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**NC BAPTISTS**

[NCBAPTIST.ORG](http://NCBAPTIST.ORG)

**After Assessing Approximately  
1,200 NC Churches...**

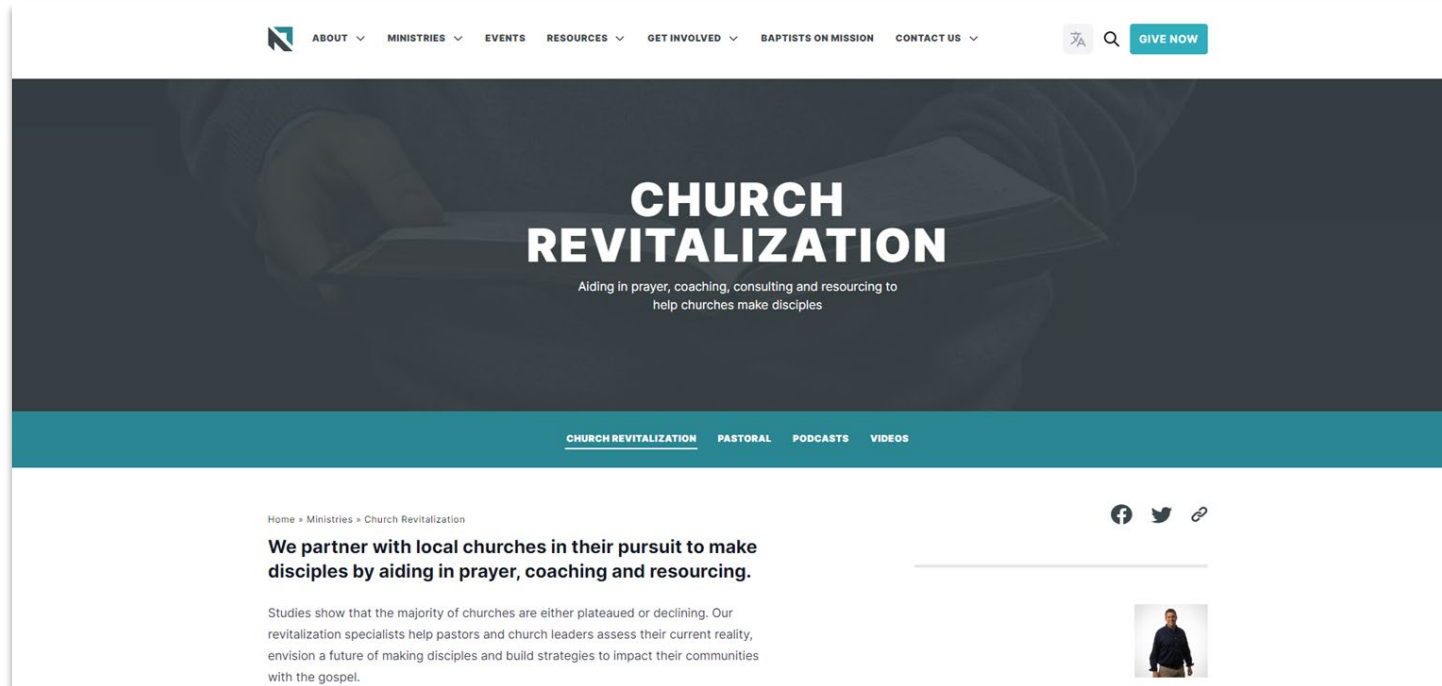
**“9 out of 10 churches need some form of revitalization.”**

**- Thom Rainer**

**Prognosis without  
diagnosis is malpractice.**

# Initial Assessment

Take the assessment at [ncbaptist.org/revitalize](https://ncbaptist.org/revitalize)



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# Initial Assessment

10 Questions designed to identify the church's status on the church life cycle; **Incline**, **Recline**, or **Decline**.

### Life Cycle of Churches

↑ Incline	→ Recline	↓ Decline
Future-oriented Community Focus Innovative Faith Decision \$ = Investor Great Local Response Steady Attendance New Leadership Active in community Conversion Growth	Present-oriented Congregation Focus Routine Resource Decision \$ = Provider Little Local Response Attendance Decline Segment Leadership Small Role in Community Transfer Growth	Past-oriented Core Focus Complacent Indecision \$ = Preserver No Local Response Major Attendance Decline Incumbent Leadership No Role in Community No Growth

### Start Now

- Where am I?**  
Together with your key leaders, take the assessment on page 5 to determine your need for revitalization. This is a good opportunity to begin important conversations with leadership.
- What can I do?**  
Based on your responses, we'll continue the conversation about whether revitalization, fostering, adoption, marriage or replanting is God's plan for your church.
- When can I start?**  
There is hope for every church, but it requires hard, diligent work. Revitalization involves difficult decisions and wrestling with tough ideas. We'll walk you through a decision to confirm your commitment to the revitalization process.

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REVITALIZE NC

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:7). This is Jesus' refrain in His letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit is still speaking to His Church today, admonishing her to engage in the mission of God. Yet many churches are struggling and discouraged.

**The goal of revitalization is to see God glorified as churches return to their mission of impacting lostness by making disciples.**

Dying churches do not reflect God's heart! In Haggai 1:5, the Lord commands His people to consider their ways and return to His mission. In the same way, God's people today must take stock of their ministries and their mission and return to the Lord's purpose of becoming missionally a healthy, disciple-making church.

### How would you describe your church?

(Choose one answer per question)

Discuss these questions with the leadership in your church to assess your current reality.

1. A. Future-oriented B. Present-oriented C. Past-oriented	7. A. Missionally not attentive (decline over the last 5-10 years) B. Missionally some attentive (decline over the last 5-10 years) C. Missionally substantial attentive (decline over the last 5-10 years)
2. A. Focused on the community B. Focused on the congregation C. Focused on the "core group"	8. A. Our church attracts and develops young adults B. Our church rarely attracts and develops young adults C. Our church rarely attracts and develops young adults
3. A. Innovative B. Routine C. Complacent	9. A. Our church plays an important role in the community B. Our church plays a small role in the community C. Our church plays no role in the community
4. A. Based on faith B. Based on available resources C. Mission-led	10. A. Consistent growth B. Transfer growth C. No growth
5. A. Invests finances for mission B. Provides finances for ministry C. Provides finances for membership	
6. A. Has seen great response from the local community via programs and/or events B. Has seen little or declining response from the local community via programs and/or events C. Has seen no response from the local community via programs and/or events	

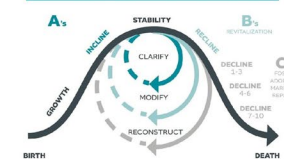
### My Answers

1 _____	6 _____
2 _____	7 _____
3 _____	8 _____
4 _____	9 _____
5 _____	10 _____

**Now, compare your answers with the chart on page 4.**

- Your "A" answers correspond with "Incline"
- Your "B" answers correspond with "Recline"
- Your "C" answers correspond with "Decline"

More "B" and "C" answers indicate a need for some type of revitalization.



### Some common characteristics of missionally healthy, disciple-making churches:

1. There is a culture of sentness
2. Leaders equip and empower
3. Authentic community is present
4. Members are expressing passionate worship
5. Measurable disciples are being produced
6. Biblical doctrine and execution is apparent



# Incline, Recline, Decline

Unfortunately, very few churches are actually in an incline. Some are in a slight decline and need to **clarify** their focus on outreach. Some are in a slow decline and need to **modify** internal and external focuses. Some are in a substantial decline and need to **reconstruct**. We desire to have unique and specialized plans with tools for all of these churches.



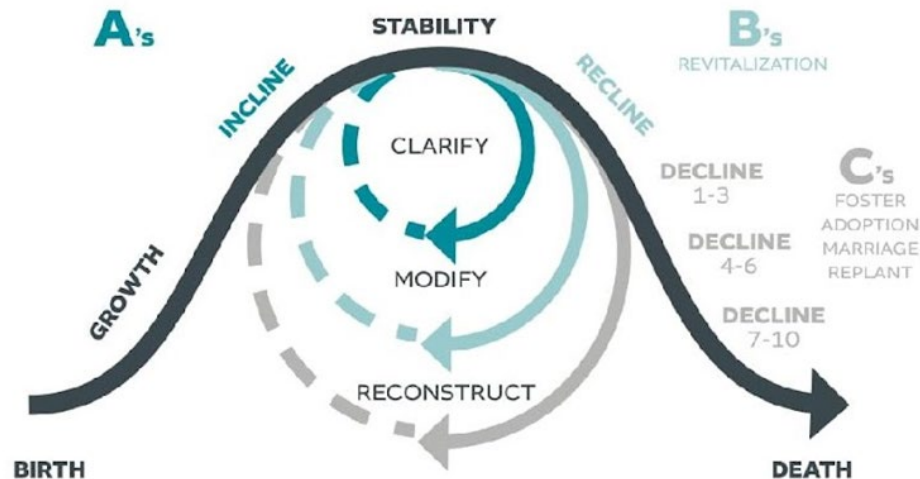


# Over 51% Need Reconstruction

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Revitalization

Fostering

Adoption

Marriage

Replant

Shared Space



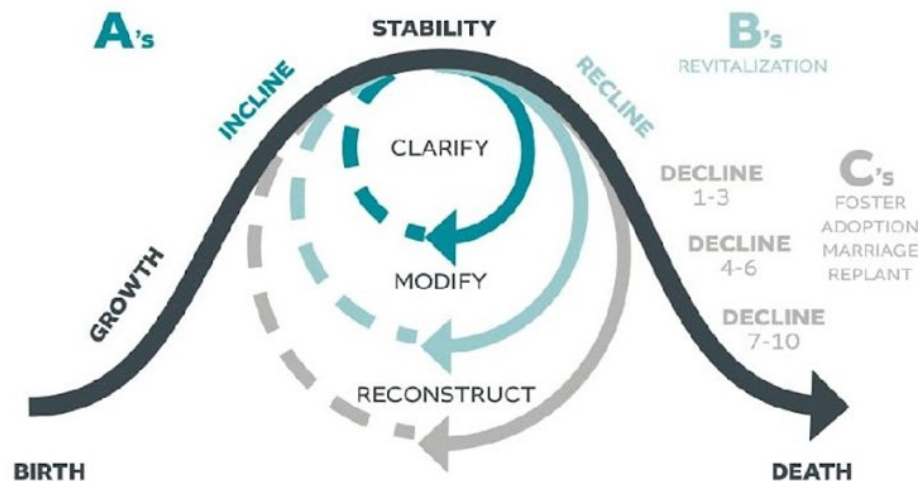


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- No response by the local community.
- Substantial attendance decline over the last 5-10 years.
- Rarely attract and develop young leaders.



# CHURCH *fostering*



REVITALIZE NC

# *Church Fostering*

**is for churches on a severe decline that no longer have essential resources for revitalization, but want to retain church autonomy.**

# Biblical Basis

## 1 Corinthians 16:1–4 (ESV)

*“Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.”*

# There Must Be Guidelines

# Our Strategy

We will **partner** these churches with a stronger N.C. Baptist church to **provide** essential resources while also providing a positive culture for both the church and fostering pastor. We will provide a **guiding** format for both churches in this partnership and cohorts for pastors and leading members of these churches to **connect** with one another.

**Partner**

**Provide**

**Guide**

**Connect**



**STRUGGLING CHURCH**

**NC BAPTISTS**

**COHORTS**

**HEALTHY CHURCH**

*Teams/culture*

## **Struggling Church**

Provide fostering preparation *through*  
*tools such as non-negotiables and health forecasts.*

## **Healthy Church**

Build leadership pipelines  
*through assessments, templates and cohorts.*



# Best practices for the healthy church

## Getting Started

- Build your church leadership pipeline
- Find a Foster by: Building a relationship with a pastor
- Take the initiative (with the motive of caring for the pastor or church not for leverage)
  - One-on-one encouragement
    - Coaching
    - Cohorts

# Best practices for the healthy church

## Getting Started

- Reach out to some pastors of struggling churches. Buy lunch or coffee. Build a relationship. If this becomes several connections, start a cohort.
- Reach out to some pastors of struggling churches.
- Host a one day fostering intensive.
- Be involved in your association (not for gain).

# Best practices for the struggling church

- Take an assessment (current).
- Take the initiative (with a church, association, or network).
- Be willing to receive help that is not on your own terms.
- Change leadership (not necessarily a change in leadership).
- Be willing to do things to serve and reach out to the community.

# Best practices for the healthy church

## How Do We Start?

- Ask your team to serve no more but no less than a year (rotation of some for programming is helpful).
- Who:
  - Planter/entrepreneur type.
  - Team around greatest needs.
  - From that area. Within driving distance.
  - Young families with preschool children.
  - Unshakeable saints.
- Think like a missionary. (Learn context, resist attitude of superiority.)

# Best practices for the healthy church

## How Do We Start?

- How long?:
  - 3 months- bridge for healthy transition in a crisis.
  - 6 months- if they need a strategy and some training.
  - 1 year- providing a possible new context and leadership.
- Have a Document of Understanding (DOU) with the expectations for both churches.
- Start with the greatest needs (preaching, worship, and outreach).

# Fostering to Revitalize or Foster to Replant

- To Revitalize: DOU's have just bottom floor
- To Replant: DOU includes 2nd period with top floor
- Foster to Replant during Interim

# Best practices for the healthy church

## During Fostering

- Have a quarterly update and clarification meeting. Does the partnership need to change on the micro or macro level?
- Provide potential options after the commitment.



# Best practices for the healthy church

## How Do We End?

- Final quarter, prepare for transition.
- Have a celebration with both congregations.
- If there is a realization that the relationship should continue because the struggling church will not make it on its own (after the year) adoption or Replant should be considered.

# Best practices for the healthy church

## Are We A Good Fit For A Replant?

- Doctrine and Polity
- Leadership
- Community (to reach)
- Facility Assessment
- Bylaws and Governing Documents
- Financial

# Best practices for the healthy church

## Other Tips and Thoughts

- Send your teams out as missionaries (keep a network with and behind them).
- Fostering grows your congregation's missions force and mentality.
- Keep your church update and encouraged.
- Servant attitude not expecting anything in return (kingdom mindset).

# Best practices for the healthy church

## Other Tips and Thoughts

- Be aware of the spiritual warfare.
- “It is the churches that are striving for the gospel that the enemy comes after. But God intends it for good.” – Chuck Lawless  
(Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:29)

# Best practices for the association, state convention and network:

**Partner** through prayer, assessments and fit.

**Provide** resources like example DOU's, tips and training.

**Guide** the process until partnership has formed. Be the bridge.

**Connect** cohort churches in the area with others that are fostering.

**STRUGGLING CHURCH**

**NC BAPTISTS**

**COHORTS**

**HEALTHY CHURCH**

*Teams/culture*

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*tools such as non-negotiables and health forecasts.*

## **Healthy Church**

Build leadership pipelines  
*through assessments, templates and cohorts.*

# Our Vision

“To have one Foster-Replant Team in every region of the state by 2024.”





# Our Vision

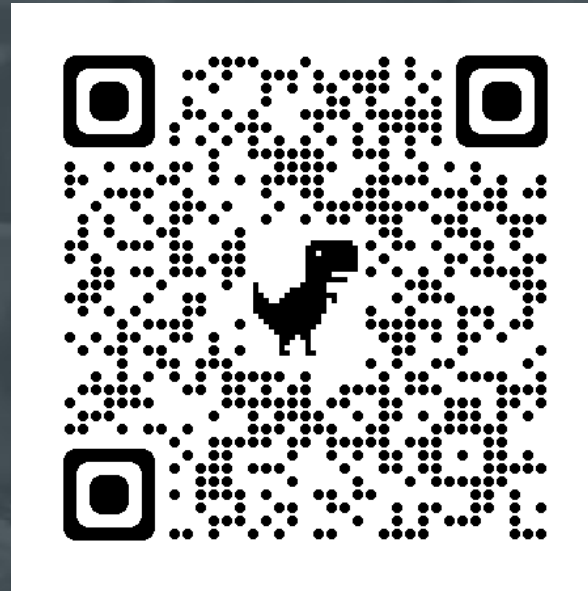
## For the Struggling/Legacy Church

- Assessment
- Consultation
- Confirmation (AMS/BSCNC)



# Next Steps for the Struggling Church

Scan the QR code to take the initial assessment to have a follow up consultation about your answers and what's next for your church.



*On Mission Together*

# Our Vision

## For the Sending Church

- 4 or more sending churches meet every 6-8 weeks
- Sending Church Profiles
- Lead / Partner (Context and Profile)



# Next Steps for the Sending Church

Use the Sending Church QR code to sign up to be part of this kingdom work in becoming a Fostering to Replant Partner.



*On Mission Together*

**WE ARE ON  
MISSION** *together*

[ncbaptist.org/pastoral](http://ncbaptist.org/pastoral)

