

Elements of a Well-Planted ARP Church

Prayer. Lay people within the church speak about their own personal prayer victories. There is an interest in risk-taking for the kingdom among the parishioners. Individuals in the congregation are known to be aspiring toward increased spiritual power in their lives. The leadership of the church demonstrates a strong emphasis on prayer.

Worship. The worship style is a good fit for the culture and the worship attendees. Sunday morning worship is attended by many more people than are official members. The service would be described as Christ-centered, God honoring, and yet winsome. Explanations and descriptions are frequently employed in order to be culturally sensitive. The Bible is the basis for all truth in worship.

Preaching. Opening up of the Word is described as Christ-centered, grace driven and positively engaging our culture. There is always a connection to the Word of God. Teaching is anticipated in the preaching.

Leadership. Lay leaders exemplify the Biblical qualifications for leaders. There is harmony between elders and other leaders. There is a shared common philosophy of ministry and vision. Leaders are enthusiastic about and able to articulate and promote the future direction of the local church. Others perceive leaders as genuine servant leaders.

Evangelism. The church is continuing to grow in visitors and membership. There is an effective strategy to connect with and incorporate the unchurched. Sharing of the Good News occurs in a variety of contexts. Members bring friends, neighbors, and relatives to events and gatherings. The people within the church have a desire to plant similar churches.

Discipleship. A healthy network of small groups has been established for “one anothering” fellowship, intentional training, and maturing in Christ. These are nurturing communities that are “inclusive” where lay leaders are transparent and promoting personal growth as well as church expansion.

Administration. Structures are in place so that attendees and members are efficiently mobilized into ministry positions. Newer attendees can readily discern who is in charge of the various church ministries. Church guests wishing to pursue further ministry or obtain further information can readily identify appropriate laypersons or staff.

Finance. The church is generous. The church is self-supporting in an excellent location and their benevolent spending is significant and growing. They are releasing God’s resources through effective and excellent stewardship. The church is strongly supportive of the denomination and its ministries and/or agencies. There is evidence of upward financial growth.

Service. The church has a strategy for involvement in the community. There is a spirit of servanthood toward the community that is not patronizing. The needs and hurts of the community are addressed redemptively.