

What Is and Is Not Congregational Transformation?

By
George W. Bullard, Jr.

E-mail: GBullard@TheColumbiaPartnership.org, Web Site: www.TheColumbiaPartnership.org
Voice: 803.622.0923, Weblog: www.BullardJournal.org

What **is** congregational transformation?

1. It is an ongoing spiritual and strategic journey.
2. It is about reaching the full kingdom potential of a congregation in response to God's call.
3. It is about building an enduring visionary leadership community as carriers of the vision of the congregation.
4. It is about allowing God's call to pull the congregation forward into the future.
5. It is a deep long-term solution.
6. It is an affirmation of past, present, and future generations of people.
7. It is a process of continual transformation that acknowledges the dynamic nature of congregational life.
8. It is about the transition of people in relationship to God and one another before changing programs, ministries, and activities.
9. It is about re-imagining a congregation in the image of God.
10. It is about soaring with the God-inspired strengths present within the gifts, skills, and preference of the congregational participants.

What **is not** congregational transformation?

1. It is not a one-time destination that allows a congregation to say they are finished with transformation.
2. It is not about extending current trends into the future.
3. It is not about focusing around the vision that is only held by the pastor, or expecting the pastor to provide vision.
4. It is not about seeking to push the congregation forward into the future through established objectives, goals, and action plans.
5. It is not a surface short-term fix.
6. It is not an affirmation of only past generations of people.
7. It is not transformation that assumes once a congregation is transformed that they will never have to transform again.
8. It is not about changing programs, ministries, and activities that challenge people to transition in response.
9. It is not about re-imagining a congregation in the image of the program, project, or process used to bring about change.
10. It is not about focusing on fixing the problems or weaknesses in a congregation in the hope that it will magically soar when these are gone.

So, what is congregational transformation?

Congregational transformation is an ongoing spiritual and strategic journey that empowers congregations to travel in the direction of their unique full kingdom potential in response to God's call that is expressed through a captivating vision for future ministry championed by an enduring visionary leadership community.