

# **Congregational Sizes**

## **Family Church**

A Family Size Church has one to 50 regularly worshipping adults, sometimes up to 75. Typically, there is only one pastor who knows everyone by name and who seeks to walk beside them during the transitions of life, experiencing their joys and the sorrows. The church family expects the pastor to be available and willing to focus on their agenda. Being 'family like' in structure, these churches place a higher value on relationships than on functions and ministry. The church is built around the ministry of the laity, especially long term members and consequently pastors tend to come and go from these churches more regularly.

## **Pastoral Church**

A Pastoral Size Church is similar to a Family Size Church in a lot of ways, everyone knows everyone, but often not very well. There are typically 70 to 150 / 175 people regularly attending worship services. There are less intergenerational activities and there can be a loss of the perceived intimacy experienced previously in a family church. Local family structures are not as influential and as a result, there is a greater need for small groups to function well. Specialty ministries, such as Sunday School and Youth Group also need to be developed with the pastor still having some contact with all ministries.

## **Program Church**

In a Program Size Church the pastor is drawn into more administrative roles and assistance in this area is essential as the congregation grows to 175 – 350 / 400 regular adults. The pastor is still at the centre but their role changes to become more middle management in style involving delegation and authority. The pastor needs to focus more on leading the leaders. A solid small group network is needed as this is where the spiritual needs of the congregation are primarily met. There is far more diversity in the type of ministries conducted by this size church and more complex communication systems are therefore required to keep people feeling "in-touch." Decision making needs to be delegated to representatives and often there is a need for multiple congregations which means that people may not even be aware of some other's involvement in the life of the church.

## **Corporate Church**

A corporate church has a congregation of more than 400 worshipping adults. The pastor becomes a team leader with associate pastors and administrative staff. Organisational structures need to be clear and formalised with the leadership group focussing more on long-range planning than detail management. The senior pastor becomes a symbol of unity and stability in a very complicated congregational life.