

Building Stronger, Healthier Churches



An Overview
of Revitalization

Mitchell E. Corder, Director

Defining Church Revitalization

Church revitalization is a movement within the greater evangelical church which emphasizes the missional work of turning a plateaued or rapidly declining church and moving it back toward health, vitality, and growth.

I. The Phases of Church Revitalization - Blueprint

Refocusing – For a church that is growing but needs to set new challenges and look for opportunities to expand their Gospel witness in their target area.

Revisioning – For a church that was once alive and vital but is on the verge of losing its focus and drive for the mission of Jesus.

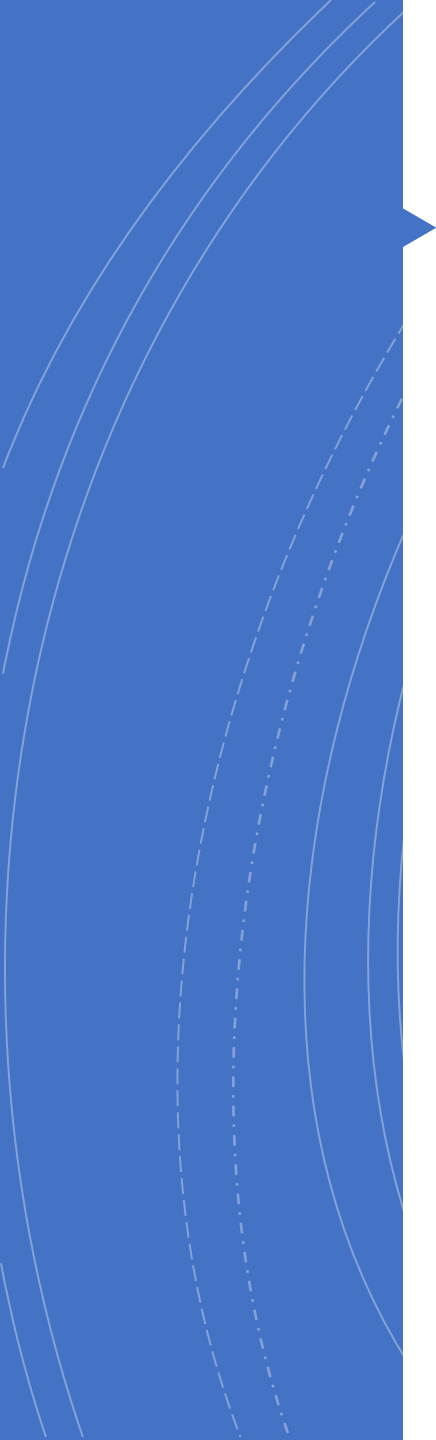
Renewal – For a church that needs to get back on track. It needs a spiritual jump start.

I. The Phases of Church Revitalization - Blueprint

Reinvention – For a church that needs new tools and techniques to help it adapt to a changing community or to a general societal shift. New experiences must replace old experiences. New practices must replace old practices.

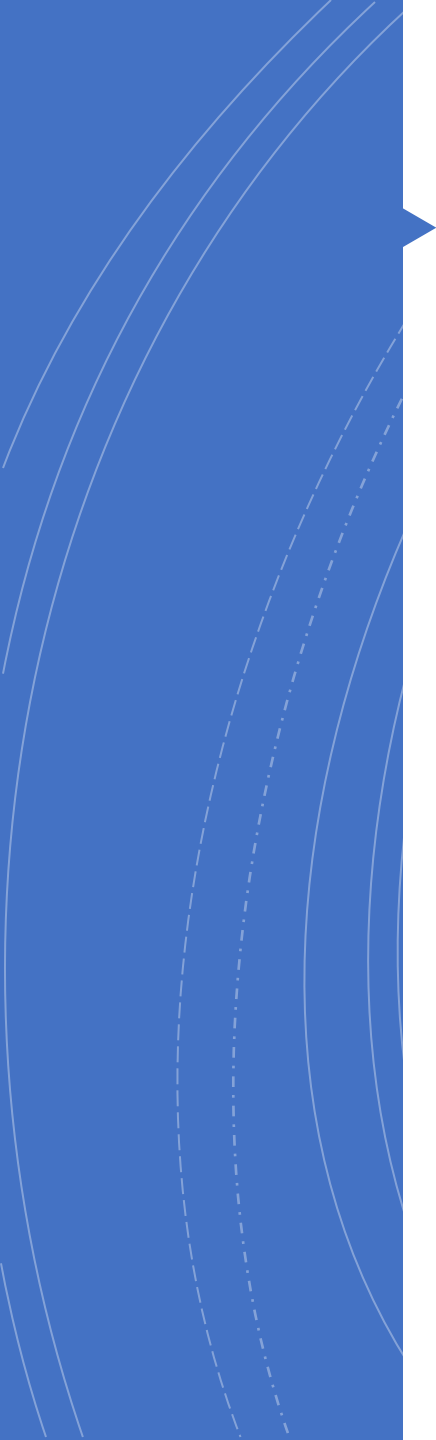
Restoration – For a church that needs a fresh understanding of the new future, it must meet needs in order to give it a restored place in the community.

Resurrection – For a church that must face the challenge that it has waited too long to enter into revitalization. This church has been flat-lined and hanging on by means of its legacy and the faithful few who are attending.



Revitalization is a necessary and important aspect of the life of a church.

Every church will need seasons of intentional revitalization if it is to maintain spiritual vitality, freshness, and missional effectiveness.



The impact of the decision a church and its leadership make regarding revitalization will impact future generations.

II. The Priority of Revitalization - Biblical

Church revitalization is an apostolic priority.

The Acts of the Apostles emphasizes the expansion of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire (and beyond) through church planting.

II. The Priority of Revitalization - Biblical

The Epistles emphasized church health and church revitalization.

Some examples:

1 & 2 Corinthians

Galatians

1 & 2 Timothy

Titus

1 & 2 Peter

1, 2, & 3 John

Jesus demonstrated his passion for the revitalization of the Seven Churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 2-3).

III. The Pastor and Revitalization - Behavior

Pastoral leadership is **crucial** to church revitalization.

Ten Characteristics of Effective Revitalization Pastors...

1. They are visionary.
2. They skillfully instill a sense of urgency.
3. They are willing to take risks.

Ten Characteristics of Effective Revitalization Pastors...

4. They lean into conflict.
5. They persevere.
6. They accept responsibility.

Ten Characteristics of Effective Revitalization Pastors...

7. They lead the church to celebrate “wins.”
8. They demonstrate dependence on God.
9. They are life-time learners.
10. They are confidently humble.