## **Who Should Consider Consultant's Services?**

- Churches experiencing rapid growth that want to maximize future growth
- Churches on a plateau or experiencing decline
- Churches in transition or considering relocation

#### Included with the visit

• A situational analysis with recommendations for next steps is provided in an interactive two-hour wrap-up with leaders at the conclusion of the second day.

## **Supplemental reports**

- An oral report to the congregation
- A written executive summary for the leadership team
- A comprehensive written report

### **Cost of consultation**

• Cost depends on the size of the church, distance to travel and other related expenses



#### For Additional information:

Call the Consulting Network FMCNA 1-800-342-5531 or Dr. Ray Ellis, 1-408-264-2811, e-mail raywellis@aol.com

www.freemethodistcchurch.org/users/consulting

### What Others Have Said About A **Local Church Consultation:**

"I wish to express my deepest thanks for your service to our church. The consultant gave us the 'eyes' we need if we are to grow."

— Free Methodist Pastor in Michigan

"The consultation provided an opportunity for our church to stand back and take a more objective look at its ministry. Too often a busy church like ours is so involved in its own program that it fails to pause to examine its present impact on the community and its future goals."

- Free Methodist Pastor in Pennsylvania

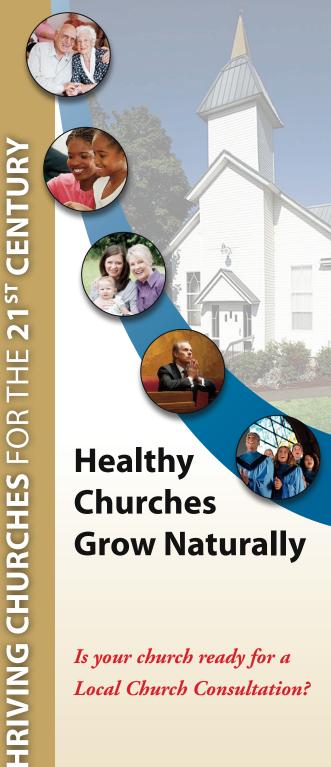
"The key benefits of having a local church consultation are the expertise of the consultant and the objectivity of the consultant. The consultant couples state of the art church growth principles with a true heart to expand the Kingdom of God."

- Free Methodist Pastor in Indiana



"The local church consultation is a work of the Holy Spirit that uses both the disciplines of church growth and spiritual factors in growing a healthy, reproducing church."

> - Dr. Ray Ellis, Consulting Network Leader



Is your church ready for a Local Church Consultation?

**FMCNA Consulting Network** 

#### **Local Church Consultation**

The Consulting Network of the FMCNA provides consultation services to enable local congregations to have a trained church growth consultant make an on-site visit to analyze and diagnose the health of the local church.

The planning process is designed to provide the pastor, staff and church leaders with a clear picture of their present strengths and make recommendations for long range health and spiritual vitality.



## **Why Consider Using a Consultant?**

- An outside consultant provides greater objectivity to the planning process.
- Consulting services are adapted and personalized to meet the complex needs of the congregation according to size and culture.
- It's helpful to have an objective diagnosis and assessment of the current spiritual health and organizational structure of the local church.
- Growth barriers are identified and strategies are introduced for short and long term correctives.

## Objectives of a Local Church Consultation

Answers the following questions concerning the health and vitality of the local church:

Who are we?

Where have we come from?

What is our purpose?

How well do we relate to our community?

What are the growth patterns of our church?

How well are we staffed?

What is the status of our present ministry programs?

How adequate are our present facilities?

How well are we doing financially?

# Congregational Assessment — The Exploratory Visit

This two-day high impact service is a compact assessment of overall congregational trends and patterns. Relying upon the Holy Spirit and experience, the church consultant will ask questions in a series of interviews designed to identify "the things which matter" in your context and situation.

- Thoughts and feelings about the past, the present and the future will be examined.
- Observations will be made about your ministry activities, structure, your facilities, and your community.
- A realistic potential for future ministry will be determined.
- Core issues will be identified in a way that they will be clearly understood.
- Particular concerns or emphases will be given special attention, depending upon the expectations and needs of each congregation.

## Topics that are often addressed in a consultation

- Are we maximizing our growth potential?
- Are we in poor health or out of balance?
- What are the issues we should be addressing?
- What are our greatest obstacles and opportunities?
- Do we have the right staff to accomplish our vision?
- How can we mobilize and develop more lay leadership?
- How much emphasis do we need to put on small groups and what approach would best fit our particular congregation?
- How can we discern a worship format that is both biblical and appropriate for our context?
- How can we initiate congregational changes effectively?
- Where could we have the greatest impact in our community? How can we reach and assimilate more people?
- Is our structure sufficiently streamlined?
- How can we shift to a more team based approach?
- What is the best facilities option to house this congregation during the next 5-10 years?
- What is an appropriate ceiling for our ministry?
- How much emphasis should we place on expansion compared to extension (growing larger, versus initiating church plants)?

