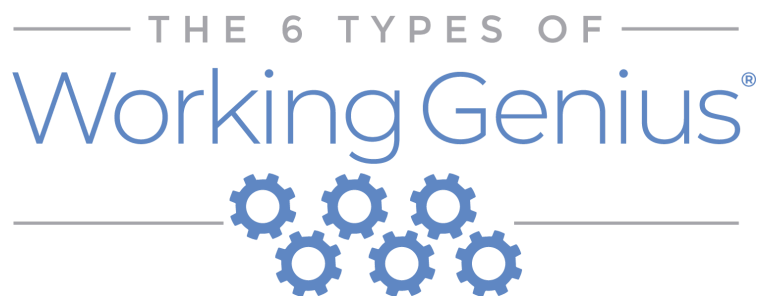
1. TONY: "Anytime we have a strategy that's not producing results, not only is that a drain on limited resources, but what it's doing, too, is pulling from where we could be making investments in our ministry that are actually producing results."
2. AMY: "I think a keystone characteristic of the unstuck churches we serve is that they're just mission minded."
3. TONY: "These churches are stuck because they're not actually empowering people that God's called into ministry."

### Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. Thinking honestly about our numbers, specifically those that involve big faith decisions, is our church in decline?
2. What bold move are we currently pursuing that is causing us to rely on God?
3. Let's take a moment to list out our programs. How many of these are actually leading to results (reaching more people)? Are there any we should prune to make us more mission minded?
4. Does everyone on our team have clarity around our spiritual formation pathway? When we meet for annual planning, do we plan with this pathway in mind (holistically) or do we tend to plan by ministry (individually)?
5. In what ways do we empower and encourage our pastoral and leadership team? Is there anything we could do differently that would further rally them to lead boldly?

Listen to the episode on iTunes or at [theunstuckgroup.com/episode361](https://theunstuckgroup.com/episode361).

## *Special Thanks to Our Sponsor for This Episode*



Working Genius is the fastest way to increase productivity, improve morale and decrease turnover on your team. It takes ten minutes to discover the work that gives you joy and energy and the work that is leading to staff burnout.

- Take the assessment.
- Discuss your results.
- Engage the geniuses of the people around you.

Get started today: Use code UNSTUCKWG for 20% off at [workinggenius.com](https://workinggenius.com).