

20 MAXIMS OF CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

1. Honor the past as a vehicle for change in the future.

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. Psalm 77:11

2. Pruning is painful but fruitful.

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:2

3. It takes ten miles to turn a tanker: demonstrate hopeful perseverance.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:11-12

"...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1

4. Pray like everything depends on God and work like everything depends on you.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Col 1:28-29

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. 2 Thess. 3:1

5. Plan the work and work the plan.

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5

Make hay while the sun shines – that's smart; go fishing during the harvest -- that's stupid. Proverbs 10:7

6. Up the fun factor.

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

7. What you say "no" to may be more important than what you say "yes" to.

Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; Matthew 5:37

8. Celebrate small wins and build momentum.

"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

John 5:17

9. Understand the family system without forgetting who you are.

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Matt 10:16

10. It takes change to make change.

The wise store up choice foods and oil; but fools gulp it down. Proverbs 21:20

11. There is no vitality without reality: check your pulse.

...you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up!

Revelation 3:1-2

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds. Proverbs 27:23

- 12. It takes teamwork to make the dream work.** * (John Maxwell)
The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. 1 Cor. 12:12
- Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10
- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* Eph 4:3-6
- 13. Work in the ministry and work on the ministry.**
When the county is in chaos, everybody has a plan to fix it—but it takes a leader of real understanding to straighten things out. Proverbs 28:2 (The Message)
- 14. Plant behind the plow.**
Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way. Isaiah 28:23-26
- 15. It's not what your church looks like; it's what your community looks like because of your church.**
"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16
- 16. If you want something you never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done.**
Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18-19
- 17. You can't have resurrection without death.**
For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... 1 Cor. 15:3-4
- 18. He who leads when no one is following is only taking a walk.** * (John Maxwell)
The mark of a good leader is loyal followers; leadership is nothing without a loyal following. Proverbs 14:28 (The Message)
- 19. Stability is the enemy of vitality.**
I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Rev 3:15-17
- 20. You will be broken.**
We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 2 Cor. 1:8-9