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## Church Do's and Don'ts

### I. Things churches should do

*Once and For All, Get Serious About Your Congregation's Purpose.* Seeking beauty and truth doesn't cut it. Church is more important than that.

*Finding Capable Leaders is Worth the Time and Effort.* Church leaders create a congregation in their own image, for better or worse.

*Create a Growing, Healthy Church.* The #1 way to accomplish this is to raise the expectations of membership. Uncommitted souls and hangers-on do not a congregation make.

*Your Church May Not Be For Everyone.* If potential new members don't agree with your expectations, do not let them join the membership ranks.

*Identify Unmet Needs In Your Community.* You don't have to look far to find someone who needs a helping hand.

*Touch People's Hearts and Souls.* People don't always act for rational reasons.

*Don't Settle for Less.* Going to church means we are not satisfied with the fem-bar quality of contemporary life.

*Evangelism Could Be Fun If Your Church is Worth Talking About.* Don't want to talk about your church with others? If something truly important is going on, you would.

*Develop a Sense of Urgency.* When the devil hired a representative to do his work on earth, he hired the one who said, "I will tell people there is no hurry."

*Everyone's a greeter.* If first-time visitors experience loneliness, a very common occurrence, they won't return for a repeat performance.

*Ask new members to reach the 5-10 percent giving level.* Why not? They may say OK. Actually, all members should be asked to do this.

*Give away the Sunday offering and 5-10 percent of the operating budget to outreach beyond your own four walls.* Not a single person should say your church can't afford it.

## II. Things churches should not do

*Don't allow too many laypeople in the Sunday service.* Sunday morning cannot be amateur hour. The quality goes in before the invitation goes out.

*Don't sit around and wait until new people show up.* Reach out to cohorts, such as single-parent families, or those recently divorced or widowed. There's a lot of loneliness out there.

*Church shouldn't be just one more thing on the calendar.* Church is not akin to a kid's soccer game.

*Don't let the same people run the church for years on end.* Even though they will try to.

*Don't perpetuate the past.* Most churches appeal to those born before 1955.

*Don't try to keep malcontents happy.* An unhappy person can remain unhappy for a very long time.

*Don't let uninvolved members make major decisions by forcing congregational votes.* Keep membership roles current.

*Don't form unnecessary committees.* The fewer, the better. The less frequently they meet is even better. Church is about reaching out, not just committee meetings.

*Don't let members hold the congregation hostage by threatening to withhold pledges.* If they have become that unhappy, maybe they should look for another church. See malcontents, above.

*Don't tell people a job will be easy and doesn't require much time or effort.* Especially true of key leadership roles.

*Don't take excessive money from endowments or income-producing properties to supplement the operating budget.* This creates an uninvolved, low-pledging congregation.

*Don't keep pledge records secret.* The ministers, board chair, and stewardship committee members should have the pledge records. The higher the secrecy, the lower the level of giving.