

How to Resource Your Diagnostic Consultation Experience

Q: How is the cost determined?

A: The Diagnostic Consultation is provided at below a not-for-profit, at-cost basis. Many churches and individuals voluntarily donate to Church Doctor Ministries. These donors have benefited from this ministry and want to encourage others through their support. Their donations literally subsidize the next church that receives help.

Q: Why do some in our church think this is a discretionary expenditure?

A: Human nature often leads us to go to the doctor only when we feel the pain. Most churches have experienced the need for emergency expenditures: the roof leaks, the furnace fails, the carpet is worn out. When it comes to spending the same amount (or much less) to strengthen the health, vitality, and effectiveness of the church, some Christians ironically consider this to be less important. In truth, it is the church's greatest investment because it focuses directly on the church's ability to provide the mission Christ gave us.

Q: How do we fund this opportunity for our church to become more healthy and effective?

A: The best way to fund this is to gather those who want the church to be more productive. (You can help them identify themselves with the attached self-reflection tool). Ask them if they will pledge, over the next 6-10 months to give, each month, above and beyond their usual support to the church. Identify this group as a [Vision Community] (Or new name). Most importantly, this approach builds ownership and receptivity for the recommendations your church will receive. This increases the likelihood of implementation and positive results.

Q: What about those who have been financially blessed? Can they contribute?

A: Many churches have some who have been financially blessed *and* have a heart for the church to be more effective in making disciples, experience greater harmony, and/or overcome some hurdles. They can become a part of the [Vision Community] and can often make a one-time, sizeable gift – or pledge – to make up what the [Vision Community] might not provide.

Q: What other benefits occur with the development of a [Vision Community]?

A: When many people in the church are willing to invest in this process, it signals that your church is ready for change, improvement, and growth. Their investment in this makes it personal. This elevates their Great Commission awareness as well. It provides hope and encouragement, and helps many to move from a focus on the past or the present to a focus on the future.

Q: Are there long-lasting effects of this approach to financing?

A: Absolutely! After the period of “extra giving,” many realize that God has supplied all their needs, as He promises. With new enthusiasm for the church's future, they continue their support of the church at the new increased level.

Q: What about those who chose not to be a part of the [Vision Community]?

A: When they hear the Church Doctor's Oral Report, they, too, will get excited – at a higher level – about the future of your church. Within six months of the Oral Report, churches experience, on average, a 13% growth of those who give 10% or more of their income to the work of the Lord, through their church. Consequently, the Diagnostic Consultation experience is not only financed outside the church's budget, it leads to increased giving.

Attachment: Holy Discontent Survey