

BAPTIST BEATS

January 26, 2023



Hello from Edmonton – I hope you are doing well! May the Lord bless you, your family and ministry with much fruit in 2023!

No pastor enters the ministry thinking that his church will decline or close while he is the pastor there. During the past few months, I have focused my reading on research and books about people leaving church. All that I read was well researched and insightful. The dismal trendlines are not positive for the church in Canada.

When church leaders read why people are leaving the church, they can develop the wrong focus. They try to fix whatever is not working in their church so people will not leave. Too often it does not change the trajectory of their congregation.

I am teaching my grandchildren how to fish. I have a small boat and love to take them on the lake for pleasant hours fishing. (Opening day is just 4 months away!) Learning how to cast and retrieve is important when fishing. I would set them up with the lucky lure on, proper drag set on the reel and just the right length of line dangling. They would try to cast but often the lure ends up hitting the bottom of the boat. I have had to remove the lure from my clothes more than once.

I tried showing them the right mechanics of casting and retrieving and where they were making mistakes – but with little improvement. Then I realized I needed to help them be in the moment. Calm waters, sunny day, snacks in the cooler and now let's enjoy the process. When they focused on what they liked about fishing then the casting/retrieving became easier and soon they were seeing great results. (My grandson caught more pike than me last time out)

Likewise, churches can do something similar. They try hard to fix what is not working yet keep doing what is unproductive. Church consultant Kennon Callahan says you can fix everything that is wrong with a church and that only brings it up to neutral. It is not what's wrong if fixed that will help a church move forward. It is what is right with the church. It is the signs of health strength that move a church forward.

Church growth guru George Bullard writes:

"We need more research about the long-term trends of why people engage in organized church. Not what is the latest program or attractional approach. We need live qualitative conversations with people in your church context. Begin with people who are first- or second-time guests as they are engaging with your congregation. Ask new attendees what they were looking for and did they find it in your congregation. Be sure you stay focused on what being part of your congregation can do for them rather than what they can do for your congregation."

It is likely that what brought new people to your church will also bring others. Find out their reasons for coming through personal conversations – not just an email survey. **Clues:** Ask about what type of spiritual or life **relationships** they were looking for. You may find the search for **community** to be a big draw. Dig deeper by asking how they define what they are looking for in **relationships** and **community**?

Even though the metanarrative is not positive for the church in Canada, your church can be the exception! God has gifted you and your people with all that is needed to make a significant impact for Christ in your community.

Executive Director

Kevin Schular D. Min



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District ministers will be engaging with their pastors to discuss the current question before the Conference. Do we need to update our documents or produce a pastoral statement similar to our Statement on Marriage? Don't miss your opportunity to listen, discuss and share your position on this matter. Once the conversations have taken place in each district we can review the findings in a future Zoom meeting

BGCC
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February 15, 2023
10 AM MDT

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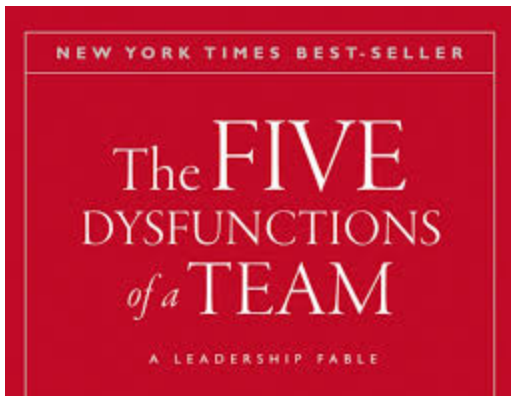
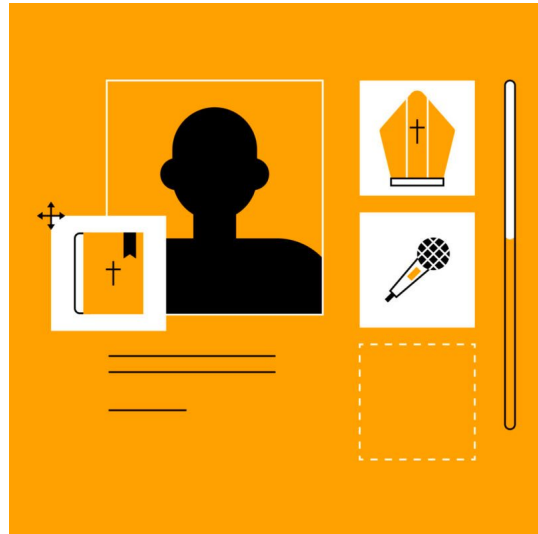
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Ultimate Guide To Church Leadership Roles And Responsibilities

This article takes a thorough look at various leadership roles in the church



The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

Working well with your staff and church board is critical for fruitful ministry. Lencioni wrote on this years ago but it is still relevant. First issue: Do you trust each other?

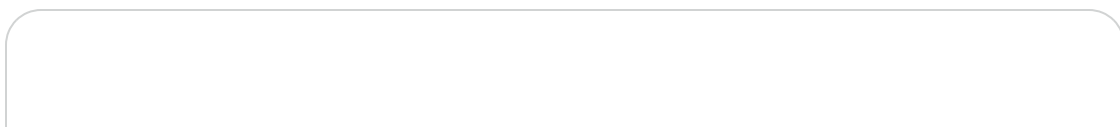
The EFC calls for action against MAiD expansion

Over 10,000 Canadians ended their lives in 2022 under new MAiD legislation. This year it will be simpler to request assistance in death. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is calling for churches to contact their MPs on this issue.



Seven Essentials of the BGCC

Our Motto and Mission:



"A Network of Churches that make disciples who live and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their Communities, throughout Canada, and out to the Nations."



Together, we have identified seven essential areas where God is at work among our church families. These seven areas are also critical to the future growth and health of our churches. We highlight one Essential in each issue of Baptist Beats

Church Care

BGCC CHURCHES LOVE, CARE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AS WE SERVE GOD TOGETHER.

7 Essentials of the BGCC

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