



**FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION**
March 2017

“For Your Consideration” is an occasional information piece about people in mission. Its purpose is to help connect people with other people as they fulfill their ministry. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute as appropriate for your congregational setting. Suggestions for future articles may be sent to:

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12 Principles for Expanding God’s Mission

- 1. Growing congregations have a clear sense of and understanding about God’s mission.** They know what God’s mission is and they are able to find ways to help people get on board with God’s mission.
- 2. Effective leaders lead by example.** Leaders are committed to carrying out God’s mission.
- 3. Leaders expect and often invite people (including new people) unabashedly to participate in God’s mission through what the congregation is doing.** They know that what they do is important. This is important “life-changing work” and they invite others to come and make a difference in the world.
- 4. Growing congregations help people to discover their God-given gifts and passions and help them to find ways in which they can use those gifts/passions to carry out God’s mission.** People who are passionate about what they do are eager and excited to tell people what they are doing.
- 5. There is no such thing as “busy work” or “meaningless activity”.** Everything that is done contributes to the overall effectiveness of God’s mission. Two questions are asked:
 - a. Does this activity advance God’s mission?
 - b. If not, then why are we doing it?
- 6. Success breeds success and people want to participate in “successful/meaningful” ventures.** Excitement is contagious!
- 7. People want to be around people who care about them and will listen to them.** How does the congregation care about and listen to others?
- 8. People will support the causes they believe in.** What does your congregation do that encourages people to believe in what it does and/or to support it?
- 9. Build upon your strengths and the resources that God has given you, and not upon the things you wished you had.** Be realistic and appreciative of the gifts God has given you rather than envious of the things that you don’t have.
- 10. Share your excitement about and enthusiasm for God’s mission with others.** When people are excited and enthused, it is difficult for naysayers to discredit what they are doing.
- 11. Find at least one other person with whom you can share your passion for God’s mission and invite them to participate in what you are doing.** A sure way to increase ministry is to invite others to become involved in it.
- 12. What are you doing to make a difference in someone’s life right now?** How do people react to what you are doing and the difference you are making?

Reflection Questions

1. What is God’s mission for you and your congregation?
2. How excited and/or enthused are people about God’s mission?
3. In what kind of life-changing ministries does your congregation participate?