

Focus On Mission:
Transformative Christian
Leadership Series

C O N F L I C T

Recent Books by Dr. Kent R. Hunter

Who Broke My Church?

7 Proven Strategies for Renewal and Revival

An Apple a Day: A Daily Dose for Everyday Faith

Church Politics: Pain-Free Decision-Making

A Nation Reclaims Respect: One Person at a Time

The Amazing Power of God Stories:
Share What God Has Done in Your Life

Focus On Mission:
Transformative Christian
Leadership Series

CONFLICT

KENT R. HUNTER
with **TOM SCHAEFFER**

Copyright © 2025 Kent R. Hunter

Cover Copyright © Church Doctor Publishing

Formatted by Church Doctor Publishing

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact info@churchdoctor.org. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Scripture references in this book are from *The Message* version. Why? According to the brilliant translator, Eugene Peterson, it's not meant to be a scholarly study Bible. It's meant to be a life-learning, engaging Bible that helps you to appropriate God's teaching to everyday life. God's plan is to effectively change your life through the divine power of His Word.

All Scripture quotations are taken from *THE MESSAGE*, copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Introduction	1
Disrupting the Disruptor: How Ego and Division Weaken the Church	2
From Conflict to Compassion: Living Out Christ's Perspective	4
Grace or Law: The Divide That Fuels Persecution	6
No Pain, No Gain: How Challenges Strengthen Faith	8
The Church and Suffering: Turning Pain Into Purpose	10
The Divided Church: Overcoming Conflict for a Greater Mission...	12
Trials and Transformation: How God Works Through Church Conflict.....	14
When Power Takes Over: How Church Bullies Divide and Destroy	17
Conclusion: What's Next? Moving Forward Through Conflict	20
Discussion Questions	23
About the Authors	29

Introduction

Sometimes, those who are new to the faith are challenged to learn that lifelong Christians are not perfect. Yet, churches are not places of perfection but hospitals for sinners. When you look around at a worship service, you won't find a sinless person in the crowd—not even the preacher. Don't despair! Join the journey of imperfection toward forgiveness. And look forward to eternity with Jesus. Grace is not perfection but forgiveness.

Have you ever met a person who has dismissed church attendance because “the people in church are no better than those who don't attend”? Actually, they are right. And they are wrong. Christians aren't perfect—yet. However, they are liberated because they are forgiven.

Jesus organized the Church with imperfect people because there is no perfect person this side of heaven. Consequently, there is no perfect church. In fact, if you find one, don't join them! It won't be perfect anymore.

In truth, churches experience conflict. Anyone who has read through the New Testament clearly knows that. Yet, when conflict in a church occurs, some people leave. Why? Because they don't understand that God uses imperfect people to expand His Kingdom. That is why God's grace and forgiveness are so powerful! Your church is a hospital for sinners. Be careful! Don't shoot the wounded. Love them. Forgive them. Support them. And they will do the same for you.

Disrupting the Disruptor: How Ego and Division Weaken the Church

There's a 1990s country music song that has these words: "I like it, I love it, I want some more of it."

Did you notice? "I, I, I." Every time you hear or see a commercial trying to sell you something, it challenges your appetite to become the center of your universe. However, some time ago, God created this universe, and, by definition, He became the center of it. What Jesus did for you on the cross "nailed it"—literally! It is healthy when you step out of the driver's seat and let God steer your life.

Human beings are not perfect. We live on the edge of a slippery slope. It is so easy to flip from God-centered to me-centered. It's a constant battle. It's really great that Jesus won that war. He provides forgiveness. It is hard to imagine how many times His love and sacrifice saved the day for us—sometimes several times a day, to be honest. Do you ever think about that?

This egocentric battle is rampant, even among Christians. Social media, for all its benefits, has poured gasoline on our me-centered passions. And that "burns down" churches and divides people who praise Jesus one moment and "want it my way" the next!

In 1 Corinthians 14:35, Paul tries to pour some holy water on the fires of opinionated Christians. It's an issue as relevant as

today's newsfeed. He says in verse 36, "Do you think everything revolves around you?"

This disrespectful style can become an epidemic. The Enemy attends your church not to worship, but to disrupt. Our ego-centered opinions and attitudes are his weapons. And they are lethal!

Think about the *character* of Jesus: mild, forgiving, loving, courteous. Our opinions don't count next to what God teaches. Some church members want to run the church. Others boss the leaders. They disrespect authority. The Apostle Paul has a response for that: "If you won't play by these rules, God can't use you. Sorry" (verse 38).

Paul's last sentence in this chapter ends on a positive note. It ought to remind every Christian about God's biblical approach to our behavior in our churches. In 1 Corinthians 14:40, Paul says, "Be courteous and considerate in everything." You live by that, or: "God can't use you. Sorry."

From Conflict to Compassion: Living Out Christ's Perspective

There was a church in a small city that made headlines in the local newspaper. They had a congregational meeting to make a decision. The group was divided. Tempers flared. A fistfight broke out. The police were called. And the whole scene made front-page news. If you were an unchurched person and someone invited you to worship, would you attend that church?

Why do Christians get so bent out of shape with one another? The answer may surprise you. Your faith lives near your seat of emotions. You can get teary-eyed during a worship song or, on the other hand, say something that hurts others when a different course of action is suggested by your pastor. "Change the way we've always done it? Who said anything about *change*?"

In Colossians 3, Paul begins by saying, "So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it" (verse 1).

Why do Christians sometimes misbehave? Paul says it's about perspective: "See things from *his* [Christ's] perspective" (verse 2).

So, why don't we Christians always see life from Christ's perspective? Most of the time, it's because we have lost the "mind of Christ." When the Bible reflects that you have "lost your

mind,” it really means you’ve forgotten God’s will. You have lost focus on what Jesus wants.

What happens? We drift! We fall into bad stuff. Paul says it’s the “way of death” (verse 5). People are often blown away when they hear about a Christian who has drifted into “sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy” (verse 5).

Paul says the real issue is a life shaped by “things and feelings instead of by God” (verse 6). He lists more examples: “bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk” (verse 8).

Here’s what Christians should look like (verses 12-13): “compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline ... even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense.”

You don’t have to be a ninety-year career Christian to confess, “That’s easier said than done!” You may even wonder, “How do I pull that off?”

The answer is clear: “Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house” (verse 16). The key? Verse 17: “Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus” (verse 17). How would that change your church? How would it change you?

Grace or Law: The Divide That Fuels Persecution

If you speak to most church leaders, you'll discover they are not strangers to persecution. Where do you think most of the persecution comes from? Secular people? Politicians? People from other faiths?

Actually, most persecution comes from people who claim to be believers. To be more specific, among those who call themselves "believers," there is a huge difference between those who are people of faith and those who are "religious."

With a focus on faith, you are occupied by spiritual issues. Those who are religious are focused on rules, regulations, and "doing." This is called "works righteousness." Spiritual people operate from a culture of grace. Religious people operate from law. They love rules. If you don't fit their version of the rules or laws, they will persecute you.

In this challenge, your trust in God's promises is important. In Acts 23:11, the Lord appears to the Apostle Paul and assures him everything will be all right. The Master encourages Paul, "You've been a good witness for me here in Jerusalem. Now you're going to be my witness in Rome!"

Soon after that spiritual pat on the back for Paul, the Jews in Jerusalem who were stuck in the Old Testament religion

developed a plot to kill Paul. They committed to each other and agreed to fast—nothing to eat or drink until Paul was murdered.

As it turned out, Paul's nephew overheard the plot and warned Paul. The nephew went to the Roman soldiers and asked for protection for Paul. Paul was a Roman citizen, and citizenship had its advantages.

Do you wonder, during all this, about what Paul thought concerning his future? The Roman guard took Paul to Caesarea to protect him. There he met the governor. What did Paul think?

We don't know, but we know, politically speaking, Paul was one step closer to Rome.

Sometimes God directs us in a way that is clear, and sometimes that way is not so clear. The real issue is whether we see God in all of it.

No Pain, No Gain: How Challenges Strengthen Faith

Throughout the history of the Christian movement, there have been many seasons of faith under pressure. You can see it in the history of Europe and just about everywhere else. There is a season when faith flourishes. God's presence impacts the culture of a region. Then comes drift. It's not God who drifts, but His people do. The Church gets comfortable, then slowly and subtly becomes like a country club. God's people lose track of their primary mission. The Christian community gets self-absorbed. Some churches allow fads and trends that are antithetical to Scripture. These trends creep into the Church. It's like the world suddenly has all the power to set the agenda. The world rules rather than the Word.

In this cycle, the power and presence of the Christian movement wane. The impact of the Gospel diminishes. The result is an increasingly secular society. The Church fails the world and Jesus.

At some point, a few Christians get back to biblical basics and experience a wake-up call. They are "early adopters" infected with holy discontent, a spiritual restlessness. Theologians and missionaries call this a wake-up call an *awakening*.

If a critical mass of Christians wakes up, it's called a revival, or renewal movement. The early adopters influence the middle adopters. Then, the middle adopters influence the late adopters

among the faithful. Even some never adopters experience the regeneration of biblical faith. It is miraculous!

What fuels the beginning of this process? It is the dysfunction of a society so far off the rails that people of faith—and those far from God—come to see that if the secular trend continues, life disintegrates. People fear for the viability of future generations. Uncivilized behavior robs humanity and threatens life itself.

So, where does it all begin? In the letter of James, he says, “Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.... Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. If you don’t know what you’re doing, pray to the Father” (James 1:2-5). For those who are “loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life” (verse 12).

Football coaches often say, “No pain, no gain.” Our Almighty Coach knows what it takes to get the attention of His followers!

The Church and Suffering: Turning Pain Into Purpose

There is a lot of pain and suffering in our world. When Christians speak about Christ to those in pain, healing occurs through the Good News about God's love in Jesus.

But don't kid yourself. While Christ is perfect, His people are not. So, there is occasional pain inside the Church as well. It is caused by those who share Christ's name, but not His perfection. It is the result of a miraculous strategy: The Ruler of the universe uses people to reach people. Imagine that!

In Colossians 1:24-29, Paul is no stranger to suffering. He writes from prison, falsely accused. He confesses, "There's a lot of suffering to be entered into in this world—the kind of suffering Christ takes on." Our passion, as Christians, is not to tell sufferers, "There, there, it will be all right." Our position is, "Give it over to Christ—lay it on Him—let Him help you through it."

Have you ever been to a funeral home? There is the family by the casket. Some Christians walk up and say, "He looks so good." No, he doesn't! He looks dead! Why wouldn't every Christian say, "I'm sorry for your loss. You're in our prayers"? Give it over to Jesus!

Paul sounds very strange when he says: "I experienced this suffering as a sheer gift, God's way of helping me serve you."

However, he knows what he's talking about. There's power in his relationship with Jesus.

Internal suffering in churches often comes from misbehaving Christians: gossip, human forms of politics, jealousy, and lack of mission focus. Paul says in verses 26-27, "This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out...."

The Apostle Paul is saying, "Focus on winning the world for Jesus, and you have no energy left for nitpicking misbehavior." I learned this reality playing football—long before I learned about God's priority for reaching the world for Jesus. After every play, a football team huddles together. Think about what that is like by the third quarter. A bunch of guys, sweating, smelly, with bad breath, gathering together in a tight circle, all heavily breathing! And guess what? No one ever complains! Why? The team is so focused on *winning* that they have no time or energy left to get into offenses that cause suffering.

What if your church was so focused on offense, as Paul explains? When you are on offense, there is no energy to cause offense!

The Divided Church: Overcoming Conflict for a Greater Mission

A basketball team can consist of superstars and still lose games. It occurs when team players don't get along. Consequently, they aren't "team players." They are simply self-centered supporters of a mediocre squad with enormous potential.

That same dynamic occurs in congregations and denominations. In some congregations, the pastor uses preaching to point out what is wrong with other local churches. Whole denominations tend to focus on what they are *against*, rather than Who they are *for*.

These approaches posture the Christian faith as divided, opinionated, and disagreeable. Unchurched people think, "Who needs that?" While it is important to demonstrate integrity to Scripture, it would help the cause of Christ to minimize differences in front of the public. As believers who are supposed to be loving and charitable, it is great to have integrity. Yet, it's more productive to protect unbelievers. It is why parents can disagree and may even argue, but they are smart not to do it in front of the children.

In every church, there are those who have "holy discontent." They are restless about their church's level of effectiveness to reach lost people for Jesus. In every congregation, there are also some who have "unholy discontent." They are complainers

who disrupt the effectiveness of faith because they don't get their way or have a different, and often immature, worldview about the mission of the church.

In Hebrews 12:14-17, the writer says, "Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise, you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity."

This letter to the Hebrews also warns against the danger when discontent is allowed to choke out the holy atmosphere of a congregation. The writer says, "Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time."

Jesus has called every Christian and every church to win the world. If your church is as committed to that mission as Jesus intends, no one would ever have the time or energy to complain!

Trials and Transformation: How God Works Through Church Conflict

Ministry is riddled with stress. Whether you're a full-time church worker, volunteer leader, or involved in any ministry of the church, sooner, rather than later, it is likely you'll experience significant stress. It is in these stressful times that God builds character, and that character is a key to our spiritual growth. The Apostle Paul was either a nutcase or writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—there's really no other option—when he said, in Romans 5:3-5, “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love” (NLT).

In the first congregation I (Kent) pastored, I found myself in a very challenging ministry. My first church as a young pastor was in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan. It was an old Anglo congregation in a young African American community. My church consisted mostly of white-haired Anglo lifelong Christians, and the neighborhood consisted almost entirely of African American young families, many of whom were unchurched.

One day, I made the naïve suggestion to the members of our church that we reach our neighbors for Christ. You have to

understand, these neighbors were neighbors to the church building, but not to my members. The members of our church had already, years before, moved to the suburbs. They called the area around the church the “old neighborhood.” I lived there, in a parsonage, but most of the members did not. For my neighbors, the African Americans, it was not an old neighborhood, but a new neighborhood.

My suggestion that we reach our neighbors caused, to some degree, a firestorm. The president of my congregation was so upset about the possibility of inviting “those people” to our church, he showed his bigoted hand by interrupting a worship service. Imagine this: I’m a young pastor, preaching to about six hundred people in the late service, I’m about ready to close the service with the benediction. Standing before the congregation, I take a deep breath, and just as I start the benediction, the president of our church stands up from the front row, turns toward the congregation, and says, “Think about what our pastor is proposing. Do you really want ‘those people’ in our church? We’re going to have a meeting after this church service, and you’d better come to express your feelings about this!” I thought that this behavior in a worship service only occurred in movies!

It not only occurs in churches, but it happened to Jesus.

In a very graphic story that is not at all just a blow-by-blow description of an event, Jesus says, “Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? ‘Father, get me out of this’? No, this is why I came in the first place. I’ll say, ‘Father, put your glory on display’” (John 12:27-28).

Do you get it? When we face challenges in the Church, according to Jesus, it is an opportunity for the Father to put His Glory on display! Guess what? That’s exactly what God did in

my (Kent's) congregation in Detroit. The president of our congregation, showing his bigoted hand, drove many more people to that meeting after church—more than I could have rallied. The large room was packed to standing room only. I had never seen a meeting at this church with so many people. In his naiveté, my president started the meeting, thinking the masses would rally to his prejudicial cause. It was just the opposite! The people rallied and said, in effect, "We cannot be Christians and continue to fail our immediate community. It is our privilege and responsibility to reach our neighbors for Christ." This result was completely out of my control. It was also out of the control of the president of our church. He was so humiliated that he left our congregation. I pleaded with him that God is a God of forgiveness and that, if he gives God a chance, the Lord can heal him of whatever attitudes need improvement. But he couldn't get over his self-humiliation. He moved to a church in his own neighborhood in the suburbs.

God does this kind of stuff all the time. It seems like God does some of His best work in us, with us, and through us in the middle of a storm. Think about your own life. Think about your own church. Has that been your experience?

When Power Takes Over: How Church Bullies Divide and Destroy

If there is a “Church Doctor” anywhere in Scripture, it is likely Jude, the brother of James. In his short letter—only twenty-five verses—he practices the fine art of *diagnosis*. This is a discipline that can be used in churches to help Christians who wrestle with the symptoms but are too close to the challenges to diagnose the causes.

Eugene Peterson, the translator of *The Message* version of the Bible, speaks about this in his introduction to Jude. He says, “...a dangerous, even deadly, virus in our spiritual communities can go undetected for a long time. As much as we need physicians for our bodies, we have even greater need for diagnosticians and healers of the spirit.”

With a strong sense of urgency, Jude writes his short letter to a community of Christ-followers. He begins with his diagnosis: “...some people have infiltrated our ranks ... who beneath their pious skin are shameless scoundrels.” He continues with his prognosis: “Their design is to replace the sheer grace of God with sheer license—which means doing away with Jesus Christ, our one and only Master” (verses 3-4).

In other words, these are people who want to be the center of attention. They want to be in control. This is a significant clue toward the solution.

In verse 16, Jude pinpoints a key element that helps to identify dangerous people in the church who have manipulated their way into positions of leadership and *power*. Jude says that these disrupters can be identified as those who are “...talking big, saying anything they think *will get them ahead*” (emphasis mine). In verse 19, Jude writes, “These are the ones who split churches, thinking only of themselves.” This self-centered behavior is a key element every pastor and church member should use to identify these types of people. The challenge? Those who have this disruptive tendency in the Church are so smooth, so clever, they are hard to identify—until it’s too late. A lot of damage is already done!

So, who are these disruptors? Thanks to modern psychology, we can diagnose them as those who suffer from narcissistic personality disorder. This is a mental illness that, for most people, is very difficult to diagnose. Why? Narcissists are so subtle! They divide people from one another, using clever comments that slowly and incrementally turn people against each other. Their ultimate objective is to be “the last one standing.” They have a psychological need to be in charge. *It is an issue of power*. The closer you are to the situation, the more difficult it becomes to identify the issues behind the issues. In fact, in his introduction to Jude, Peterson notes that the diagnosis “...is all the more necessary in that those believers apparently didn’t know anything was wrong, or at least not as desperately wrong as Jude points out.”

Most narcissists don’t know they have a mental dysfunction. Nor do their spouses. Since their disruptive behavior is so subtle, they can go a long way toward “divide-and-conquer” activities before those involved have a clue that something is terribly wrong. Most people are “too close to see the forest for the trees.”

Narcissists are drawn to churches, perhaps more than to any other environment. Why? The Church is a place ruled by forgiveness. Christians are forgiving, which gives the narcissist more freedom to disrupt. Consequently, this serious issue is common in the local church. It is also severe. Most churches need a “fresh set of eyes” to identify the issues, the source of the challenges they experience, and the solutions they need to consider.

God loves all people, including those infected with narcissism. The primary role of the Church is to identify them, isolate them from positions of leadership and influence, and direct them to get professional help.

Conclusion: What's Next?

Moving Forward Through Conflict

Conflict is not the end of the story. If anything, it's often the place where God begins something new.

If you've made it this far in the series, you've already walked through some of the raw realities that churches face—division, pain, ego, suffering, loss, misunderstanding, even power struggles. None of it is easy. And none of it is new. The Bible is full of these very same challenges. But the Bible is also full of something else: **hope**.

So what do we do next?

Let me (Tom) offer a few thoughts—not as an expert—but as a fellow traveler, pastor, and disciple of Jesus who's been through some storms.

1. Let grace lead the way.

Every chapter in this series carries a thread of grace. Did you notice it? Grace doesn't ignore conflict. It walks right into it with open eyes, soft words, and a heart set on reconciliation. Grace is not weakness—it's the power of Christ at work in you to forgive, to listen, and to stay when others would leave. If you're in the middle of a church conflict right now, let grace have the first and final word.

2. Focus on mission, not maintenance.

Churches that get stuck in conflict often lose sight of their purpose. The real tragedy isn't just the division—it's the distraction. God has called the Church to go, to reach, to serve, to make disciples. That mission is too important to be sidelined by our squabbles. Refocus your energy on reaching people who are far from God. You'll be surprised how much internal peace grows when external mission becomes the focus.

3. Choose humility every time.

Conflict escalates when pride takes the wheel. And it de-escalates when humility walks into the room. Scripture says, "Clothe yourselves with humility" (1 Peter 5:5 NIV). That's not optional attire for church people—it's essential. Be quick to listen. Slow to speak. Even slower to take offense. And if you've been wrong, own it. Repent. Ask for forgiveness. That's not weakness—it's spiritual maturity.

4. Pray for the people who bother you.

Let's get really practical. If there's someone you've butted heads with or someone who's wounded you in church, start praying for them. Every day. Not the "God, fix them" kind of prayers. The "God, bless them" kind. Nothing changes your heart faster than prayer. And sometimes, when we pray for others, God does the miracle of healing in us.

5. Don't give up on the Church.

Yes, the Church is messy. And broken. And imperfect. But it's also God's plan A. There's no backup strategy. He uses ordinary, flawed people like you and me to reach the world. That's both humbling and hopeful. So don't walk away just

because it's hard. Stay. Grow. Lead. Love. Forgive. And watch what God can do.

Final Word

Conflict is a given. But bitterness is a choice. Division is easy. Unity takes work. The good news? Jesus hasn't given up on His Church—and neither should we.

So, what's next? Keep walking with Jesus. Keep loving His people. Keep forgiving. Keep hoping. Keep your eyes on the cross and your heart set on the mission.

And when conflict comes again—and it will—let it become not a wedge that divides, but a doorway God uses to bring deeper healing, stronger faith, and a Church that reflects more of His grace.

Discussion Questions

Why do conflicts in churches feel so personal and painful, and how does understanding the Church as a “hospital for sinners” shift our expectations of Christian community?

Reflect on how Paul’s letters and Jesus’ ministry dealt openly with relational tension. How can a grace-centered view of the Church empower healing rather than hurt?

In what ways does unchecked ego or “me-centered” thinking disrupt church unity, and how can Paul’s instruction in 1 Corinthians 14:40 guide us toward spiritual maturity and order? Explore the idea of “disrupting the disruptor” by identifying self-centered tendencies in yourself or your congregation. What does it look like to let Christ—not self—lead?

Consider Colossians 3 and the call to “see things from His perspective.” How can living with the mind of Christ change the way we handle conflict and respond to those who disagree with us?

Think about recent church challenges or disagreements. What would have been different if everyone involved had focused on compassion, kindness, and humility?

What does it look like for your church to focus more on the mission of reaching others than on internal complaints or divisions (Hebrews 12:14-17)?

Discuss how “offense” and “offense” are connected. When a church plays spiritual offense—actively reaching the lost—it has no time to take offense. How can your church stay on mission?



Call a Church Doctor!

Are you frustrated
that your church
isn't growing?

Is it starting to feel
less like a ministry
and more like a
country club?

Do you feel like all
your efforts yield
little fruit?

As a nonprofit Christian ministry, we offer proven strategies to help Christians, pastors, and ministry leaders become more effective at their mission: the Great Commission.

Effect Life Change

Our methods help
your church grow
both deep and wide.

Increase Health & Vitality

Track the improvement
in your church via our
9 measurable metrics.

Reduce Stress & Burnout

Our proven process
takes the stress off of
your leadership and
reduces burnout among
pastors and staff.

Here's how it works

①

Discover

What is working? What is not?
What is God's vision
for your church?

③

Prescribe

We guide you in creating an
implementation plan to break
through the ceilings and roadblocks
and achieve your goals.

②

Diagnose

Identify the ceilings and roadblocks
that are holding you or
your church back.

④

See Results

Reach more people, multiply
disciples, and resource leadership.

**Partner with a Church Doctor and break through the
barriers that have held you back.**



Call a Church Doctor!
(800) 626-8515
CallaChurchDoctor.com

CONSULTING & COACHING

Healthy Churches Thrive!/The SEND Movement: A Spiritual Adventure for Your Church

True transformational change is a spiritual process. This unique transformational adventure uses our most effective tools, resources, and teachings along with a team of committed consultants and coaches to come alongside you as your guide. Members, leaders, staff, and ministry will experience spiritual change and growth to help your church reach more people for Christ in the 21st century.

Diagnostic Assessment

This is a thorough analysis of your congregation's health, strength, and challenges. Recommendations for more effective ministry are shared to help you achieve more for God's purpose. A report is generated that graphically illustrates the church's views, attitudes, and worldviews. These become the mechanisms to develop a strategic plan for recommendations to move your church to action.

Coaching for Church Leaders

Our coaching approach is simple: We help Christian leaders unleash the capacity to realize their God-inspired best in ministry. Our process is based on asset mapping, leveraging your strengths, creating disciplined action plans, and building momentum through accountability and follow-up to help you achieve success.

Finishing Well

This is transition coaching for retiring ministers, staff members, and churches transitioning toward new leadership. Your Church Doctor will help to develop a plan of succession that works. They will help you develop a transition plan philosophy of ministry document; will structure a timetable that honors the retiring staff, assimilates the successor, and serves your church; and will help you avoid transitional pitfalls.

Call 1-800-626-8515

Email info@churchdoctor.org

**Scan the code to schedule a call with a
Church Doctor today!**



About the Authors



Dr. Kent R. Hunter is the founder of Church Doctor Ministries. He believes that God has called him to help Christians and their churches become more effective for the Great Commission, to reach unbelievers and to make them disciples of Jesus Christ. Dr. Hunter is the author of more than 40 books. He has consulted more than 1,800 churches from 80 denominations, as well as nondenominational and independent churches. He developed the SEND Movement, which trains congregational members to become missionaries to those who are unchurched in their social networks. Kent writes the bimonthly Church Doctor Report, found on www.churchdoctor.org. Kent lives on a tree farm in northeast Indiana with his wife, Janet. Kent and Janet have two grown children, Laura and Jon.



Tom Schaeffer has over 30 years of experience in ministry. During that time, he has led churches through transitions ranging from the mission start of a new congregation to the mission redevelopment of a failing congregation to the launch of a satellite worship at a large congregation. He has served in rural, urban, and suburban contexts. In addition, Tom started an award-winning brewery that, during his leadership, supported his ministry and worked under the motto of “Brew good. Do good.” Tom has served as a coach for numerous pastors and ministers. Currently, Tom serves as pastor of Faith United Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio, a new congregation resulting from the merging of three prior congregations.