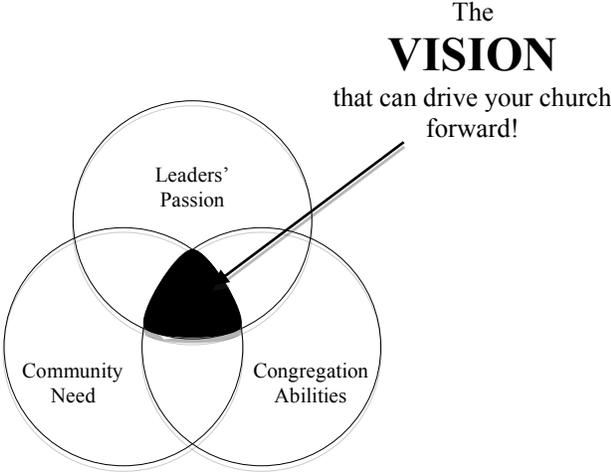




The right vision for a church is one that reflects not only the passions of leaders, but the abilities of the congregation and the needs of the community. If vision is only driven by pastoral passion and focus, the people may lack the needed capacity to function effectively in the path the pastor wishes to go. In such cases, the future will be filled with frustration for both the people and the pastor



A key reason why team leadership is critical in the smaller church is that both the pastor and the established leadership bring needed components to the church’s vision. Remember that an outward focus is the key ingredient for church transformation. When our eyes are on the harvest field around us, we’ll find ourselves asking the right questions and finding the right answers. Inward-focused churches aren’t asking the right questions, but those whose eyes are focused where God is also looking have a much easier time finding the right path.

Now, we have already begun exploring the pastor’s passion, so let’s take a minute and explore yours. Picture a seven-year old girl, sitting in your congregation. Let’s call her Amanda. What would you dream for her life? What would you want her to experience as a part of your church family? Write your words to Amanda on the lines below:

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Now picture a newly-engaged young man in his early twenties named Dennis. What would you want for his life because he’s a part of your church?

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This time, picture two young parents with preschool-aged children who don’t attend church anywhere. What would you dream for their lives? What would you hope they might experience if they visited your church?

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See any repeated themes in your responses? You're uncovering your passion for others—a passion that God has placed in your heart, often by loving you with the same gifts that you wrote for them.

Describe your passion:

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What is your pastor's passion?

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How does your pastor's passion connect with yours?

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The second component of our best vision is our abilities as a congregation. Here, we are searching for the kind of things we do really well. Usually, these are the efforts that best express our passion because we put our whole heart into them.

After discussion, list 3-5 things your church does really well. (Circle those that give us an opportunity to demonstrate our passion):

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Discuss together how you could most effectively demonstrate your shared passion in your community. List 3-5 ways you could do this:

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Remember that large churches and healthy churches do fewer things, and they learn to do them extremely well. They're intentional in their outreach efforts. They think through the best ways to impact their community with the gifts and resources they have. They want to present themselves with excellence in the community, knowing that people who experience our weaker moments are seldom drawn to us or to our message.

