Presented by: Maryann Amor

A Small Church is Not a Failed Big Church

RETHINKING SMALL CHURCH MINISTRY





Questions to Ponder...

Size stops becoming a description and becomes a judgement

The Uncomfortable Question

WHAT IF THE GOAL ISN'T TO GET BIGGER?





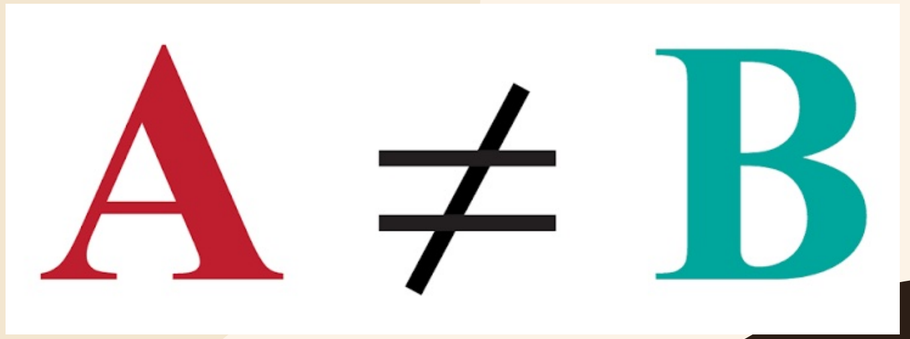
The Story We Have Been Told

GROW OR CLOSE



Become a Healthy Small Church

Small Does NOT Equal Broken





The Golden Age

WE USED TO BE FULL!

Confused Size with Health



The Grass is not Always Greener



What About Acts?



Reluctantly small

Apologetically small

Strategically small



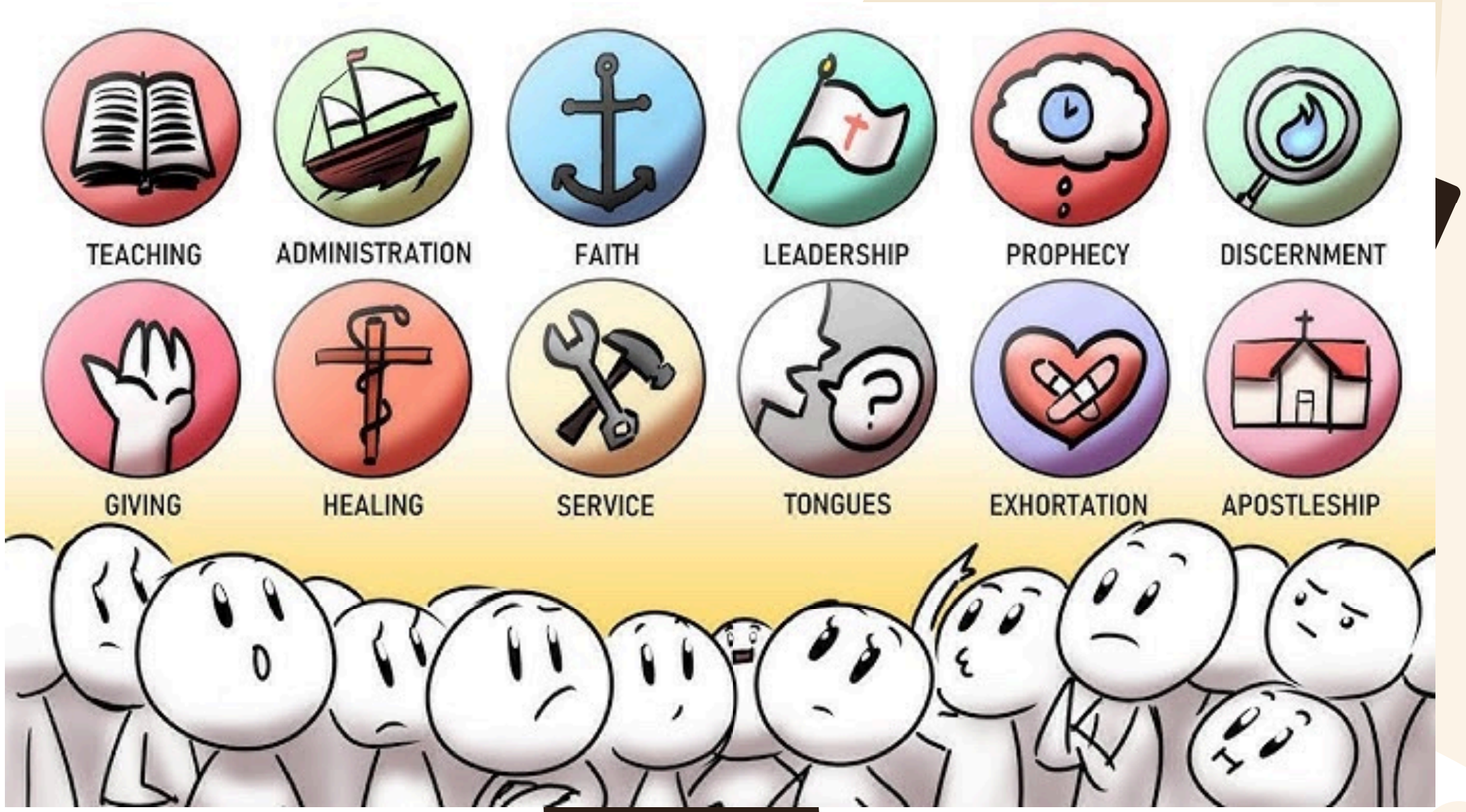
Strength 1
Relationships:
We know one another



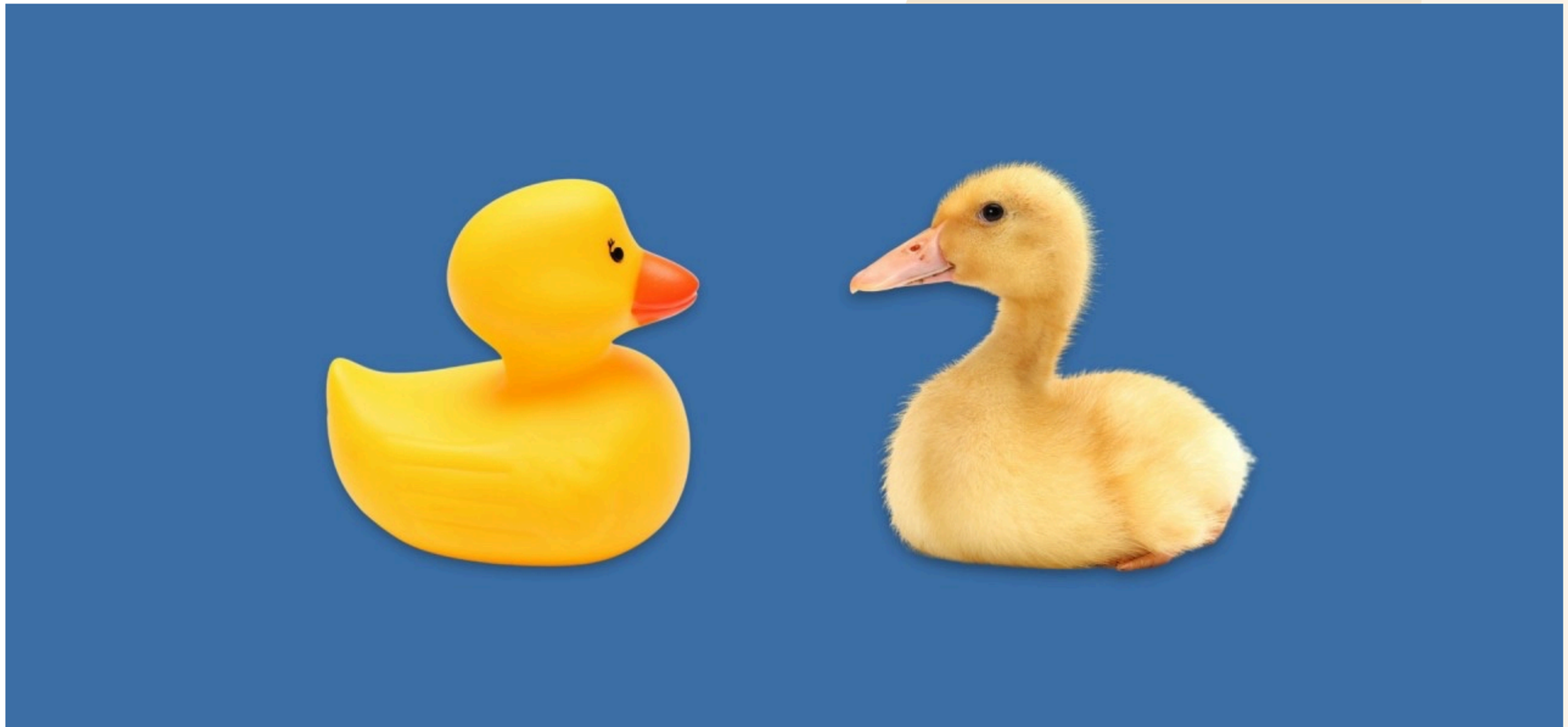
Strength 2
Participation:
50 people ≠ 50 spectators



Strength 3
Gifts:
What Has God Given Us



Strength 4 Authenticity: We Are Who We Are



Stop Programming Everything!



What is already happening?



Mission is NOT a strategy for church growth



The Church of 10



5 Questions for a Small Church

1. What Are We Uniquely Good At?

2. Who Are Our People?

3. What Does Our Community Actually Need?

4. What Can We Stop Doing?

5. How Will We Measure Health?

My Own Experience: Christ Church (Grande Prairie)





Events







Lent Project

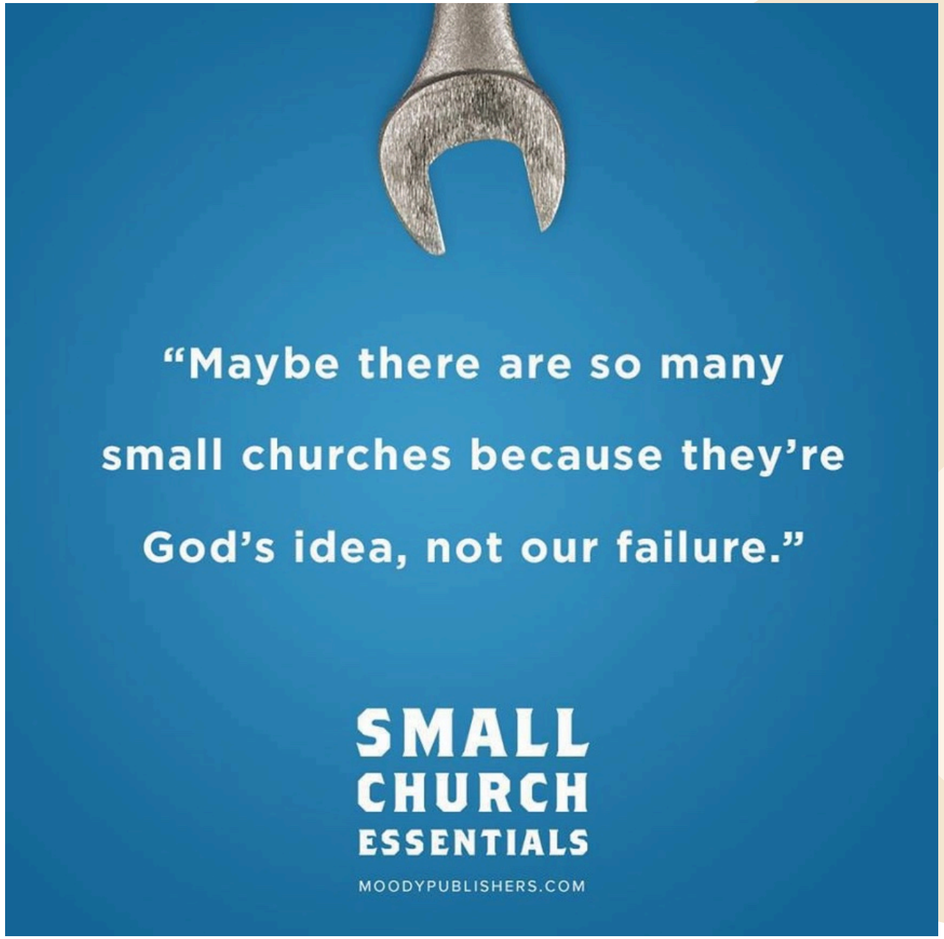




Christ Church



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Thank you!

Any questions?

For Further Reading

Lansdowne, Carmen. “Small but Mighty.” Carmen Lansdowne, Substack.

O’Brien, Brandon J. The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective. Baker Books, 2025.

Parks, Lewis A. Small on Purpose: Life in a Significant Church. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017.

Vaters, Karl. Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250.

_____The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us.

_____“Grow It or Close It? Is There a Third Option for Struggling Small Churches?” KarlVaters.com, 2026.