

# Key predictors of church growth in Grater New York Conference

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## Problem

The assumption of this study is that church growth principles can answer to the critical question of declining and plateaued of the churches in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist. In this Division, many churches are experiencing the stagnation stage.

## Methodology

The research was quantitative, crosssectional, nonexperimental, correlational and explanatory. The population consisted of 64 % Church boards in the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. There was a total of 25 participating Churches represented by 157 board members to whom an instrument was administered; at the end, 148 records from this were utilized after cleaning the data. The substantive statistical analysis process was based on the multivariate regression.

The constructs made up of the five instruments used were analyzed through factorial analysis techniques (with explained variance levels of over 64 %, which are good) and multivariate regression (with significant correlations for the indicators). For reliability of the instruments the Cronbach's alpha method was used (reaching levels higher than .8).

## Results

For the analysis of this hypothesis, the statistical technique of multiple linear regression was used; transformatio-

nal leadership, strategic management, uplifting worship, and strategic evangelism were considered as independent variables and church growth as dependent variable.

When applying the stepwise method in the regression analysis it was seen that the variable transformational leadership did not explain the dependent variable, instead of this variable is more related to strategic management; therefore, it has been deleted. However, it was observed that the variables strategic evangelism, uplifting worship, and strategic management were the best predictors, explaining 63.7 % of church growth.

## Conclusion

The multivariate regression confirmed the construct model's predictability of church growth and can be used to gain deeper insights regarding church growth. The study confirmed that the constructs: strategic management, uplifting worship and strategic evangelism were significant predictors of church growth, while transformational leadership was not significant. However, there was no significant difference among the demographic variables except for education. Therefore, theological institutions, organizations, Churches and Pastors can be guided by the findings of this study to train leaders and church members to implement these church growth principles efficiently.