

The Southern Methodist Church

541 Broughton Street

Orangeburg, SC 29115

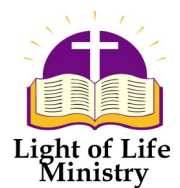


Twenty-Year ANALYSIS 1999- 2019



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Light of Life Ministry



Notes

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Overview

Summary

Concerning the Foundation of The Southern Methodist Church (referring to the Basic Principles outlined 20 years ago:

- Our Mission Statement remains unchanged but has yet to be fully communicated and pursued.
- Our Core Values also remain unchanged but are given lip service rather than resources, planning and pursuit.
- Our Vision for the Future has seen little realization or implementation.



- Our present decline in number of churches is indicative of this reality.
- Our present loss of pastors to illness and death while remaining unable to replace them or raise up pastors is also indicative of this reality.
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You must not fear, for I *am* with you; you must not be afraid, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, indeed I will help you, indeed I will take hold of you with the right hand of my salvation. (Isaiah 41:10)

Peter Drucker on Leadership

“The problem in my life and other people's lives is not the absence of knowing what to do but the absence of doing it.”

“The leaders who work most effectively, it seems to me, never say “I.” And that's not because they have trained themselves not to say “I.” They don't think “I.” They think “we”; they think “team.” They understand their job to be to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don't sidestep it, but “we” gets the credit. This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done.”

“People in any organization are always attached to the obsolete - the things that should have worked but did not, the things that once were productive and no longer are.”

“Like so many brilliant people, he believes that ideas move mountains. But bulldozers move mountains; ideas show where the bulldozers should go to work.”

“Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.” ...

“If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old”

“The best way to predict your future is to create it”

“The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.”

“Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans.”

“There is nothing quite so useless, as doing with great efficiency, something that should not be done at all.”

“Rank does not confer privilege or give power. It imposes responsibility.”

“Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.”

“When a subject becomes totally obsolete, we make it a required course.”

“Trying to predict the future is like trying to drive down a country road at night with no lights while looking out the back window.”
— Peter Drucker

Analysis

1. We must move beyond doing thing right and begin to do the right things.
2. We must courageously cut off the past that has ceased to be productive.
3. We must focus everything on the mission.



- ⇒ We **still** have many of the same strengths that we had 20 years ago, but we have largely failed to capitalize on or take advantage of those strengths.
 - ⇒ In an age of compromise on the Word of God, we must become champions and defenders of the Word, boldly proclaiming it and loudly publicizing it.
 - ⇒ In an age where people are moving away from authoritarian top-down structures, we need to emphasize congregational/connectional form of government.

Analysis, continued

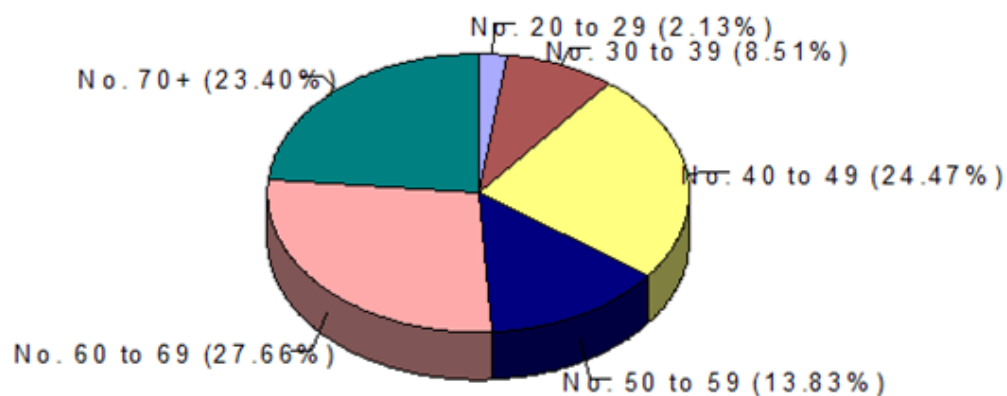
- ⇒ As our missionaries age, we need to refocus on foreign missions and world evangelization. Under the direction of our new Missions Director we have begun the task of rebuilding one of our strongest ministries.
- ⇒ The struggle of the College to maintain its ability to prepare a new generation of leaders, including pastors and missionaries, shows that we are failing to reach and keep young people, and are failing to train leaders.
- ⇒ We **still** have most of the same weaknesses and have largely failed to address them.
 - ⇒ In an age of advanced technological tools for communication and an expanding array of avenues for communication, we **still** struggle to find ways to adequately keep the lines of communication open.
 - ⇒ We **still** do not have an organizational structure that is prepared to address the deep-seated problems of the 21st century.
 - ⇒ We **still** have a widespread lack of understanding the doctrine and history of The Southern Methodist Church.
 - ⇒ We **still** struggle to maintain loyalty, commitment and appreciation among our people and leaders.
 - ⇒ We are **still** failing overall to disciple our people and train our leaders.
 - ⇒ We **still** prefer short-term fixes to long-term solutions.
 - ⇒ We **still** struggle to work together to face these challenges.
- ⇒ We **still** need to find ways to take advantage of our opportunities.
 - ⇒ We **still** fail to reach the changing communities around us. In places like Nashville, TN, Augusta, GA and Charleston, SC (among others) our churches struggle and some close while the population increases exponentially.
 - ⇒ We **still** fail to address the issues and needs of a changing culture.
 - ⇒ We **still** need to find ways to emphasize and communicate the holiness which has always been worn as a badge honor in Methodism.
 - ⇒ We **still** need to find more and better ways to address the problems of our society and help people facing them.
 - ⇒ We **still** need to help our churches capitalize on our small size, realizing that it is not a disad-

Analysis, continued

vantage, but an advantage.

- ⇒ We **still** need to help our people learn to use the technological tools of the 21st century for God and good in a society that often utilizes them otherwise.
- ⇒ We **still** must face the threats that, should we allow them, will destroy us.
- ⇒ We **still** face a problem of resources, but this may be more of a problem of distribution than a problem of lack.
- ⇒ We **still** must face and overcome the self-imposed isolation of our congregations from the neighboring communities
- ⇒ We **still** face a government that is becoming less friendly and more hostile to religious organizations and we must become more proactive in facing the situation.
- ⇒ We **still** have pockets of suspicion and distrust that must be addressed, so that our openness is less lip service and more reality.
- ⇒ We **still** face a lack of commitment in the local congregations as well as in the denomination.

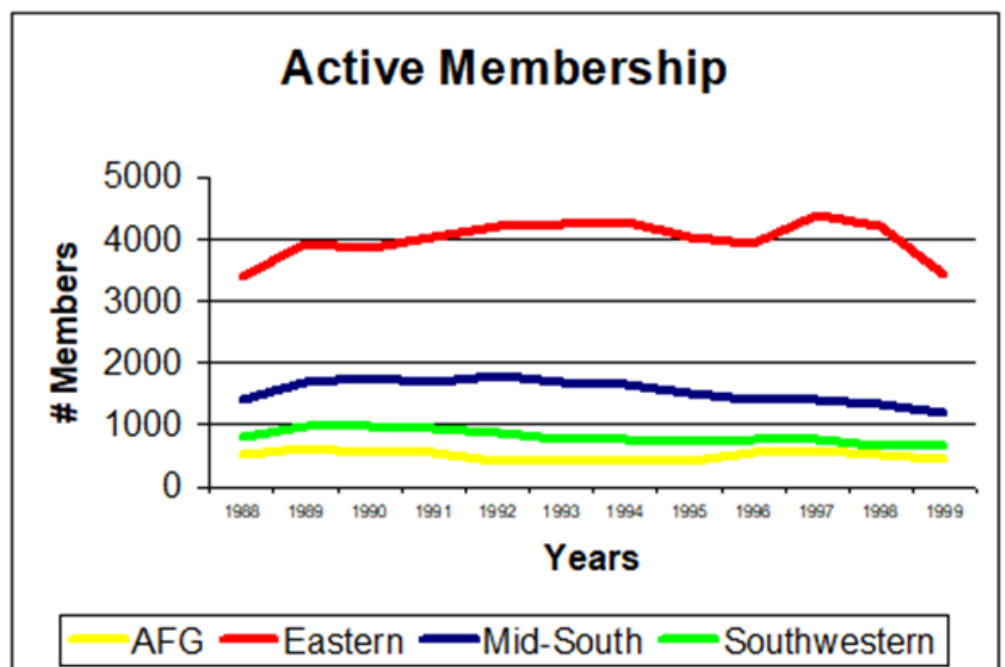
Southern Methodist Leadersh Percentage in Age Ranges



Challenge

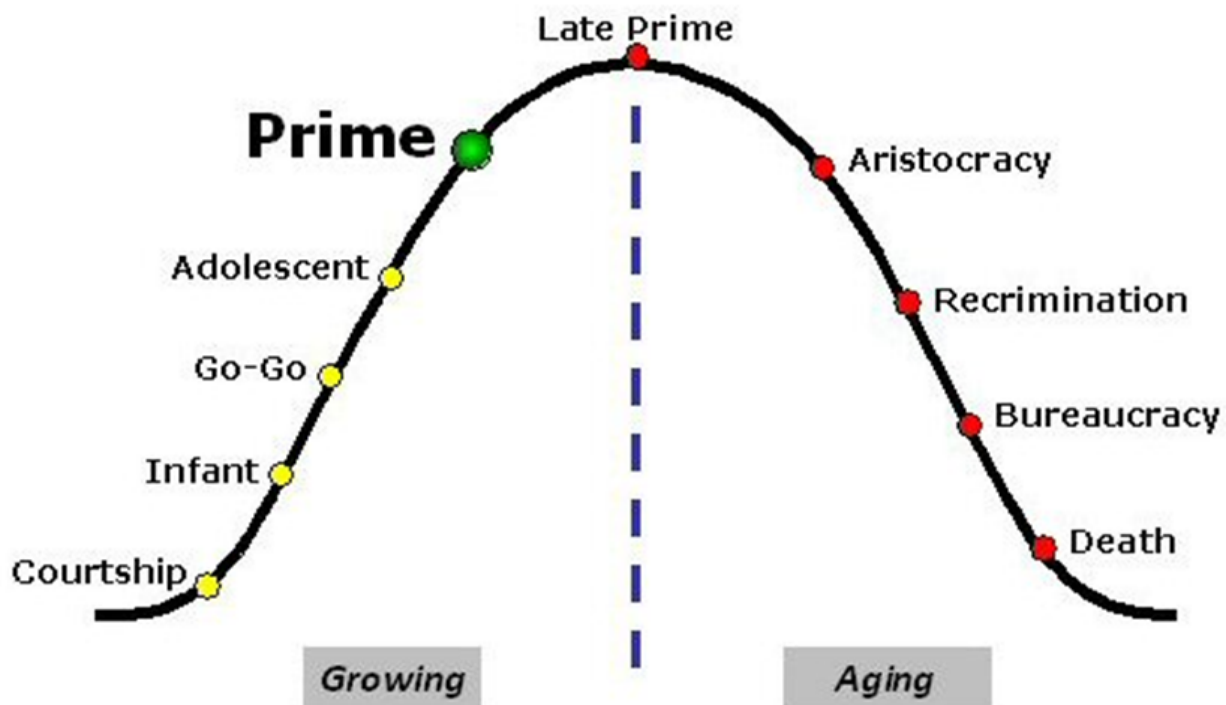
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- ⇒ We must **STOP** focusing on short-term efficiencies that undermine long-term effectiveness.
- ⇒ We must courageously choose what not to do, which is as important as choosing what to do.
- ⇒ We must ask ourselves the tough questions.
1. How does each part of the denomination (each board, institution, and department) contribute to the accomplishment of the mission? Or does it?
 2. What needs to be changed and what needs to be eliminated?
 3. How do we identify, recruit, equip and deploy leaders?
 4. How do we revitalize struggling churches and plant new churches?
 5. How do we best prepare churches to carry out the Great Commission?
 6. How do we refocus our efforts toward world evangelism?
 7. In a world of compromise and pressure to conform, how do we maintain our core values?
 8. How do we raise up and support a new generation of missionaries?
 9. How do we restructure our organization (meetings, reporting, etc.) to focus on effectiveness rather than just maintenance?
- ⇒ We must determine to stay the course for the long-term (our tendency has been to give up or abandon an initiative prematurely).



Challenge, continued

Organization Lifecycle Stages



Without understanding each category's distinctions, can you mark where you think The Southern Methodist Church falls on the lifecycle bell curve? You can just place a mark where you think we fall. How can we turn this downward slide into an uphill battle?

*We can't do it without God,
But He won't do it without us!*

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