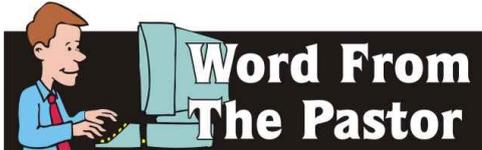
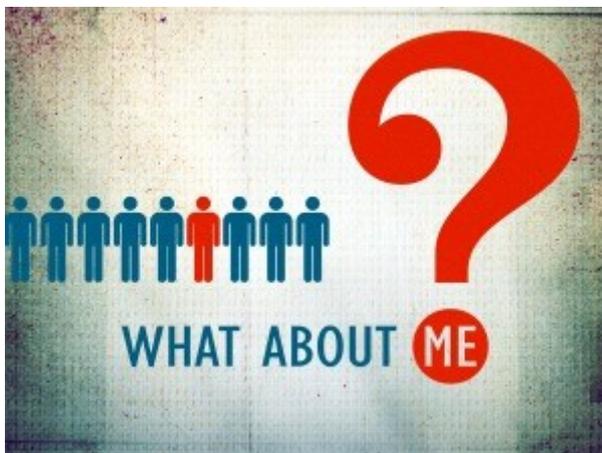


November, 2014



Rene feels this message from Rick Warren is what we need to hear this month instead of his usual message.

Organize Your Church on Purpose and Giftedness



Rick Warren Structure doesn't cause growth; the structure of your church determines how fast you'll grow and the size to which you'll grow. There is no clear organizational structure in the New Testament, and I think God did that intentionally so the Church can adapt to different stages, ages, and cultures. God gives us broad principles and not narrow rules. There is no perfect structure.

As we study Scripture, we learn two general principles about organizing and structuring for growth. First, God wants us to organize around the purposes for which he created the Church. And, second, God wants us to organize around the gifts of our members. Purpose and giftedness determine how you should organize your church.

Here are some advantages to a simple, gift-based structure:

It focuses the church on ministry, not maintenance. When organization is over-emphasized, a church can lose its focus on ministry. I heard about a grease factory that, as it became more and more successful, had to build more machinery to produce the grease. But, they also had to use more of the grease on the machinery they were adding. Pretty soon, they closed the marketing department because all the grease was being used on their own machinery.

If you streamline your structure, then you can maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. If you cut out about half of your meetings, your church would be more effective. I noticed the other day that my peach tree is covered in peaches; in fact, there might be 50 small peaches blooming on one branch. This week, I'm going to have to go out and remove about half of them. If you want big fruit, you have to get rid of about half of what you already have. That's true in ministry, too: You have to focus if you want big results.

It makes better use of talent. I remember many years ago when we were looking for land for Saddleback Church, I asked people who had a background in real estate or development to

show up at my office the next night. There were 14 guys who showed up, and I didn't know half of them. They went around the room, introduced themselves, and said why they should be on the task force.

The first guy said, "My name's Tom, and I buy all the sites for Kmart." You're in, Tom.

The next guy says, "Last year I did \$91 million in land acquisition." You're in.

Next guy: "I'm vice president of First Interstate Bank." You're in.

All the guys were highly qualified — far more than me. I said, "I believe God wants us to have 50 acres of land for our church; your task is to go find it. God bless you. Meeting dismissed." That's what you call liberating the members for ministry. I've had this philosophy for more than 30 years, and Saddleback has gone far beyond what I could do because I released people to do what they are good at doing.

The more successful a person becomes, the more impatient they will become with meaningless meetings. The last thing you want to do is put a go-getter on the flower committee. Committees discuss what they want other people to do; ministries just do it.

It builds morale. Why? Because ministry is more fulfilling than maintenance.

It allows spontaneous growth. If someone has a burden for ministry, then they can start it. We call this the "You're It" principle. I can't tell you how many people come to me and say, "Pastor, what the church needs is ..." My job is to release and equip the saints for ministry. When people see something missing in your church, they're often revealing their giftedness. Don't treat it as a criticism; realize that they are revealing their passion.

In 1992, a young guy named Shane came to me and said, "This Internet thing is really going to take off, and the Church isn't doing anything about it." He wrote a three-page, critical letter about how we weren't getting anything done. So, I hired him. As a result, Saddleback was the first church in the world on the Internet. Instead of getting defensive, I said, "Take it. Run with it."

Don't go around popping bubbles all the time. I'd rather someone try and then learn that it can't be done than for me to tell them that it can't be done. And, it may be that they are finally the right person for the ministry that has failed in the past.

Sometimes we start ministries from sermons. One time I did a message on how we need to care for one another. I thought, "We should start calling people just to see how they're doing." And I said, "I'm going to start a ministry right now called 'Care Callers.' If you like to talk on the phone and want to go through the directory and call people up and ask for prayer requests on my behalf, then please sign up on a card." We didn't do any long-range planning, but we started a valuable ministry.

It promotes growth. Structure will be as creative as you allow it to be. If you allow people to expand and stretch, then you're going to have a creative church. But if you have bureaucracy — "We've always done it this way" — then creative people are going to leave your church. They'll go find a place where they're allowed to blossom.

It allows more efficient decision-making. Have you ever seen a church waste time on a trivial decision? Often, the more trivial the decision, the more time it takes to resolve the issue. In congregational meetings in small churches, decisions are often based on the popularity of the speaker. Also, the smaller the church, the more power the most negative person has. Many churches operate by management objection. The most negative person in the church is allowed to kill an idea.

A simple structure is more stable. The more complicated a structure is, the easier it is to break. How do you simplify your structure?

- Reduce the number of meetings you have in your church.
- Reduce the number of items you vote on.
- Release ministries to make their own decisions.

Let your budget determine your priorities. The way you spend your time and your money determines what's important in your church.

Trustees

We have gotten 1/2 sq new roofing put on the Fellowship Hall by the Roof Dr. Along with cleaning the gutters, we hope to have control of the leak. We will be watching this closely. Many thanks to the United Methodist Men for paying for the Roof Dr repairs.

Trustees have completed the "walk-through" of the parsonage which is required for the Charge Conference. Many thanks to Shirley Patterson who did this with me and to Rene and Jennifer. There a couple of repairs still needed in the parsonage.

Shirley Patterson, Vern and Sharon Klump also replaced a plant near the entrance on the parking lot side of the church.

Sharon Klump, Trustee chairperson

Book Club

For November we have selected, "Doc :A Novel" by Mary Doria Russell. This is written about Dr. John Henry Holiday and his arrival in Texas hoping that the dry air and sunshine of the West will restore him to health. There he becomes a gambler and meets Wyatt Earp and the O K Corral and is forever linked to the American frontier mythology.

We will meet at the home of Julie Clifton and carpool from the church on November 12th at 6:30 pm.

Please bring any children's books for our donation to the Salvation Army for distribution.

For December we have selected "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James. We will meet at the Martinson's home.

Please do not feel you need to have read the book to come. You will be welcome and sure to enjoy the lively discussion.

United Methodist Men

Good news! We have changed our meeting night to the first Thursday of the month so that it doesn't conflict with other events. That means our next meeting is the 6th of November.

We have the bazar coming up on the 8th so we can setup @ our meeting. Frank has been making tables, a glider and plant holders. We also have spice racks, wine glass holders, bird houses, etc. Hope to see you all there.

Gene

United Methodist Women

We are as busy as ever!

Of course, our next big project is the Holiday Bazaar, which will be held Saturday November 8th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We would love to have more donations of items to sell. "Home-made" items are most welcome, including quilts, fabric crafts, knitted or crocheted items. We are always on the lookout for something new to offer for sale. We also welcome your home baked items. Please include a list of ingredients that we can have for reference just in case someone has allergies to consider. Baked goods can be delivered the day before the sale. If you can have them wrapped and ready to display that would be great! We would also appreciate a pricing suggestion.

We are adding a bonus for our church members this year. We are allowing you all to pre-order the famous "Ona buns"! I'll pass a sheet around the next 2 Sundays & you can indicate how many rolls you want, then pick them Nov. 7th 8th or 9th. They keep very well in the freezer so you can buy now and have them ready to defrost for your Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. The price this year is \$5.00 a dozen. You can also purchase a half dozen for \$2.50.

Come support the UMW on what we hope is our biggest fundraiser of the year!

Sharon Fosburg

November 13, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Feeding the Hungry

DO WE REALLY KNOW WHO THEY ARE?

What we think we know just might not be the whole story.

Longview United Methodist's Social Justice Mission invites you to join us for great ZoJo Coffee and a Round Table Discussion on how to best serve the needs of the diverse Food Insecure Community in Cowlitz County.

WHO ARE THE POOR?
WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO LIVE ON?
WHAT ARE THEIR FOOD NEEDS?
HOW MUCH DOES FOOD STAMPS PROVIDE?
HOW CAN WE BEST HELP THEM?

@ ZoJo COFFEE 951 Ocean Beach Hwy. Longview

SET YOUR CALENDAR for Social Justice Events:

Round Table: Feeding the Poor: November 13 at ZoJo Coffee

Sarah and Mike are coordinating a round table discussion set for November 13 at 7 pm at the new Zojo's at 931 Ocean Beach Highway (former site of the old One Hour Photo). The discussion is titled Feeding the Hungry and we will obtain information about the food needs of those in poverty, how much help food stamps provide, and how best we can be of help to the diverse food insecure community. The program is open to the public, so come and bring a friend or three.

Feeding Habitat for Humanity Builders: November 15

The Social Justice Team is coordinating lunch to feed the Habitat for Humanity builders which is set for Saturday, November 15. Bev Hilliard is helping organize this event. If you want to help, please let her know. The UMW contributed \$30 to help with expenses.

Tide Me Over

November's item is peanut butter as we are almost out. Otherwise, our pantry is well stocked with few bags having been taken in October. We have learned that residents at Westgate Terrace which houses seniors and disabled folks, is in need of donations. We will take some of our pantry items plus fresh fruit and vegetables over to them. If you would like to donate, see Bev H., Sarah or Sharon F.

Reconciling Ministry Network and Gay Men's Chorus

The Gay Men's Chorus will be coming to Longview again this year on December 14th, because they really love us. They will perform in the Rose Center at LCC. We cosponsor this event with PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). This year, proceeds from the event will go to PFLAG. So, look for more information as the date gets closer

We also sent \$100 to the Reconciling Ministry Network which especially helps with the costs of their newsletter. Please check out their EXCELLENT newsletter in the narthex. We continue to learn of additional churches joining RMN or starting the discernment process regarding whether their congregation wishes to become a welcoming community to all.

We have received information via PFLAG that there continues to be a serious problem with bullying around gender, transgender, and homophobia in the local schools. Garrett and a PFLAG member are preparing to make a presentation to the Kelso and Longview School Boards' meetings. Support by attending these meetings would be greatly appreciated. See Garrett for more information.

Backpack Ministry

The Social Justice team plans to start a backpack ministry for CVG students who need food during the weekends. We are still in the process of getting the information together and obtaining donations before this is started. Rene has spearheaded this effort and is working with Sarah.

Continued next page

Justice Advocates for Action

Justice Advocates for Action is an ecumenical group of local churches, including ours, which supports various social justice activities. In October, there was a speaker on immigration at St. Stephens. On October 28, at 6:30 pm. St. Rose will host a program titled "All That We Own Together", A Christian Response to Wealth Poverty, and Taxes for education and action.

Social Justice Meeting Times

The Social Justice Team (which includes all of the church) is changing its meeting times to the third Sunday in each month after church. Please join us - we're a happening bunch.

Youth Ministry

In the words of Janet Jackson, "I believe children are the future. Teach them well and let them lead the way." While I can almost guarantee that these words were not designated specifically for a church, they are surely applicable. Children bring energy unlike any other. The smiles they bring, the hugs they give, and the adorable dances that they create show congregations what it is like to live a carefree and God filled life.

Building a children's ministry with stability, congregational support, and with God in mind will bring changes to this church that may surprise us. I have the "if we build it, they will come" mentality, which may be scary to some. This mentality allows me to have hope for a youth population in our congregation.

The last Part of the Janet Jackson quote is profound and words that should encourage this congregation. "Teach them and let them lead the way." Youth can bring insight into operations that haven't changed in years. Youth allow us to think in a more abstract way. Youth help to reenergize congregations.

Building a ministry takes people; building a children's ministry takes people with a heart for kids. As this congregation continues to develop a game plan for the next couple of years, I encourage all of us to think about our gifting's and in which ways all of us would be able to assist with the formation of this program.

If you would like to assist with the formation of a youth program at Longview United Methodist Church, please contact Garrett Harrison.

Stewardship Campaign

Here are the results of what has been pledged to date.

We have 26 pledges totaling \$5644.00 per month. In 2014 our monthly budget need was \$7036 and we can be pretty sure that won't go down for 2015.

We know we have those who will give but choose not to pledge. If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your pledge for 2015 you can still do it.

2851—30th Ave.



Phone: 360-425-4927

Email: lumcoffice@cni.net

Check out our website!
www.umclongview.com