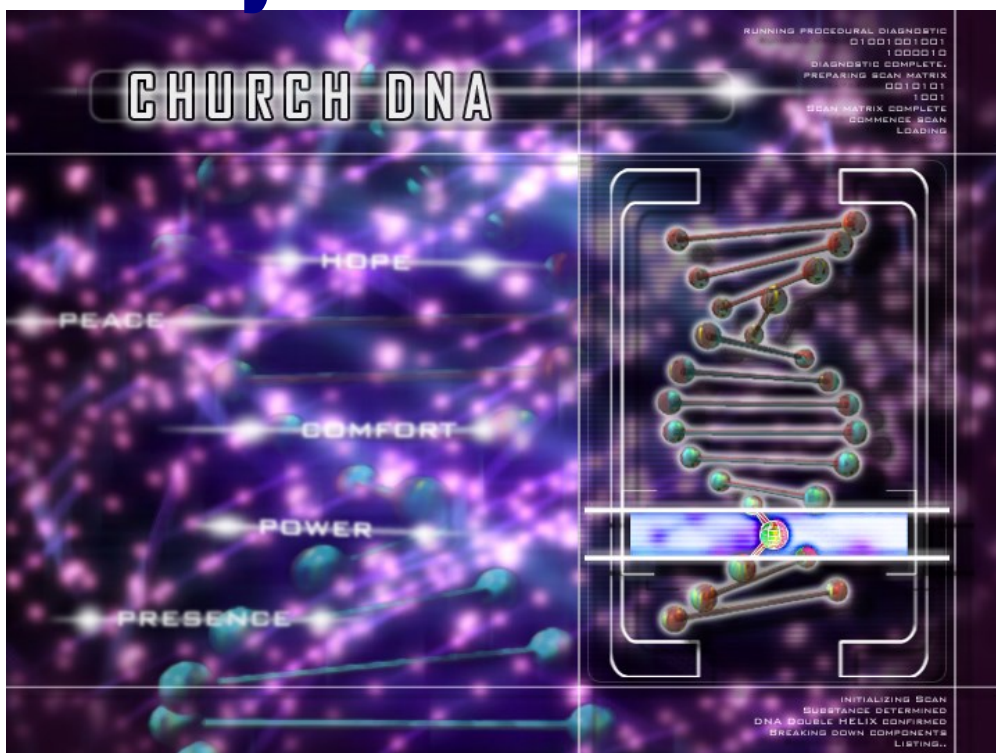


Congregational Meetings

by Kent R. Hunter



1. As a rule of thumb, conduct as few congregational meetings as possible. Minimize the number of meetings as required by law and reduce the number of meetings required by the Constitution to a minimum.
2. Provide an annual meeting designed as a church fellowship celebration. This should be a time when the whole congregation is together around fun, food, fellowship, reporting, and worship. If you have a connection with an apostolic leader, this would be a time for that person to be brought in as a special speaker for this event.

As a rule of thumb, vote as minimally as is legally allowable.
Elect as few people as required by law.

When you have an annual congregational meeting, ask people to provide their questions, in writing with their names, prior to the meeting. Answer those questions in the context of the meeting. If they are negative or controversial questions or comments, deal with them outside the meeting, privately or in writing.

Use graphics in your congregational meetings as much as possible to report measurable trends. Further, use testimonies from those in your congregation to report experiential value the ministry has brought to their life.

3. Consider separate smaller gatherings of members to deal with minimum required votes, elections, and financial reports. When it is necessary to vote, approach it from the opposite direction: ask how many people object. Try to avoid any visual election reports so people are not put in a position of "winners" and "losers."
4. Consider providing an open forum twice each year, like town hall meetings. Provide coffee and dessert or a dinner. Allow questions and comments, but receive them only in advance, through 3 x 5 cards that are signed. Those that are used in a

public setting should be pre-selected by the pastor and leaders. Those that are not appropriate for a public setting, because of their negativity or emotional tone, should be dealt with on a private, one-on-one basis.

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