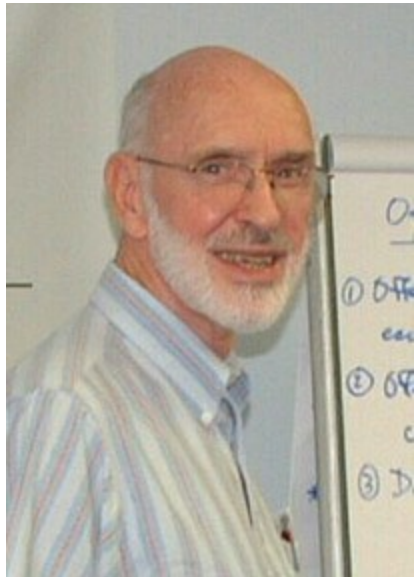




GOD HAS A MISSION...

...AND GOD'S MISSION NEEDS A CHURCH!



Paul
Dietterich

In 1984 our church began several years of consulting with Paul Dietterich of the Center for Parish Development, a theologically liberal United Methodist think tank in Naperville, Illinois.

During a break, I challenged him to tell me about research that had to do with church growth.

At this point I began to lose interest because I knew dozens of effective, proven methods to organize a church for growth.

He told me that this particular study found that *there was only one* essential characteristic, found *always* in every growing church *without exception* and *never* found in *any* declining or plateaued church.

At this point he had my full attention.



1. The laity...



1. The laity ...

2. Are excited ...



1. The laity ...
2. Are excited ...
3. About what is happening ...



1. The laity ...
2. Are excited ...
3. About what is happening ...
4. In their church.

1 Corinthians 12:7

To each is given
the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.



You have a
specific
purpose.



Wesley – the Enthusiast

What faith is it then through which we are saved? ... it is not barely a speculative, rational thing, a cold, lifeless assent, a train of ideas in the head; but also a disposition of the heart. For thus saith the Scripture, "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness;" and, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."



John Wesley, Sermon 1 "Salvation by Faith"

We once were known as
“shouting Methodists”



We once were known as
“shouting Methodists”



Not because we organized shouting, but
because we let ourselves *feel* what we *knew*