

Leading Forward: Developing a fresh look

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A Fresh Look... A New Start

Our family spent twenty-seven years in the same house in Flower Mound. We have so many wonderful memories attached to our time in that house. This past August we sold that house and moved into a rental house while we were having a new house built. The house is almost complete, and we will be moving into that new house during January.

One of the frequent topics of discussion at the present between my wife and me centers around where we will place furniture and where we will store things in the new house. Space is not the issue. However, arrangement is an issue. Our new house is not the same floor plan as the old house. The closets are different sizes. There are different shapes, sizes, and placement of cabinets in the kitchen. While all of our belongings will fit in the house, they will be in different spots than they were in the old house. We have many options but we must decide what will be the best arrangement and the best location for each item. Our new

house will offer a fresh start and a new look for our home. And that is exciting and challenging!

A new year on the calendar provides us a similar opportunity in almost every facet of life. Let's apply that to the local church. A new year offers a church the opportunity to rearrange its look. Here are a few suggestions:

- * Delete an old event or program that is no longer producing results and try a new one that has the potential of having a greater impact.
- * Implement a follow-up procedure to every outreach event to conserve results.
- * Add some new members to places of responsibility for fresh ideas and thoughts.
- * Tweak an event that has focused only on the church members so that it now has a focus on the community or a specific outside group within the community.
- * Find two weeks within the year (besides a holiday week) that the church identifies as "Family Weeks" and schedule no church activities Monday through Saturday but encourage families to spend time together.

* Instead of the usual pastor and staff recognition at Christmas with a turkey, ham, or small check, consider an extra week's vacation or a weekend getaway.

Don't rely on these suggestions. Develop your own new, fresh look that will be best suited to your church. No matter what you are doing or have done, there are better ways. Don't clutter this New Year with more of the same. Allow the Lord to open your church's eyes to some new arrangements that will help reenergize the Body of Christ as it reaches the communities, local and global.