HOW CHURCHES HELP CHURCHES MOVE TOWARD RENEWAL

A Ten-Point Guide from the Stronger Churches Network

STRONGER CHURCHES NETWORK
A TBMB MINISTRY

> "What is a stronger church?" *A Stronger Church is a church that surrenders to the will of God and walks in the ways of God to reveal the glory of God.*

"Surrender" highlights the calling for a church to be rightly aligned to God. This is spiritual renewal. To "walk in the ways of God" emphasizes the need for a church to do the right things in the right way in its context to advance the mission of making disciples of Jesus who live for His kingdom. This is strategic renewal. And the goal is always the glory of God.

The Invitation

The Strengthening Healthy Churches Team invites every church into a local cohort connected to a state-wide network, called the Stronger Churches Network, designed to help churches move toward spiritual, relational, practical, and missional renewal.

The Seven Axioms

1. Every church needs a fresh encounter with Jesus.

2. Surrender precedes strategy.

3. Only the church bears responsibility for a community's lostness and brokenness.

4. Churches renew churches.

5. Local context shapes the work of church renewal.

6. Church networks create capacity for sustained kingdom impact.

7. Jesus is victorious, so there is hope for every church.

Based on these axioms, we developed this Ten-Point Guide for local churches to begin considering how churches help churches within a Sunday morning drive move toward greater health.

1	**A vision for the community.**	Churches help churches when the main goal is to get the Gospel to every person in every corner of the community.
2	**A posture of humility.**	Churches help churches when they return to Jesus, prefer one another over themselves, and willingly sacrifice for the advancement of the kingdom.
3	**A motive for God's glory.**	Churches help churches as they do whatever it takes to glorify God in their churches and in their communities together.
4	**A deepening of trust.**	Churches help churches when pastors and leaders engage in structured local cohorts that build spiritual and relational foundations that lead to practical and missional initiatives.
5	**A readiness to listen and learn.**	Churches help churches when there is a shared awareness that fundamental change is needed, and when new approaches to ministry are welcomed.
6	**A commitment to endure.**	Churches help churches when there is a shared commitment to the long-term process of church renewal.
7	**An attention to expectations.**	Churches help churches in an environment of clear expectations and goals.
8	**A shared plan to implement.**	Churches help churches by building a strategic plan that describes the goals for renewal as well as the role and responsibilities for each partner church.
9	**A capacity to work.**	Churches help churches by getting involved in one another's ministries in practical ways in order to create the best opportunity for success.
10	**An eagerness to celebrate.**	Churches help churches by regularly celebrating God's faithfulness throughout the process.

The Strengthening Healthy Churches Team has created and curated resources for you and your church to engage with the Stronger Churches Network and church renewal initiatives in your community.

Please visit bit.ly/strongerchurches or scan the QR code here to connect with our team or to find a Stronger Churches Cohort in your area.

TBMB Tennessee Baptist MISSION BOARD

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