

59 QUESTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS (and anyone who cares about the evangelical church)

Vision And Strategy

- 1) What is the church's vision?
- 2) What is the church's strategic plan for the next three, five, or ten years?
- 3) What resources and personnel will be needed?
- 4) What are the educational requirements to be a pastor, especially to preach and teach?
- 5) Why do some members leave the church? 6) What changes are necessary?
- 7) Is there a program to care for the short and long term needs of abused women and children, single parents, disabled, and the elderly?
- 8) What economic-social class does the church minister to and why?
- 9) Is the church affiliated with a particular political party or ideology? 10) If so, why?
- 11) How does the neighborhood view the congregation?
- 12) Does the leadership know the questions and needs of the unbelieving community nearby?
- 13) Does the leadership have answers and services for the community?
- 14) Is there a evangelism program?
- 15) What is the church's policy regarding gender ideology and gay marriage?

Governance

- 16) What are the criteria for selecting the next pastor? 17) How will that selection take place? 18) Or, is leadership a "family business"?
- 19) How do the pastors/leaders function together? 20) How are decisions made?
- 21) Does the church govern by elders and deacons or is all power concentrated in one person or a closed group?
- 22) How are staff positions created and how are selections made?
- 23) To whom and how are the senior leaders accountable?
- 24) How do negative aspects of culture affect the lifestyles, leadership, and spirituality of the church?
- 25) How do the members of the church view their leaders?
- 26) Does transparency, integrity, and accountability characterize the leadership in cases of injustice against women and children or any type of corrupt behavior?
- 27) Do the leaders model a balanced and biblical lifestyle?



Preaching And Education

- 28) Does the youth ministry prepare people to engage pagan culture and other worldviews?
- 29) Does the church prepare laymen to integrate faith and work?
- 30) Does the church teach the biblical worldview and its application to intellectual questions and cultural issues?
- 31) Does the church encourage advanced university study for Christian service in the public square?
- 32) Is the preaching/teaching focused on pragmatic themes and not biblical and cultural analysis?
- 33) Does the church urge reading, study, and critical thinking about theological and social issues?
- 34) What is the level of biblical and theological knowledge among the leadership? 35) And members?
- 36) Does the church teach about sanctification and the spiritual disciplines?
- 37) Is there a role in the church for intellectuals and artists?
- 38) What percentage of the membership participate in adult education? 39) What percentage of participants complete the program?
- 40) Is there a biblical counseling provided or are members referred to secular psychologists?

Congregational Worship

- 41) How many new songs have been introduced in the last five years?
- 42) Does the church sing mostly about conversion, even if many members have been believers for many years?
- 43) Does the church sing mostly modern music and choruses, rather than hymns that celebrate the doctrines of the Christian faith?
- 44) Is the style of the music mostly soft rock and popular genres? 45) Or, are other musical styles incorporated, such as classical and folk?
- 46) Is there an opportunity for choral ministry?
- 47) Does the church incorporate scripture reading, creedal confession, responsive reading, or cappella psalm singing?

Church Management

- 48) What is the church's budget and how is it determined?
- 49) Who makes spending decisions? 50) How?
- 51) Is the church audited? 52) Is this information public?
- 53) What is the average percentage of tithe per member? 54) What is the percentage of members who tithe?
- 55) Is the pastor economically able to focus on ministry or is he bi-vocational?
- 56) What expenditures are necessary to maintain or repair the buildings?
- 57) Are there church business meetings for members? 58) Is important information published?
- 59) What are the procedures for safety and security on Sunday and during the week?