

CHAPTERNEXT

ChapterNext is the collective, deliberate work to make your church the **BEST EVER!**

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A man goes to visit an old friend who lives in a cabin in the woods. By the time he arrived, it is pouring rain and he is soaking wet. When his friend answered the door, he jumped inside; glad to get out of the rain, only to find that the cabin roof was leaking and water was dripping everywhere.

The newcomer asked about the leaky roof and all the buckets catching water. "Oh that," responded the host. "I barely notice it any more. You just get used to the rain in this part of the country."

"Why don't we go up on the roof and fix the leaks? I'd be happy to help," offered the newcomer.

"No," his friend replied. "It's dangerous on the roof in the rain. Plus, it's getting dark. Let's do it later."

The man agreed. After a drippy, damp night of fitful sleep, they woke up to a beautiful sunny day. The visitor turned to his friend and said, "Hey buddy, let's grab some breakfast, then get that roof repaired!"

To which his friend responded, "Why? It's not leaking now."

- **What Every Church Must Do**

1. Create a great experience for **EVERY** person who comes on the campus!
2. Develop a network of holy, healthy, happy leaders who reproduce themselves.
3. Build a culture that reflects their vision, mission, and core values (the DNA of a church).
4. Articulate what is expected of their members and design a clear, simple path for people to achieve those things.
5. Construct (and/or revise) dynamic systems to define and simplify the way the ministry operates.

6. Align the **spiritual** (vision, mission, core values, and strategies) and the **structural** (constitution, by-laws, policies, and procedures) dimensions of their church.

- **The ChapterNEXT Process**

1. **Redirect**

Clarify our vision, mission and core values

Articulate expectations

Clarity changes everything!—Will Mancini

2. **Rethink**

Ask the hard questions – What can/should we... [and why?]

Sometimes success is not about what you start or add but what you have the courage to stop.

3. **Re-Imagine**

Decide what kind of church you want to be, honor your past, define success, and model what you want.—Bob Franquiz

Turn “feedback” into “feed-forward.”

What should our church look like in 10 years? 3 years? 90 days?

What will make our church unique?

What ministries and events are needed in this season in the life of our church?

4. **Reinvent**

Design (or redesign) ministries to equip people to live out the vision, mission, and core values of our church.

Create exciting ways to engage people via age, gender, and relational status.

Align the **spiritual** (vision, mission, and core values) and the **structural** (constitution, by-laws, policies and procedures) dimensions of your church.

5. **Retool**

Secure the necessary resources to achieve your mission –

People – Recruit and equip staff, leaders and volunteers

Places – Arrange, assign and/or acquire facilities

Procedures – Create the needed operational systems

6. Rebrand

Design your image and make your church more attractive than she has ever been!

Evaluate, revise and add worship services (when and where needed).

Redesign publications, media ministry (radio, television, and internet broadcasts) and electronic presence (website, app, social media, etc.)

7. Relaunch

Soft launch – _____

Hard launch – _____

Pray daily, Celebrate success weekly, monitor monthly, evaluate and revise quarterly, and retool annually.

▪ What Forward Thinking Leadership Looks Like

We do not need a touchdown; we need a first down!—Unknown

1. **Simple**—Ministry is not easy but it should be simple.

“Less is more!”

2. **Consistent**—The right thing, the right way—EVERY TIME!
3. **Organic**—Creates life and reproduces leaders!
4. **Imaginative** (visionary) —Bigger than us!

What if it hasn't happened YET because your church hasn't tried it?

5. **Dynamic**—Intentional/Purpose

Do it well or not at all!

Give God and the people who show up the best we have.

The most important Sunday is the Sunday AFTER the most important Sunday.

6. **Inclusive**—Invites, includes, and inspires others.

We are here for the people who are not here yet!

Engagement now drives attendance and commitment.

7. **Relevant**—Speak to a Postmodern, Post-Christian, Post-COVID world.

(The) men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do. (1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV)

