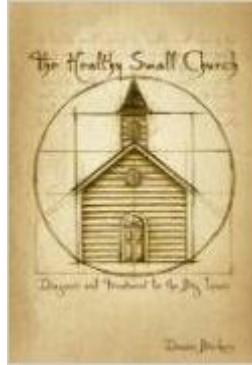


The book was found

# The Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis And Treatment For The Big Issues



## Synopsis

Small churches can be found in every denomination and among every ethnic group but often these churches struggle to survive in the shadow of the larger churches around them. And many of these churches are afflicted with unhealthy issues such as feelings of unimportance, a lack of vision, exclusivity, limited resources, and unbalanced leadership. It is because of these ailments that many churches fail to survive. But it is possible for an unhealthy church to become a healthy church capable of experiencing growth--both physically and spiritually. In his new book, *The Healthy Small Church*, small church pastor Dennis Bickers diagnoses the issues that threaten the life of the smaller church and prescribes practical remedies for treating these issues. He reminds churches that transformation and healing are never easy but always worth it. He emphasizes that to maintain a healthy church one must be aware of the symptoms and act accordingly to prevent new problems from arising. *The Healthy Small Church* offers pastors and church leaders a great diagnostic tool for small churches that want to be healthy and stay that way. It includes a number of diagnostic questions at the end of the book that they can use to determine the health of their church. Become a healthy church that:

- Has a positive self-image
- Shares a common vision that creates a sense of purpose and unity
- Maintains community while still warmly welcoming new visitors
- Practices the importance of faithful stewardship and financial support
- Understands ministry to be the responsibility of all the members of the church
- Encourages everyone to serve according to his or her spiritual gifts--not by seniority or guilt

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a great resource for anyone belonging to a small church. The author discusses all the issues confronting a small church. His basic premise is that all small churches focus on church growth when they should be focusing on church health. A healthy organism will grow naturally. Unhealthy churches shouldn't expect to grow. Take care of church health first and your church will grow. He doesn't lay out a specific plan because each community is different. But he does lay out specific issues to be aware of and to deal with.

This book was extremely well written and accessible to anyone. After reading it, I planned a small group book study of it in one of my two small rural congregations, and they found it extremely helpful as well. Not only are they thinking about ministry differently; they're thinking about themselves as a church differently. Now to put everything into practice.

This book was acquired to assist a struggling small church in a rural community. Its insights into a small congregation and suggestions for identifying problems that require active engagement by the council, pastor and congregation seem to be spot on. The remedies may be useful but it is too early to judge their effectiveness now. Highly recommended for those needing help and willing to effect remedies.

Bickers has written a number of books to assist the small church. This one is filled with practical ideas, many based on his own experiences, and is well worth the time invested in reading it.

This is a solidly-written little book with good insight into the issues confronting a small congregation. The author has obviously been there, and worked through these issues with wisdom and good humor.

This book is worth reading no matter what the size of your church. Our conference uses it as the main text for our small church initiative. We are going through the process now and I believe we have a better chance of growing our church as a result of the info in this book.

A number of the leaders in our small member church have already read the book and all have found that it provides many excellent ideas that will help our church to become more effective in its day by day activities and in its outreach to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Meetings to select and

implement those ideas are now being scheduled. We would recommend this book as a must reading material for small membership churches.

This book helped point out some issues that our church needs to look at and implement. Even though it seems simplistic it is very clearly written for helping smaller churches.

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