

Twelve Keys to an Effective Church

First Baptist Church

Sullivan, Illinois

Friday, November 2, 2018

Jerry B. Cain Grace Baptist Church Kansas City, Missouri



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Jerry B. Cain Presentation at FBC Sullivan, IL
Friday Evening November 2, 2018

What the Church Did Originally

⁴⁰ And with many other words He testified and exhorted the, saying,

“Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

What the Church Did Originally

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

What the Church Did Originally

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and good, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

What the Church Did Originally

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

What the Church Did Originally

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

What Sullivan First Baptist Did

1883 Eight were baptized and 14 organized FBC.

1885 Moved to Index Store.

1886 Organized first Sunday School.

1890 Built first church building.

1899 Organized first Youth Group.

1905 Closed briefly.

What Sullivan First Baptist Did

1925-1930 Church building rented.

(Baptists met in the home of Flora Watson.)

1930 Returned to the original church building.

1933-1944 There were 17 part-time pastors.

1944 Joseph Hoy became full-time pastor (\$32.50)

1952 Easter Sunday had 300 in church.

1973 Moved to Christian Church building.

What Sullivan First Baptist Did

1978-1982 D. Scott Johnson was pastor.

1985 FBC began giving 10% to missions.

1991 New parsonage was built.

1994 Inserts for stained glass windows purchased.

What Grace Baptist Church Did

November 2015-October 2018

Sunday School increased 36 to 48.

This was 33% increase.

November 2015 through October 2018

Worship Service increased 66 to 81

This was 22% increase.

Twelve Keys to An Effective Church

Keys 1-6 are characteristics which create satisfaction and renewal. These are relational characteristics.

Keys 7-12 are characteristics which overcome dissatisfaction and stifle renewal. These are functional characteristics.

Relational Characteristics

1. Specific, concrete missional objectives
 2. Pastoral/Lay visitation in the community
 3. Corporate and dynamic worship
 4. Significant relational groups within the church
 5. Strong leadership resources
 6. Solid and participatory decision making
- (Let's look at each and determine:)
- a. Does our church have this characteristic?
 - b. On a scale of 0 to 4, how much of this characteristic is evident in our church.
 - c. What actions do we need to take to improve this characteristic?

1. Mission Statement and Objectives

The Mission of First Baptist Church of Sullivan is to increasingly know God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to continually make Him known through worship, witness, nurture, and ministry.

- a. The Mission Statement should be visible: church bulletin, brochure, church Web Site, newsletter.
- b. Objectives should follow the statement. Objectives provide guidance on ways to achieve the mission.

1. Mission Statement and Objectives

There should be mission statement commitment.

- a. In a year, will our worship bring more to Jesus?
- b. What are specific hurts we need to address?
- c. What are concerns we need to address?
- d. What are strengths of our church we need to share?
- e. What are community events for our church?
- f. What is the challenge for our Planning Council?
- g. What is the challenge for our church committees?

1. Mission Statement and Objectives

Rate our Mission Statement

- 0 Not visible
- 1 Never discussed
- 2 Objectives missing
- 3 Written on cover of Sunday bulletin
- 4 Visible and objectives listed

List some actions we need to take concerning the Mission Statement and Objectives.

2. Pastoral and Lay Contacts

There should be pastoral and/or lay contacts.

For FBC, we have 41 active members which means there should be__ contacts with sick and homebound, unchurched, new members, and new attendees to our church.

Types of Contacts:

- a. Selecting and seeking inactive and non-members
- b. Sharing and shepherding members and inactive members
- c. Relating and reaching non-members and those in unchurched community

2. Pastoral and Lay Contacts

Rate our Pastoral and Lay Contacts

0 Not visible

1 Never organized nor planned

2 Occurs occasionally

3 Occurs frequently for certain occasions

4 Organized and well-planned effective contacts

List some actions we need to take concerning the Pastoral and Lay Contacts.

3. Corporate, Dynamic Worship

Characteristics of a dynamic worship:

- a. Warm and friendly
- b. Inspiring and “wins you over to Jesus”
- c. Quality preaching
- d. Service flows with powerful prayers, scripture readings, and songs
- e. Seating arrangement is conducive to adequate hearing

3. Corporate, Dynamic Worship

Rate our worship service

- 0 Not dynamic
- 1 Lacks uplifting and filling
- 2 Lacks flow and continuity
- 3 Somewhat uplifting, filling, and flowing
- 4 Well planned and inspirational

List some actions we need to take concerning our worship service.

4. Significant Relational Groups

Characteristics of significant groups within FBC church:

- a. Committees, boards, and officers with duties outlined in our constitution.
- b. Groups such as *Women on a Mission Society* (Every women of church is a member.)
- c. Men and Women “Breakfast” groups.
- d. Exercise Group

How can new people join? Is there caring and sharing within the groups? People trump programs.

4. Significant Relational Groups

Rate our Relational Groups

- 0 There are no active groups.
- 1 Not enough participants in groups
- 2 Not enough interest in activities of groups
- 3 Some groups are active.
- 4 There is community outreach by all groups.

List some actions we need to take concerning our relational groups.

5. Strong Leadership Resources

Characteristics of strong leadership resources within a church:

1 Corinthians 9:19 Paul places himself at the service of other in order that God may use him to bring people to Jesus.

- a. Church activities are planned with a purpose or goal.
- b. Church activities accomplish satisfactory goal(s).
- c. Church activities include and involve everyone.
- d. Church activities invite fellowship and integration with community.
- e. Church activities offer opportunities to use talents and interests of members.

5. Strong Leadership Resources

Rate Leadership Resources at FBC

- 0 Leadership is lacking in church activities.
- 1 Some activities lack goal setting.
- 2 Some activities are not well-attended.
- 3 Church activities include community involvement.
- 4 Church activities show evidence of good leadership.

List some actions we need to take that will improve the effectiveness of church activities.

6. Streamlined Participatory Decision Making

Characteristics of streamlined participatory decision making:

- a. There is evidence of a middle between consensus and dictatorial in the decision making process.
- b. Decisions are based on the mission of the church versus a fad.
- c. Decisions are made with 20% by all members, 30% by leaders, and 50% by committees.
- d. Anxiety equals a negative vote.
- e. Adequate information is provided before the decision is made.
- f. Committee meetings are purposeful and punctual.
- g. Members of committees display responsibility, authority, and accountability.
- h. Committee reports include assignments and minutes.

6. Streamlined Participatory Decision Making

Rate Decision Making at FBC

- 0 Decision making is dictatorial.
- 1 Decision making is in the hands of a few.
- 2 Some information is provided to members.
- 3 Committee meetings are reported at Quarterly Business Meeting.
- 4 Decision making is based on consensus of membership.

List some actions we need to take that will improve decision making for FBC.