

Evaluating Ministries

It is my belief that every ministry in every church should be evaluated for effectiveness at least annually. If we are spending time and resources on ineffective ministries are we being the best stewards of all that God has entrusted to us? I believe we all agree that life is busy and certainly too short to spend time on ineffective efforts.

Evaluation of ministries does not necessarily mean we will discard every ineffective ministry discovered. Many ministries may only need retuning as any automobile or other gas powered engine needs a tune-up from time to time. My suggestion is that the church staff and ministry leaders set aside time each year to evaluate the effectiveness of each ministry in the church. Keep in mind each person in attendance will have biases toward his/her favorite ministries and passions.

Here are some questions that can lead to healthy discussion concerning current ministries in your church.

1. What is the name and intent of the ministry? _____

2. Is this congruent with the original purpose and intent of the ministry? _____

3. Of the three areas of the Great Commission, which is this ministry fulfilling?

- Making disciples?
- Baptizing?
- Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded?

4. Of the five functions of the church which best describes the intent and outcomes of this ministry?

- a. Evangelism (outreach to bring people into relationship with God)
- b. Discipleship (leading people to live more Christlike, denying self)
- c. Fellowship (fostering relationships built on total trust and giving)
- d. Ministry (building a lifestyle of caring for and meeting the needs of others)
- e. Worship (adoration, praise, and giving back to God as He has blessed)

5. In the past year (12 months) what Great Commission results have we realized that can be attributed to this ministry?

6. Is this ministry's greatest demand on the church...

- a. Financial resources
- b. Personnel (paid staff or volunteers)
- c. Facilities
- d. Other

7. What is the best outcome we can expect? _____

8. If this ministry continues on the same path as the previous year what is the absolute worst case scenario we can envision?

9. Are we ready and willing as a church body to embrace this scenario (answer to #8), and can we afford to carry it through?

10. To strengthen this ministry (and perhaps in lieu of voiding the ministry) what are some areas of improvement that could be made to return this to a more viable and spiritually fruit bearing ministry?

- a. Personnel, _____
- b. Leadership _____
- c. Resources _____
- d. Ministry aim & intent _____
- e. Focus (outward, certain people group, etc.) _____

Additional Comments _____

Discussing these questions and listing the answers for all to see will assist in the process of how to improve the effectiveness of the ministry and assist in circumventing resource draining ministries that have outlived their effectiveness.

