

Constructing A Healthy Church

1. Determining which is most important
 - Church growth or church health?

2. Embracing two building criteria (1 Peter 2)
 - Christ is our cornerstone
 - God's people are the building stones

3. Selecting the architect
 - God or man?
 - Empowering the lead draftsman (pastor)
 - Listening to the architect (hearing God)
 - Embracing a journey of faith

4. Choosing the contractors
 - Who they are (elders, deacons, staff, & members)
 - What they do (job descriptions)
 - How they organize (form of government)
 - How they make decisions (a congress or a family?)
 - How you choose them (qualifications for each)
 - Replacing the general contractor (succession planning)

5. Value engineering to assure healthiness
 - Hoping for health or defining health and intentionally pursuing it
 - Characteristics of a healthy church
 - 1) Healthy churches underscore all their teaching with the realities of the authentic gospel and of Christ as the only hope of glory
 - 2) Healthy churches correctly steward the keys to the kingdom and the sacraments
 - 3) Healthy churches equip their people to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit
 - 4) Healthy churches emphasize the marriage of grace and duty
 - 5) Healthy churches have a mature understanding of, and focus on, discipleship – being intentional about making mature and equipped followers of Christ, who make mature and equipped followers of Christ
 - 6) Healthy churches have an effective plan and contemporary tools for making disciples, training disciples and developing leaders
 - 7) Healthy churches equally embrace ministries of the head, heart and hand

- 8) Healthy churches refuse to compromise spiritual nutrition for the sake of simplicity and growth
 - 9) Healthy churches provide healthy environments for worship and feeding rather than environments for entertainment and inspirational, self-help Bible instruction
 - 10) Healthy churches destroy the ministry idols of tradition and preference
 - 11) Healthy churches fight against the promotion and practice of pastor celebrity
 - 12) Healthy churches allow their pastor to focus on shepherding through his teaching, leadership and equipping
- Additional characteristics addressed elsewhere
 - 1) Healthy churches embrace a continual, God-given journey of faith (see #3)
 - 2) Healthy churches embrace healthy Kingdom models (see #6)
 - 3) Healthy churches have a strategic and inspiring ministry plan and pathway which are consistent with the characteristics of a healthy church (see #6)
 - 4) Healthy churches have healthy boards and wise leadership structures (see #4)

6. Deciding on a building style, blueprint and pathway

- Style options (ministry models)
- The blueprint (ministry plan)
- The sequence of construction (ministry pathway)
- Who has the responsibility to decide?

7. Raising capital for construction

- Casting vision before raising money
- Raising donors before raising money
- How to determine the budget
- Choosing between staff, programs, facilities and benvolences

8. Maintaining quality of construction

- Identifying harmful mindsets (belief & thinking patterns) and determining what they should be
- Describing the desired outcomes
- Listing the non-negotiable behaviors
- Implementing structures of accountability

9. Keeping updated construction documents

- Ministry plan
- Ministry pathway
- Officer election process
- Officer orientation
- Elder commission (EMT) orientation
- Officer covenants
- Staff coaching (“The Big Win”)
- Membership Training
- Membership Covenant
- Staff Policy Manual
- Staff evaluation
- Shepherding training