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## Perceptions of the Senior Pastors' Transformational Leadership Style and its Relationship to the Eight Markers of Natural Church Development [Dissertation Notice]

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## DISSERTATION NOTICES

**Graham, A. L. (2013).** *The leadership dynamics of growing a missional church in the city: The District Church, Washington, DC.* D.Miss., Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Intercultural Studies.

This dissertation presents an argument about why the incarnational and attractional approaches to urban church development are insufficient for growing a missional church in the city. The changing nature of urban America requires ministers to be both pastors and missionaries in order to reach their city. A pastor has the ability to shepherd the felt needs of the congregation and focus on leadership development and multiplication, while a missionary has the ability to focus on contextualizing the Gospel within the felt needs of the neighborhood. Both approaches to leadership are necessary in order to plant healthy Gospel-centered ministries that multiply and bring new life to urban America.

The urban center of Washington, DC, was researched with a special eye toward the culture of the city and how different neighborhood leaders in a diverse set of fields are ministering to the needs of the poor while developing leadership. The District Church serves as a case study of a church ministering in this context that seeks to incarnate the good news while emphasizing the multiplication of leaders and churches. The findings about the social inequity and disparity of Washington, DC, as well as the survey findings from The District Church, lead to a new approach to urban church development that does not fit neatly into an attractional or incarnational stream, but is rather rooted in the *missio Dei*.

**Rumley, D. D. (2011).** *Perceptions of the senior pastors' transformational leadership style and its relationship to the eight markers of Natural Church Development.* Ed.D., Indiana Wesleyan University.

What if research could demonstrate how a more collaborative approach to church leadership had a positive impact on the overall effectiveness of the church? Would pastors adjust their leadership style and would seminaries expand their pastoral training curriculum? Little quantitative research has been done to examine the impact of leadership within the church arena. This research sought a statistically relevant linear correlation between the leadership style of the senior pastor, as defined by the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire, and the effectiveness of the church, as defined by Natural Church Development. The Natural Church Development scores were averaged for 15 churches that participated in the research. Each senior pastor participated in the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire, giving each a rating on transactional, transformational, and laissez-faire leadership traits. Regression analysis was used to determine correlation between the variables. These two variables (NCD average score and MLQ averages for transformational, transactional, and laissez-faire) were examined with linear regression testing. The result was a statistically strong linear relationship with transformational and transactional leadership, but no statistically significant correlation with laissez-faire. The leadership of the senior pastor does relate to the effectiveness of the church as defined by the eight markers of Natural Church Development.