

Conquering the Cutback Syndrome

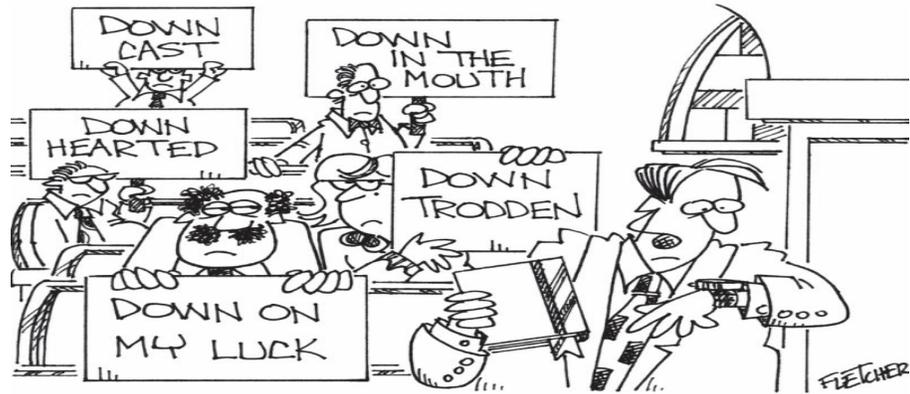


Conquering the Cutback Syndrome
"We simply have too many churches in this small town," declared a respected lay leader, Tom McClain, in a long range planning meeting. "And three are from the same denomination as our church! It makes perfect sense to merge our congregation with the West Main Street Church. And if our other two denominational churches merge, our community would then have two strong congregations.

I think two healthy churches better represents our denomination than four struggling congregations."

Although Tom's conclusion seems logical, his approach reveals a textbook example of the cutback syndrome.

Across the United States, church leaders use this common planning strategy to "fix" perceived problems and challenges. Other familiar examples in the syndrome include arguments to merge church school classes, reduce the number of worship services, or merge youth groups (typically the junior high or middle school group with the high school group). More than 1,300 congregations annually take the more extreme action of merging with another church. Finally, the ultimate cutback option involves closing the church doors permanently-a choice made by more than 3,500 churches annually.



PASTOR DOUG TENDED TO IGNORE THE WARNING SIGNS.

Read more here..... [What Is the Cutback Syndrome?](#)

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