

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE CHURCH TRENDS

FIVE FUTURE TRENDS EVERY CHURCH CAN EMBRACE

Our Story



Sure, we changed everything...



CHANGES → CURRENT → FUTURE
(C. 1995) CULTURAL CHURCH
SHIFTS TRENDS



Four Shifts We Made

c. 1995



1. Embraced Historic Christianity



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Jesus as the way to God rather than
A way to God.



1. Embraced Historic Christianity

If you're converting people, they want a
conversion to the authentic, historic Gospel,
not Christianity-lite.





2. Fiducia over Assensus



2. Fiducia over Assensus

The Christian faith is not assent to a series of ideas or propositions, but more about trust in a living God.



3. Studied Growing Churches



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If you want to be effective at reaching people, study churches that are effective at reaching people.





3. Studied Growing Churches

Large churches haven't necessarily sold out.



Dissing Large Churches

It's easy to criticize things you don't understand (or are jealous of).



4. Mission over Methods



4. Mission over Methods

The church is not a museum.



4. Mission over Methods

Honour the past, but don't live in it.



4. Mission over Methods

Churches that love their methods more than their mission will die.



THEN CULTURE CHANGED... AGAIN



THEN CULTURE CHANGED... AGAIN

Much like our parents' church, the models we built no longer resonate with the next generation.



THEN CULTURE CHANGED... AGAIN

Churches who love their methods more than the mission will die.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT ONE

The foyer moved from in-person to online.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT ONE

A church without a great online presence won't reach unchurched people.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT TWO



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT TWO

People are longing for transcendence more than immanence.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT TWO

Too often people come to church looking for God and only find us.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT THREE



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT THREE

People are looking for an alternative to the culture, not an echo of it.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT FOUR



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT FOUR

Passion is beating polish.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT FOUR

Your church will never be more passionate about your mission than you are.



CURRENT CULTURAL SHIFTS

SHIFT FOUR

In an age where nothing seems real anymore, people are looking for passionate authenticity.



5 FUTURE CHURCH TRENDS



TREND ONE



TREND ONE

Elevate community and connection over content.





TREND ONE

Content won't cut it anymore because content is no longer scarce.



TREND TWO



TREND TWO

Regularly engage both the head and the heart.



TREND TWO

You need both imminence and transcendence in your experiences.



TREND TWO

Head only → Spiritual Egotism



TREND TWO

Head only → Spiritual Egotism

Heart only → Immature Emotionalism



TREND TWO

Head + Heart = An integrated faith



TREND THREE



TREND THREE

Create more space and moments in your in-person experiences.



TREND THREE

30 years ago we did away with silence in worship.



TREND THREE

30 years ago we did away with silence in worship. Then the world did away with it too.



TREND THREE

Silence, confession, reflection, and space are so rare in culture. They shouldn't be in church.





TREND THREE

Create more space and moments in your in-person experiences.



TREND THREE

Churches that create downloadable experiences will probably only get downloads.



TREND FOUR



TREND FOUR

Create a healthy, non-toxic culture.



TREND FOUR

It's (finally) time for the church to eliminate the toxins from our leadership.



TREND FOUR

Leaders, that starts with you.



TREND FOUR

Unhealthy leaders lead unhealthy churches.



TREND FOUR

Unhealthy leaders lead unhealthy churches.

Healthy leaders lead healthy churches.



TREND FIVE



TREND FIVE

Be more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



TREND FIVE

Revivals are rarely engineered.



TREND FIVE

Unstrategic leaders won't be able to steward growth and revival if it happens.



TREND FIVE

Unstrategic leaders won't be able to steward growth and revival if it happens.

But overly strategic leaders could stifle it.



TREND FIVE

Be more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



Most of us have glory days. But reviving them won't pave the way to the future.



Leaders who try to revive the past end up without much of a future.



