**Foundation #1: What is church revitalization?**

**Defining terms: Church Plant vs. Replant vs. Revitalization**

***1. Church Plant***

***Church Plant = You + New People + New Structure + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***2. Church Replant***

**Al Mohler:***“One of our central tasks in the present generation is to be bold in our vision of replanting churches — helping existing churches to find new vision, new strategic focus, new passion for the gospel, new hunger for the preaching of the Word, new love for their communities, and new excitement about seeing people come to faith in Jesus. Replanting churches requires both courage and leadership skills. A passion for replanting a church must be matched by skills in ministry and a heart for helping a church to regain a vision.”*

***Church Replant = You + New People & Existing People + New Structure + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***3 Primary Replant Paths:***

Path #1: The church surrenders ALL day to day decision making and submits to an outside transition team, engages outside ministry partners and calls a trained Replanting pastor.

Path #2: The church ceases to exist as a church and agrees to turn over the building and all assets to an outside approved ministry partner or church plant for the use of a church plant.

Path #3: The church agrees to merge with a new church plant and accept in its entirety the leadership, vision and strategy of that new plant.

***3. Church Revitalization***

***Tom Cheyney:****Church Revitalization is a movement within protestant evangelicalism, which emphasizes the missional work of turning a plateau or rapidly declining church around and moving it back towards growth. It is lead through a Church Revitalization Initiative, which is when a local church begins to work on the renewal of the church with a concerted effort to see the ministry revitalized and the church become healthy.*

***Brian Croft:***5 characteristics of church revitalization:

*1) It is an effort to revive an established, but struggling church.*

*2) It mandates a change in direction.*

*3) It requires patience and understanding with those there before you.*

*4) Its goal is to become a healthy, diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-generational church.*

*5) Its purpose is to display the glory of Christ to the world.*

***Church Revitalization = You + Existing People + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + History***

**A few things to remember about a revitalization:**

**1) The thing about revitalization is that it is a marathon and not a sprint.** Change is slower than with a replant. The amount of change we have seen at Calvary in a fairly short time is by far the exception when it comes to revitalization.

**2) While some churches are ready to make significant changes, most declining churches in need of revitalization are unaware of just how sick they are.** It takes time to help them see this reality and then begin leading them toward health.

--- Loving, servant-minded shepherding that leads to visionary leadership over time...in that order. You need to plan on this taking many years of loving and encouraging and serving the flock...earning trust and winning the hearts of the people in order to experience long-term health and growth.

**3) This is why my biggest encouragement for you is to really press in to see how ready this church actually is for change.** Every declining church will say they want to grow, reach young families, etc. few are actually willing to do what it takes...at least for several years.

---Some folks will be IN, other folks won’t be. *Count the cost and the joy/potential.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Which of these planting, replanting or revitalizing options excites you the most?
2. Which of these planting, replanting or revitalizing options scares you the most?
3. How would you respond if someone said to you, “Church replanting sounds like church planting with baggage?”
4. In your opinion that are the biggest challenges of replanting and of revitalizing?
5. In your opinion what are the best features of replanting and of revitalizing?