

## **REVITALIZATION OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

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Millions throughout the world have become Spirit-filled believers as a direct result of the faithfulness and passion of Pentecostal churches in America. Who would have thought that the movement would now struggle for vitality in its own local churches? This project addresses the challenging issues of plateau and decline of Pentecostal churches in America and offers biblical principles of healthy church function and a process of transformation focused upon revitalization.

A presentation offering a healthy church model and revitalization strategies to forty-five church leaders and pastors occurred in a one-day training seminar during a scheduled Church Life cohort meeting in the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan District of the Assemblies of God. The project utilized a pretest and posttest instrument to acquire quantitative data to determine if significant changes occurred in the participants' attitudes, knowledge, and understanding of the material presented. An additional post-session evaluation provided qualitative feedback on the sessions and the presentation. Investigation of both quantitative and qualitative evaluations indicated that the entire group experienced significant shifts in their understanding, knowledge, and attitudes relative to the material. Furthermore, these evaluations confirmed the perceived helpfulness of the training and appreciable increased awareness of the issues and challenges inherent in church health, transformation, and revitalization.

The project produced a resource that has already benefited Pentecostal leaders and pastors in various Districts of the Assemblies of God and other denominations. Various educational entities have begun using the principles and process of transformation in educational cohort environments. The greatest benefit and utilization of these valuable resources to restore vitality to the Pentecostal movement lie ahead.