

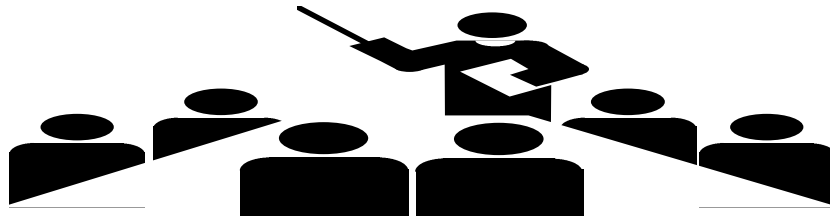
# CHURCH GROWTH WORKSHOP



Facilitator

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**Topic:**

**“The Pastor’s Role in Church Growth”**

# WORKSHOP

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## “The Pastor’s Role in Church Growth”

Key Verses: Matthew 28:18-20

### I. The Pastor must lead in the development of a *mission statement* for the local church.

- A. Each local church should *develop a mission statement*.
  - 1. The mission statement should be informed by the “Great Commission” of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Mt. 28:18-20)
  - 2. The mission statement should also be informed by the mission statement of the A.M.E. Zion Church. (1996 Book of Discipline)
  - 3. The mission statement should be prayerfully devised by a special committee of the church consisting of the pastor, ministers, lay leaders and members.
  - 4. The mission statement should be brought to the congregation for any further revisions and final adoption.
- B. Each local church should *post the mission statement* in a conspicuous place and keep it before the people by means of the church bulletin, newsletters, etc.
- C. *The mission statement should impact the organization* of the local church.
- D. The justification for the existence of any church auxiliary or ministry is tied to its helping to *fulfill the church’s mission statement*.
- E. The vision, objectives, goals and plans of the local church for each conference year should *flow directly from the mission statement*.
- F. The evaluation of the work of each conference year should be made *in the light of the mission statement*.

### II. The Pastor must lead in the appointment of *proper leaders* for the local church.

- A. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *moral character*.
- B. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *spirituality*.
- C. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *commitment to evangelism*.
- D. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *spiritual gifts*.
- E. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *submission to authority*.
- F. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *willingness to serve*.
- G. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of their *willingness to be trained*.

### III. The Pastor must lead in the *organization* of ministries for the local church.

- A. *The ministry of intercessory prayer* must be organized under the pastor's leadership.
1. The *Prayer Meeting* must be revitalized into a dynamic intercessory prayer ministry.
  2. *Intercessors* must be organized and trained to serve in the Lord's secret service.
  3. The *entire membership* must be involved in the prayer ministry of the church.
    - a. *The lost are saved* in answer to the prayers of God's people.
    - b. *Harvest workers are sent* in answer to the prayers of God's people.
- B. *The ministry of evangelism & outreach* must be organized under the pastor's leadership.
1. The *Board of Evangelism* must be organized in the local church.
    - a. There must be a *Local Director of Evangelism*.
    - b. The members of the Board may consist of ministers, exhorters, those laity with a *gift or interest* in evangelism.
    - c. The Board in cooperation with the Christian Education Board should provide *evangelism training* for both clergy and laity.
    - d. The Board should *plan and coordinate* evangelistic services and outreach projects which will involve the entire church.
  2. The *Outreach Ministries* of the church must be organized to meet people's needs.
    - a. The Outreach Ministries of the church must be organized according to the *needs of the community* in which the church resides.
    - b. The Outreach Ministries of the church must be organized according to the *spiritual gifts, talents, and resources* of the local church.
    - c. The Outreach Ministries of the church must be organized in order to *create opportunities to share Christ* with those to whom the church ministers.
- C. *The ministry of discipleship* must be organized under the pastor's leadership.
1. Class leaders must be organized and trained to *care for the souls* of God's people and to assist them in their spiritual growth and faith development.
  2. Class leaders must be organized and trained to *nurture* members into the true disciples of Christ.
  3. Class leaders must be organized and trained to assist members in *discovering, developing, and using their spiritual gifts* and in finding their ministry in the church.
  4. Class leaders must be organized and trained to expose their members to the *dynamics of spiritual warfare* and the importance of spiritual armor.
  5. Class leaders must be organized and trained to assist their members and the church in the *ministry of intercessory prayer*.
  6. The *Class Meeting* must be revitalized into a productive means of discipleship.
- D. *The ministry of Christian Education* must be organized under the pastor's leadership.

1. Christian Education workers must be organized and trained to *teach leaders and members to observe (obey) the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
2. Christian Education workers must be organized and trained to *train ministers, leaders and members to serve effectively and faithfully.*

**IV. The Pastor must lead in the equipping of the saints in the local church.**

- A. The Church grows as Christ gives the Church gifted leadership. (Eph. 4:11)
  1. Apostles: those with the gift to plant churches and provide oversight
  2. Prophets: those with the gift to speak God's special message to the church
  3. Evangelists: those with the gift to share the gospel and train others to do so
  4. Pastors: those with the gift to care for souls and nurture them to maturity
  5. Teachers: those with the gift to teach the saints to obey God's Word
  
- B. The Church grows as the saints are equipped for their work of ministry. (Eph. 4:12)
  1. Saints must be assisted in discovering, developing & using their spiritual gifts.
  2. Saints must be assisted in discovering and fulfilling their ministry.
  3. Saints must be assisted in discovering their operation & functioning within it.
  
- C. The Church grows as the saints are taught to obey the Lord's commands. (Eph. 4:13)
  1. Saints must be taught in order to come into the unity of the faith.
  2. Saints must be taught in order to come into the knowledge of the Son of God.
  3. Saints must be taught in order to obey the commands of Jesus Christ.
  
- D. The Church grows as the saints are nurtured to maturity in Christ. (Eph. 4:13-15)
  1. Saints must be disciplined in order to grow to maturity in Christ.
  2. Saints must be disciplined in order to avoid the pitfalls of immaturity.
    - a. Spiritual instability
    - b. Spiritual vulnerability
    - c. Spiritual gullibility
  3. Saints must be disciplined in order to evidence maturity in their communication.
  
- E. The Church grows as the saints are trained to share the gospel. (Eph. 4:16)
  1. The church, as the Body of Christ, is held together as each part does its share.
  2. The church, as the Body of Christ, grows as each part does its own special work.
  3. The church, as the Body of Christ, grows as the saints lovingly share the gospel of Jesus Christ within and without the community of faith.

