

Developing a Transformation Church

(How to bring transformation paradigms and principles back home)

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Here are some practical steps for pastors to begin developing a “Transformation Church” vision in the local congregation they serve. These steps involve both loving and leading your people forward in biblical transformation paradigms and principles that have been lost or neglected in the church but are necessary to see cities and nations transformed and the Great Commission fulfilled.

1. Transformation Churches develop transformed followers of Jesus who are being used by God to transform their church, community and world.

- a. Transformation starts on a personal level. Preach and teach, walk and talk transformation. II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-3, II Corinthians 3:18
- b. Clarify your Mission and Vision as a local congregation. Celebrate who you are. Dream of who God calls you to be. Pastors, take the lead. Cast vision. Write it out. Share it with your staff and leadership first. Preach it to the congregation. Welcome prayer and dialogue.
- c. Clarify your Discipleship Process for developing transformed followers. At Christ Church we measure transformation in relation to three areas and related criteria: Worship, Connect, and Serve... both within the congregation and community.
- d. Share testimonies of transformation in worship, small groups, and through various forms of communication.

2. Transformation Churches partner with the “Church of the City” which is made up of all believers in Christ in their geographic area.

- a. Expand the understanding of “church” beyond the local congregation, i.e. the New Testament model which is based on geography... not denomination, theology or building... and

includes all believers in Christ at that location. In Elk River we often say, “We are one church that meets in many locations.”

- b. Preach and teach “Kingdom Growth” rather than “Church Growth.”
- c. Teach and model the biblical truth that your call as a pastor is not only to your local congregation but to the whole church of Jesus Christ. Speak in terms of your responsibility to partner with others to “pastor the city.”
- d. Seek practical ways to partner with others to meet needs, grow the kingdom of God, and seek transformation beyond just saving souls. Partner with others even when it’s easier to do it yourself.
- e. Invite your staff and leaders to join you in a weekly “community prayer meeting” with other pastors and leaders to pray for your city.
- f. Celebrate your unity through special events that bring a witness and a blessing to your city.

3. Transformation Churches train, equip, commission and release their members to be ministers in the marketplace of everyday life.

- a. Communicate and demonstrate the biblical truth that “everyone is a minister” and “labor is worship” when it’s offered unto the Lord. See I Peter 2:4-5, 9, Colossians 3:23, Ephesians 4:11-13
- b. Begin to mentor your key “marketplace ministers” using Ed Silvoso’s book, “Anointed for Business.”
- c. Visit your members in the workplace. Have lunch. Learn about their work, both their joys and challenges. Pray with them and for them, asking God to do a miracle.
- d. Share marketplace transformation testimonies.
- e. Preach a sermon series or teach a class on “marketplace ministry.” Have a “commissioning service” some Sunday and release your members to be ministers in the marketplace, wherever God has called them to live, work and serve.
- f. Break down the barriers between “sacred and secular,” “clergy and laity” by how you value people and share leadership.

- 4. Transformation Churches invest a growing percentage of their resources in mission and ministries beyond their walls with a goal of giving away more than they keep.**
 - a. Preach and teach biblical stewardship with a “city-reaching, nation-reaching” emphasis that cultivates a spirit of generosity beyond the ministry needs of the local congregation. See Psalm 24:1, Matthew 6:21, II Corinthians 8 and 9.
 - b. Cast the 51% vision slowly. Begin by gaining “buy-in” from staff and leadership before sharing this vision with the whole congregation. Commit yourselves to a process of incremental growth towards the 51% goal.
 - c. Expand the number and variety of opportunities for “hands-on” involvement in various mission partnerships, both local and global, especially shared community partnerships.
 - d. Join the International Transformation Network, www.transformourworld.com and get connected to others that share a Transformation Church vision.
 - e. More testimonies!

- 5. Transformation Churches implement biblical transformation “paradigms and principles” in order to see their cities transformed and the Great Commission fulfilled.**
 - a. Pray and seek the Lord. We can’t share what we don’t have.
 - b. Evaluate the history, beliefs and attitudes of your congregation/ministry and move forward with love, patience and discernment. Every congregation is different.
 - c. Remember to share a Transformation Church vision with your key staff and leadership before going to the whole church.
 - d. Model, share, preach and teach the “5 Pivotal Paradigms of Nation Transformation” and the “Principles of Prayer Evangelism.” (For books and resources by Ed Silvano and support from other transformation partners, see www.transformourworld.org) The paradigms and principles are the “river banks” helping guide the flow of transformation around the world.
 - e. Utilize a 7-week congregation-wide Preaching Series and Life Group Study called “Faith Beyond Belief” by Pastor Greg Pagh, also available for free down-load.
 - f. Find partners in both your congregation and community and go for it!