

## 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.freemethodistchurch.org/users/consulting](http://www.freemethodistchurch.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*

THRIVING CHURCHES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



# Healthy Churches Grow Naturally

*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)?

