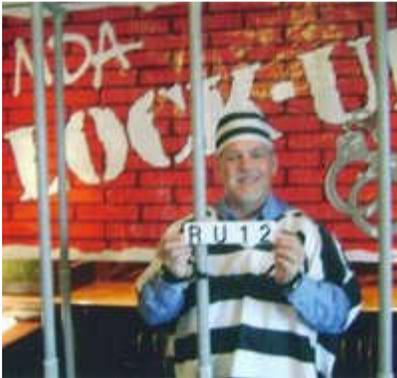


Small Church Strong

A web log to encourage and defend the Small Church, her pastor and people.

Small Church pastor in stripes.



Thanks for helping MDA by raising bail money for me.

About Me



David Smith

Dave Smith is the "Small Church Guy." He lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with his wife, two sons, and a neighborhood cat called Mr. Meow. He pastors a small congregation and operates a freelance writing business from his basement.

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Strong Destinations

All These Words
Church Solutions Magazine
Energizing Smaller Churches
Network

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

The Small Church Manifesto

The time has come for small membership congregations to be recognized by their denominational leadership as important, strategic, and valuable members of the mission to reach the world for Christ. The time is past for devaluing these churches and their role in that mission. As large membership churches decline and begin their natural process toward smallness, small congregations make these affirmations which we believe to be facts of contemporary church life.

There is a great danger inherent in the market-driven, contemporary Christian culture. The crime we are about to commit is the loss of our identity. The only value being taught is sameness and universal purpose. We are sacrificing the treasures of our founders on the altar of cultural expedience. This is establishing a no-name religion that stands for nothing and ignores the prophetic values of scripture.

Today, there is a movement growing among small membership churches. This trend is a God inspired safe guard to keep us from total loss. Denominations have turned their backs on the small church therefore it is important for us to establish common ground for this growth to continue. We therefore affirm the following:

First: The Small Church is the natural and normal expression of the body of Christ.

Second: The Small Church is God's design as revealed in scripture and throughout Christian history.

Third: The Small Church naturally rejects faddish and market-driven church formula programs.

Forth: The Small Church is the guardian and instructor of sound doctrine which has been discarded by the big-church movement.

Fifth: The Small Church, regardless of denomination, is the foundation for mission support and denominational strength.

Sixth: The Small Church calls all denominational leaders to break with the money culture propagated by the big-church marketing system.

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 Small Church Joy
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 The Small Church

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Seventh: The Small Church regards “health” and “growth” as functions of God's grace and not a function of numbers or programs.

Eighth: The Small Church is authentic rather than artificial. It demonstrates the Christian life rather than a Christian model.

Ninth: The Small Church rejects calls for merger, or closure, or re-tooling just to meet modern trends.

Tenth: The Small Church calls on all denominational leaders, denominational presses, and other institutions and entities to encourage and appreciate the sacrifice and work of the small membership congregation.

Posted by Rev. David B. Smith at [12:16 PM](#)

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