

# How Fountain City Church Navigated Structure and Growth Challenges: Interview With Donny Wadley - Episode 446

“Structure changes have really changed our church... and it’s changed me.”

We’re doing something different this week on the podcast. We invited Pastor Donny Wadley from Fountain City Church in Knoxville, TN, to share his experience of going through The Unstuck Process.

Before engaging with us, the church was hitting a growth barrier—like many of the churches in our tribe. They had facility challenges and questions about making room for all the people who were coming to their church, and they needed an outside perspective to guide them through it.

In this episode, Sean and Pastor Donny talk about the impactful learnings and changes Fountain City went through as they navigated growth.

## Key Quotes

- “One of the biggest surprises for me was that we didn’t really know how healthy we were or weren’t because we weren’t measuring all the things properly.”
- “Sometimes, seeing the real numbers in the assessment is what lights the fire.”
- “The vision is yours to carry, but having people around you to speak into it, confirm it and push on it changes everything.”
- “This was a great thing for our church, and it was a good thing for me personally. And not only that, it’s moved my mind in thinking larger every year now.”
- “We’ve always wanted to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ, and so that hasn’t changed. We’ve just become more effective at it.”
- “The staffing changes were something I didn’t even see a huge need for, but they have really changed our church; they’ve changed me, as it’s given me more time for vision.”

## Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. Are we measuring what matters with the data we track? Looking at our data, are there any warning signs that we should be paying attention to?
2. Does our Lead Pastor have the time he needs to do the things only he can do (e.g., champion our church’s vision)? If not, what structural changes might be needed?
3. What areas of our church could really benefit from an outsider’s perspective?

Listen to the episode on iTunes or at [theunstuckgroup.com/episode446](https://theunstuckgroup.com/episode446).

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