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Leadership Development in the Local Church [Dissertation Notice]

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DISSERTATION NOTICES

Beh, S. Y. (2012). *Leadership development in the local church*. D.Min., Asbury Theological Seminary.

The purpose of this dissertation was to ascertain the sound principles and practices employed by the local church through a pre-intervention study of five autonomous churches in Singapore, so as to design a model for effectual leadership development.

The literature review revealed the need for such a leadership development strategy in the local church and considered various principles and practices, including the determination of the intended outcome of the process, the careful selection of candidates, and a deep team ownership. Ensuring a healthy church and leadership culture, practicing purposeful empowerment, and having a systematic process are also crucial principles. The strategy, timing of the training, variety of the pedagogy, personal mentoring, and suitability of the curriculum were also identified as important aspects of implementation.

Through a qualitative multiple case study, using open-ended surveys and semi-structured interviews of emerging and seasoned leaders, eight key principles and practices were crystallized and employed to design a leadership development template for The Bible Church Singapore. These principles included (1) a systematic process, (2) training through formal and structured programs, (3) training through mentoring and coaching, (4) training through on-the-job ministry, (5) careful selection of emerging leaders, (6) lifelong process of development, (7) senior leadership involvement, and (8) church and leadership culture.

Burton, W. H., III (2010). *Examining the relationship between leadership behaviors of senior pastors and church growth*. Ph.D., Northcentral University.

The growth of mega church congregations gives the appearance that church attendance is increasing when, in actuality, attendance at 80% of churches in the U.S. is not increasing. Church leaders are not in agreement regarding the significance of pastoral leadership on the problem of declining church population. The purpose of this quantitative correlational study was to determine if a relationship existed between the leadership behaviors of senior pastors and the rate of church growth. The entire populations of churches within the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Missionary Church denominations located within the United States were surveyed, excluding church congregations that had a change in senior pastoral leadership during the survey period. Data were collected from 76 of 376 pastors who were eligible to be studied in the two denominations, using the Leadership Practices Inventory-Observer (LPI). Kendall's Correlation Coefficient was conducted to determine the relationship between the construct of leadership measured by the LPI and church population growth. None of the five leadership behaviors examined were found to be significantly related to church population growth. Using regression analyses, the researcher found no significant relationship between leadership behaviors of senior pastors and church growth.