

Talking about dying churches is a hard topic, but the fact remains that churches across America are shutting their doors for good.

We get asked often about the difference between replanting and revitalizing. But before we unpack what each of those terms means, let's talk about what constitutes as a "dying church."

### WHAT'S CONSIDERED A DYING CHURCH?

A dying church is any church that, if it continues on their current trend, they will likely cease to exist in the next three to five years.

Churches die for various reasons. Sometimes they start following their plan instead of Jesus' plan. With this, they stop connecting with their community and neighborhood and have forgotten why they were there in the first place. Often, they don't transition to the next generation well and become more inwardly focused and self-preserving. In these instances, they have a hard time changing or embracing change.

When a church gets to this point, they need to either replant or revitalize.

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REVITALIZATION AND REPLANTING

**Church revitalization** is the supernatural work of God that *restores health in a church*, evidenced by submission to God's Word, right relationships among members and a renewed commitment to Great Commission ministry.

**Church replanting** is the process in which members of a church discern God's leadership to dissolve their current ministry and work with other churches or denominational bodies to begin a new church for a new season of ministry in their community.

The biggest difference between church revitalization and replanting is in church revitalization, you have a longer runway and more time to make small adjustments. But in church replanting, the runway is really short, and if you don't make drastic changes quickly, you will run out of time.

Many pastors and leaders of dying churches love the Lord and their community but need a vision for their community and a renewed sense of kingdom mission.

### NOW WHAT?

There is hope, real hope, for any church in any crisis situation. Churches don't have to die; they can thrive.

If you believe your church is dying or near-dying—in need of replanting or revitalization—we would like to talk with you. Email us at [replant@namb.net](mailto:replant@namb.net). And if you're not sure the state of your church, take our [Church Health Survey](#) to self-assess.

No matter where your church is, there is hope for any church in any crisis.

Read more about church planting and revitalizing at [ChurchReplanters.com](https://ChurchReplanters.com)