

Team TEAL  
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### Retaining Church Members and Acquiring New Followers.

Our group focused on church member retention. In researching United Methodist membership statistics, we realized that The United Methodist Church has not experienced a period of growth since 1970 (which was a growth of 0.2%). This is a major problem in the church because without growth, The United Methodist Church will eventually fade away.

In our group discussions, we focused on what kept us coming back to church as well as looking into what made members of our churches continue to be a part of their local congregations. Some of our group members did surveys which showed that people came to church for every reason from worshipping the Lord to comfort. Our group believes that the key to retaining church members is involvement. One of the most destructive patterns that has occurred in the church is the notion of laity that they are meant to be spectators in church rather than participators. In order to combat this mentality our group has come up with several ideas in order to involve both new and old members so that they will take ownership of their relationship with their Christian brothers and sisters and mission to reach their local communities. In coming up with these ideas, we used the funnel which Mike Selleck talked about in his "Developing Leadership Skills" sessions in January. Our goal was to come up with specific things that could be done to increase participation from both people who were not involved in the local church to the church members who have been going for years. While these activities are not comprehensive and are not meant to work individually across the board, the idea that every church can offer something to each person in their community is the heart of our project. When churches offer ways for active participation from their members, we believe they will retain those members and attract new ones as well.