

When to Start a New Service?

The following questions provide a clue to whether it's time to begin a new service. If you answer over half the questions *Yes*, it may be past time:

YES NO

1. Are you concerned with the lack of “conversion growth” in your church over the past 3+ years?
2. Are your present worshippers homogenous in age, ethnicity, or spiritual maturity?
3. Has your worship attendance plateaued for the past 3+ years?
4. Do you hear leaders in the church wishing for more (*fill-in-the-blank*) kind of people in the church?
5. Do 90+% of your first-time visitors not come back?
6. Do you find leaders (or gatekeepers) in the church resisting change in the present service/s?
7. Have you had people ask for more of (*fill-in-the-blank*) or less of (*fill-in-the-blank*) in your service/s?
8. Are you feeling a desire to reach new “kinds” of people, but aware (when you're honest with yourself) that it probably won't happen in the present service/s?
9. Do you feel the growth potential of your church, with its present program and worship style, is limited?
10. Is the interior of your worship center/sanctuary significantly dated when compared to the typical building interiors in your community?

How to know if you're ready to start a new service

Just because you may *need* a new service is no guarantee that your efforts will be successful. Before you follow the steps in the accompanying article (“How to Start a New Worship Service”), be sure your answer to the following questions is *Yes*:

1. Are we (staff, leaders, members) passionate about reaching unchurched people?
2. Are we willing to take a high-visibility risk in pursuit of this passion?
3. Do we have a passion for the target group the new service will focus on?
4. Do we have a clear understanding of our theological negotiables and non-negotiables (i.e., what we're willing to give up)?
5. Do we have an assimilation system (classes, groups, etc.) for the new target audience?
6. Do we know what in the world we're doing (i.e., how to successfully start a new service)?

If it's time...and you're ready...then see the article, “How to Start a New Worship Service” for some insights on how to do it right...

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