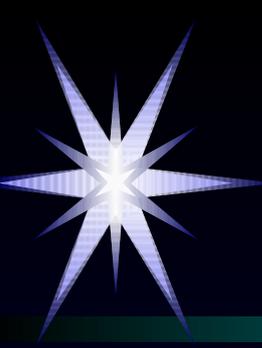


Session One:

Introducing Assimilation





Goal of Today's Seminar ...

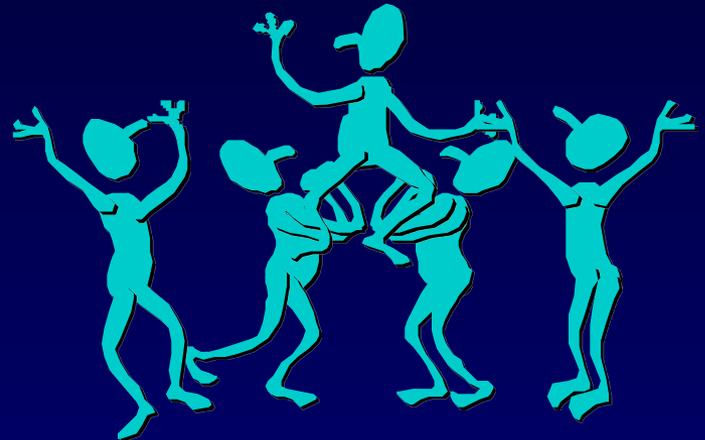
- To help seminar participants (lay and professional church leaders) better understand how people do or do not become assimilated into a church fellowship, and to equip participants to develop a workable plan to see more of their church's visitors become Christ's disciples and responsible members of the church.



Definition of Assimilation ...

▶ *as-sim-'i-late:*

“To include into a larger whole; to involve; to make one.”





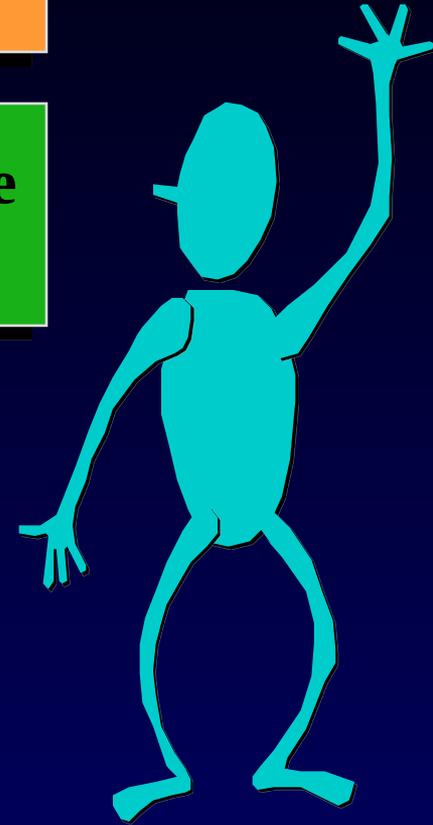
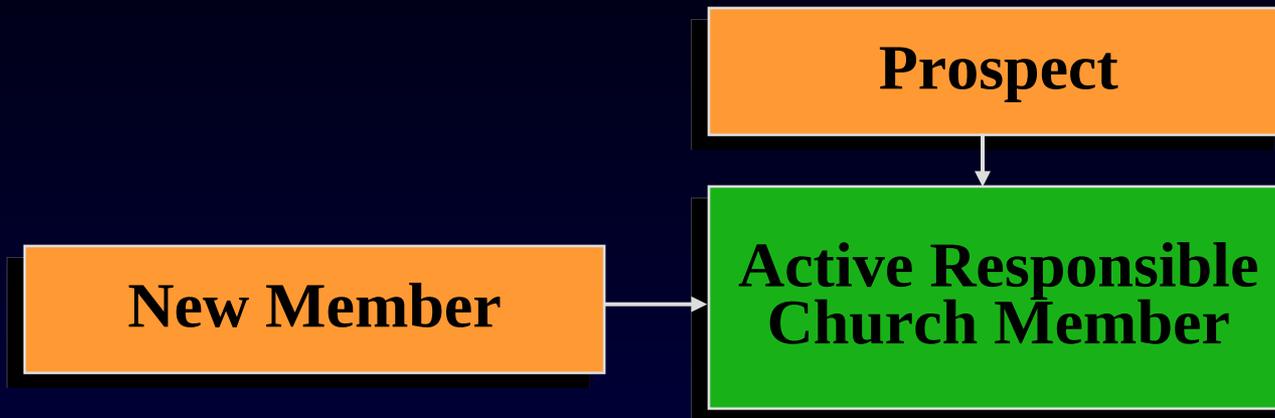
Definition of Assimilation ...

▶ *as-sim-'i-late:*

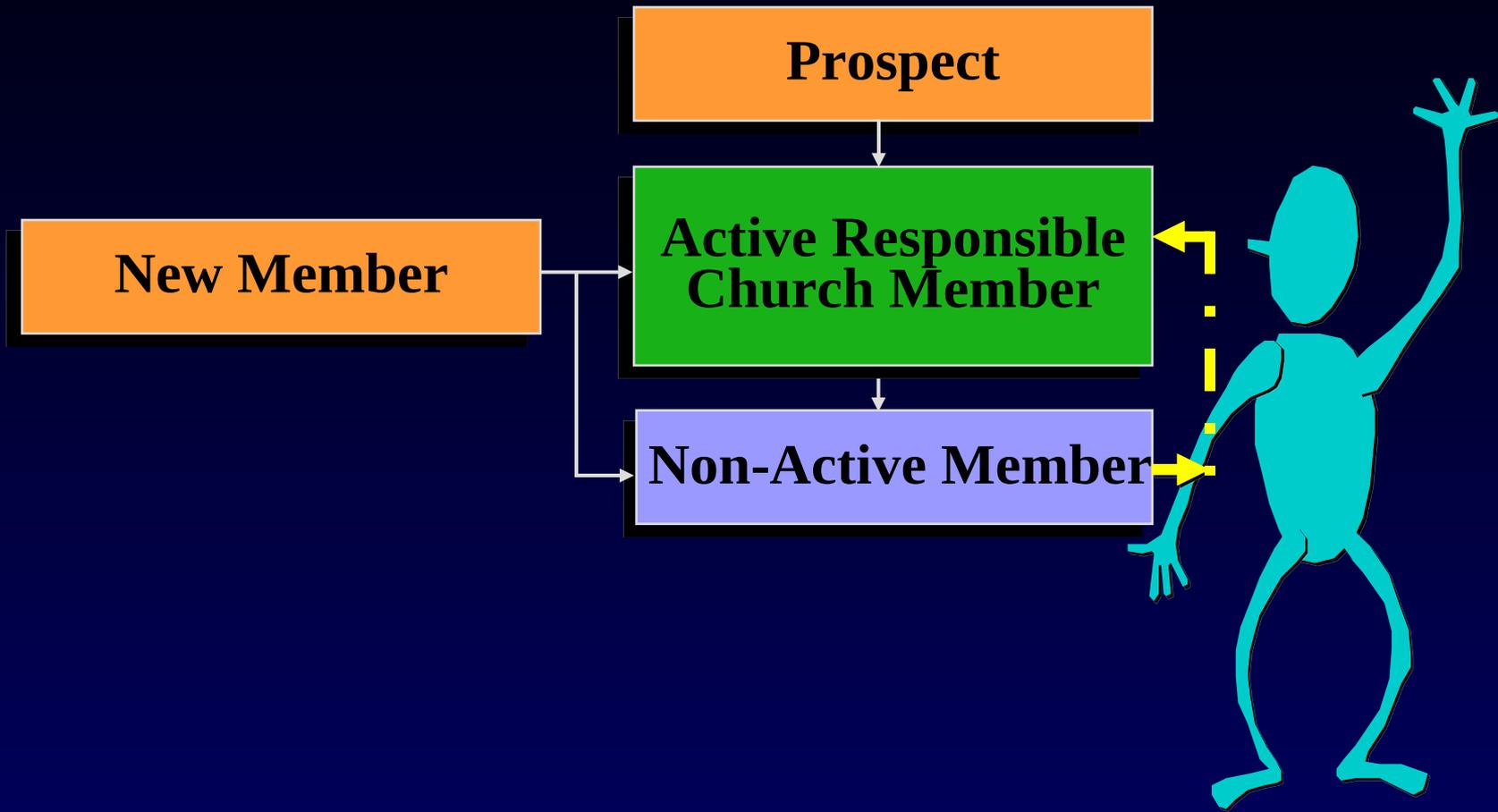
“You are a member of God’s very own family ... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Eph. 2:19)



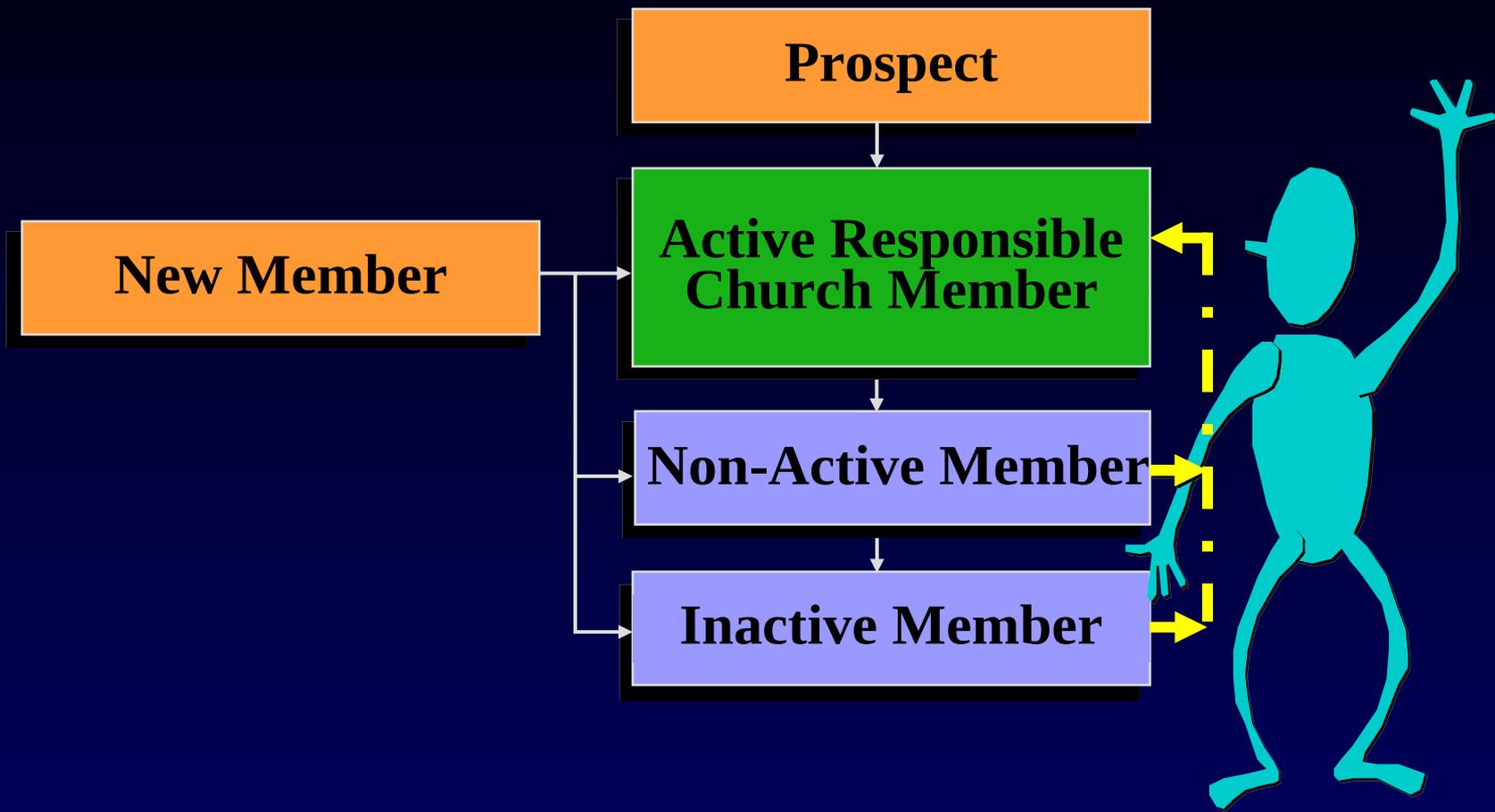
A Model of Assimilation ...



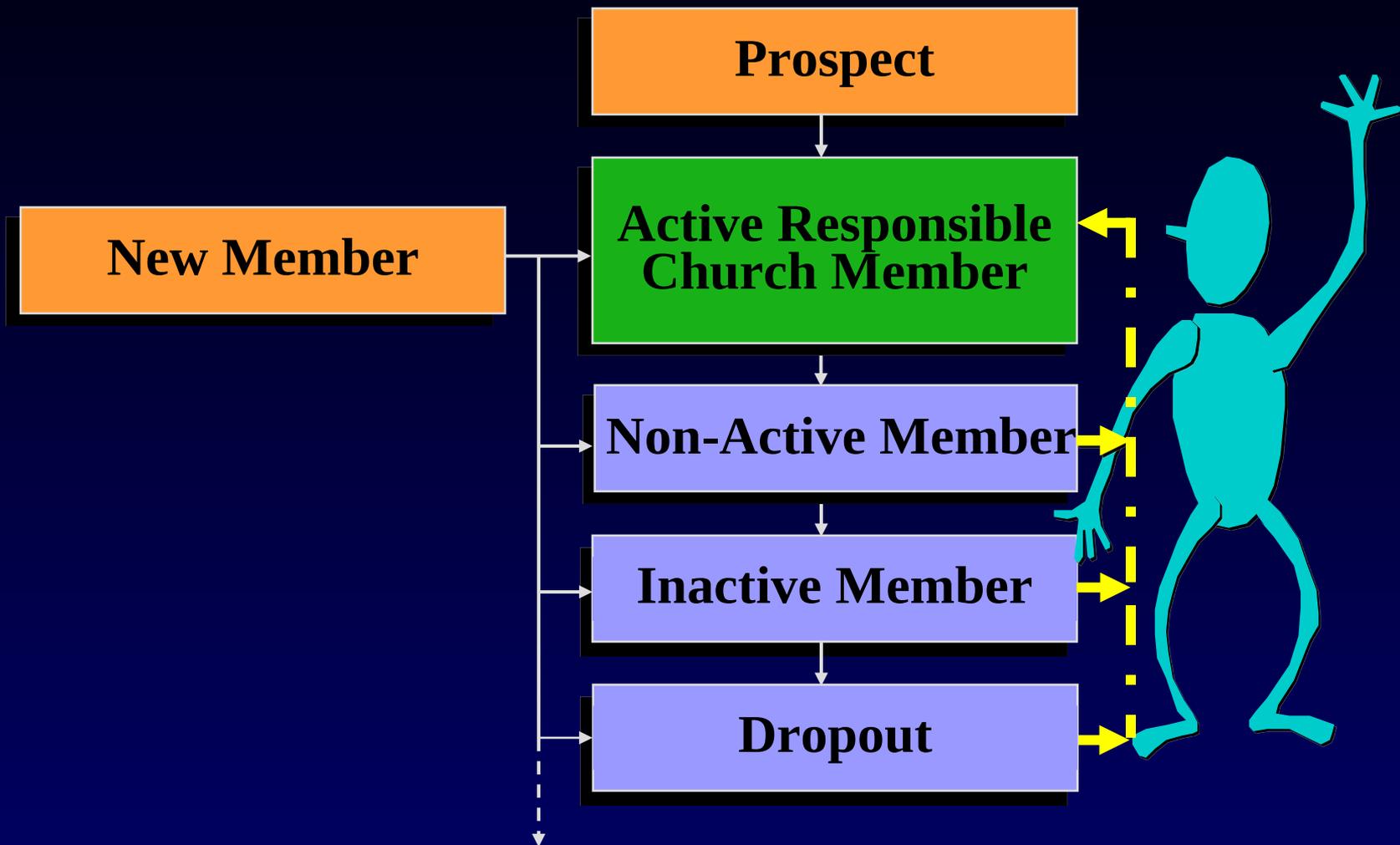
A Model of Assimilation ...

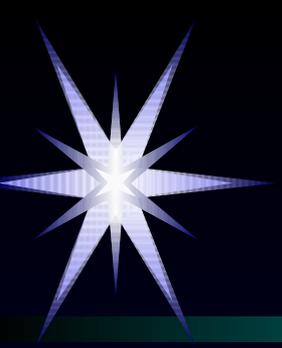


A Model of Assimilation ...



A Model of Assimilation ...





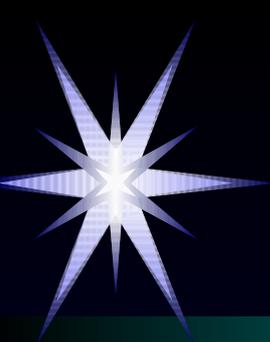
Discussion Question ...

- ▶ What are the obstacles to assimilation of a newcomer into a church community?



Assumptions About Assimilation

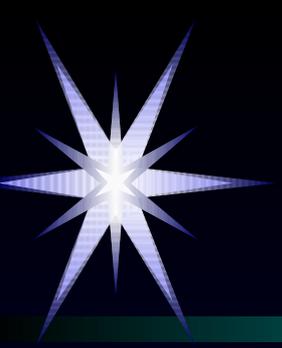
1. Assimilation of newcomers does not happen automatically.
2. The responsibility for assimilating newcomers rests with the church, not the newcomer.
3. The process of assimilating the newcomer begins before membership.
4. Assimilation is an ongoing process.
5. Most churches can improve their effectiveness in assimilating newcomers.



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?

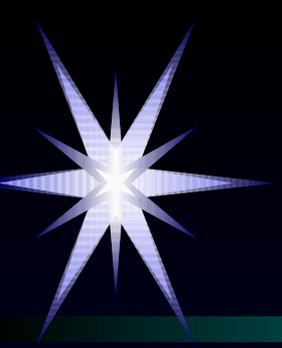


1. Are there large numbers of “transfers out” who keep the same residency?



Checking Our “Backdoor”

... and all churches have a “backdoor!”



Checking Our “Backdoor”

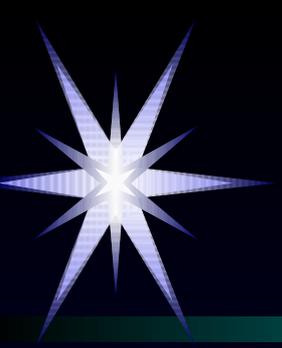
... and all churches have a “backdoor!”

The typical church loses . . .

2 - 3% transfer out

1 - 2% death

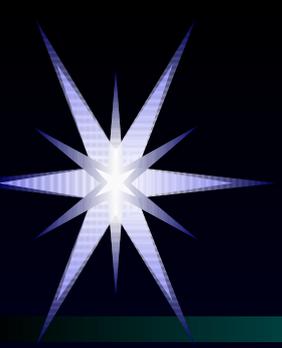
2 - 6% inactivity



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?

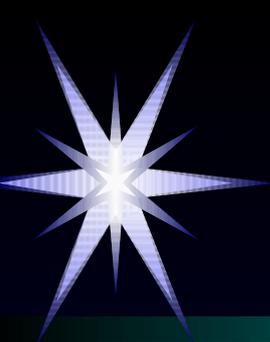


1. Are there large numbers of “transfers out” who keep the same residency?
2. Are there large numbers of members with no role, task, or small group involvement?



How many roles/tasks should a church have ?

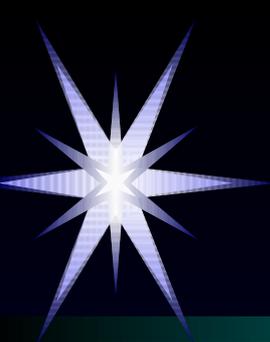
- Growing churches: 55:100
- Plateaued churches: 43:100
- Declining churches: 27:100



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



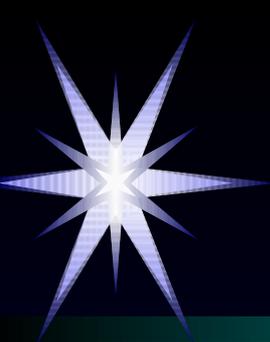
3. Is there a large gap between church membership and average worship attendance?



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



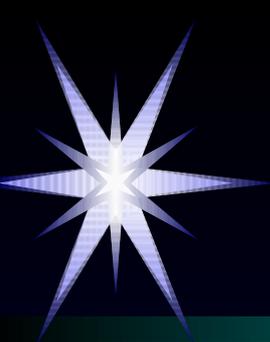
The typical church has about
60% of its members in
attendance on an average
Sunday.



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



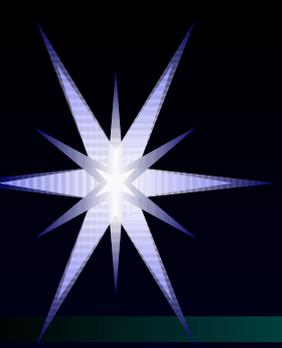
3. Is there a large gap between church membership and average worship attendance?
4. Is there a large gap between Sunday School enrollment and Sunday School attendance?



Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



5. Is there a high percentage of members whose worship attendance is one Sunday per month or less?

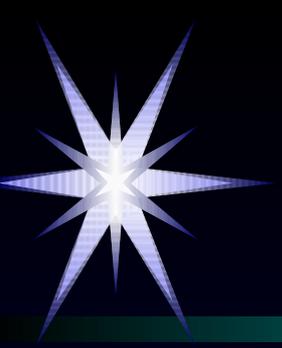


Who's here and who's not?

Church "A"

4 Sundays per month	125	
3 Sundays per month	78	
2 Sundays per month	31	
1 Sunday per month	7	
Visitors	9	
TOTAL	250	

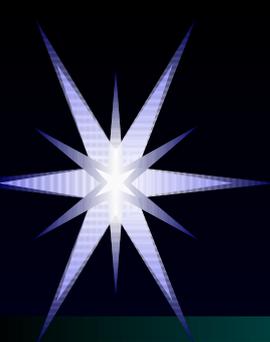
Average Sunday morning attendance



Who's here and who's not?

	Church	
	“A”	“B”
4 Sundays per month	125	17
3 Sundays per month	78	39
2 Sundays per month	31	75
1 Sunday per month	7	96
Visitors	9	23
TOTAL	250	250

Average Sunday morning attendance

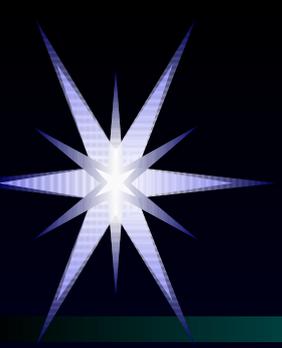


Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?

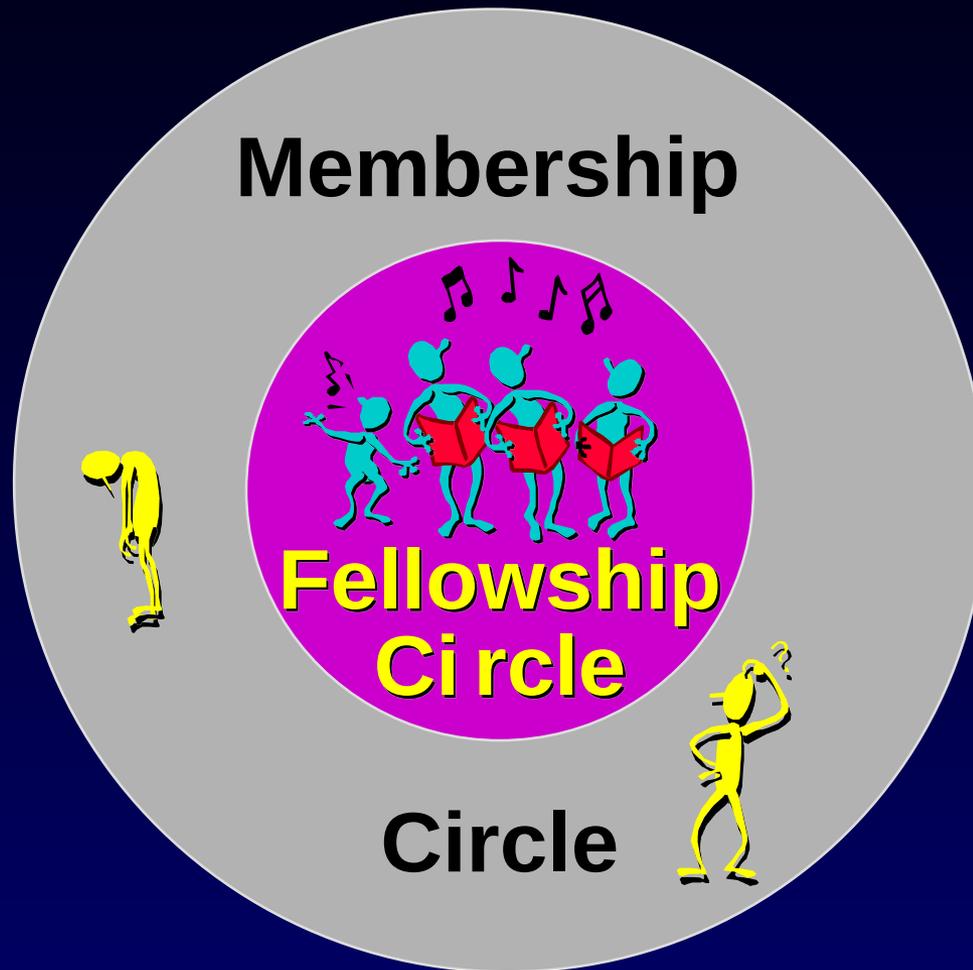


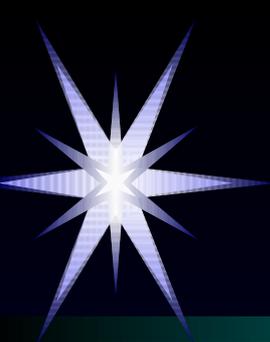
5. Is there a high percentage of members whose worship attendance is one Sunday per month or less?

6. How many of your members feel “left out”?



Who's in and who's out?

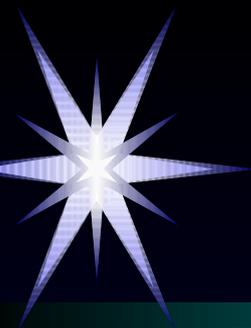




Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



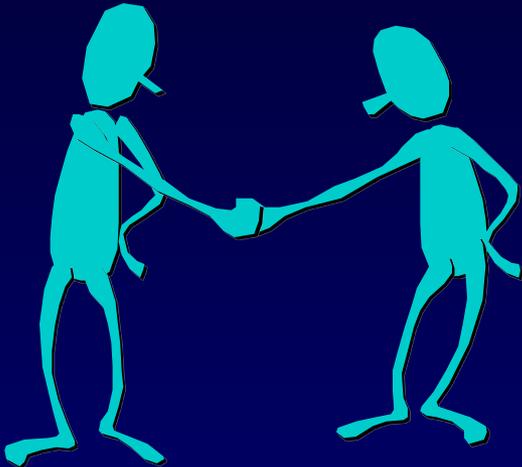
5. Is there a high percentage of members whose worship attendance is one Sunday per month or less?
6. How many of your members feel “left out”?
7. Are there large numbers of first-time visitors who don’t come back?

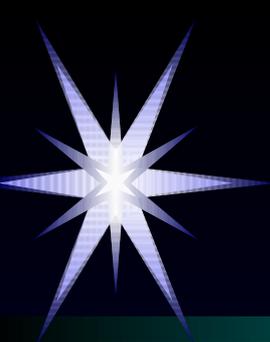


What percentage of visitors return?

Average non-growing church: 9%
(1 in 10)

Average in growing churches: 21%
(2 in 10)

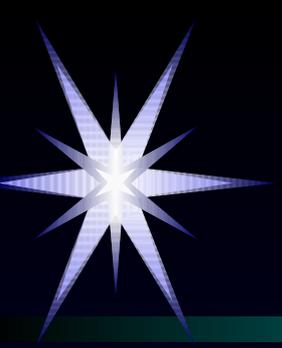




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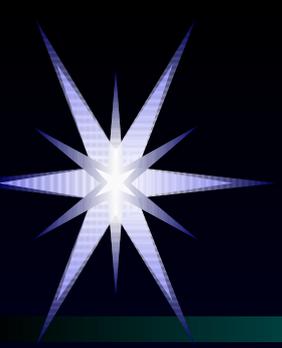
8. Is there a high percentage of new members who were not exposed to the ministries and people of your church prior to joining?



How many times have **they** **heard** the good news?

- Average number of evangelistic influences active members were exposed to: * **6**
- Average number of evangelistic influences drop-outs were exposed to: * **2**

* prior to their conversion



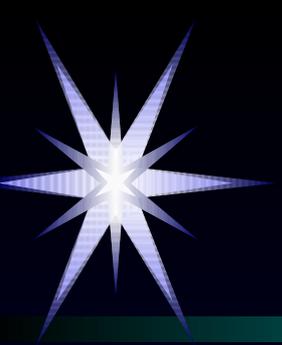
How many times do **you** **share** the good news?

- Number of evangelistic influences provided in growing churches: **9**
- Number of evangelistic influences provided in plateaued churches: **7**
- Number of evangelistic influences provided in declining churches: **3**

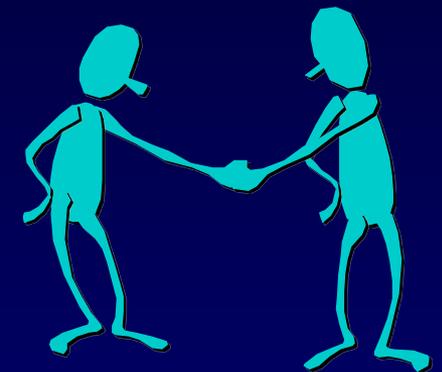
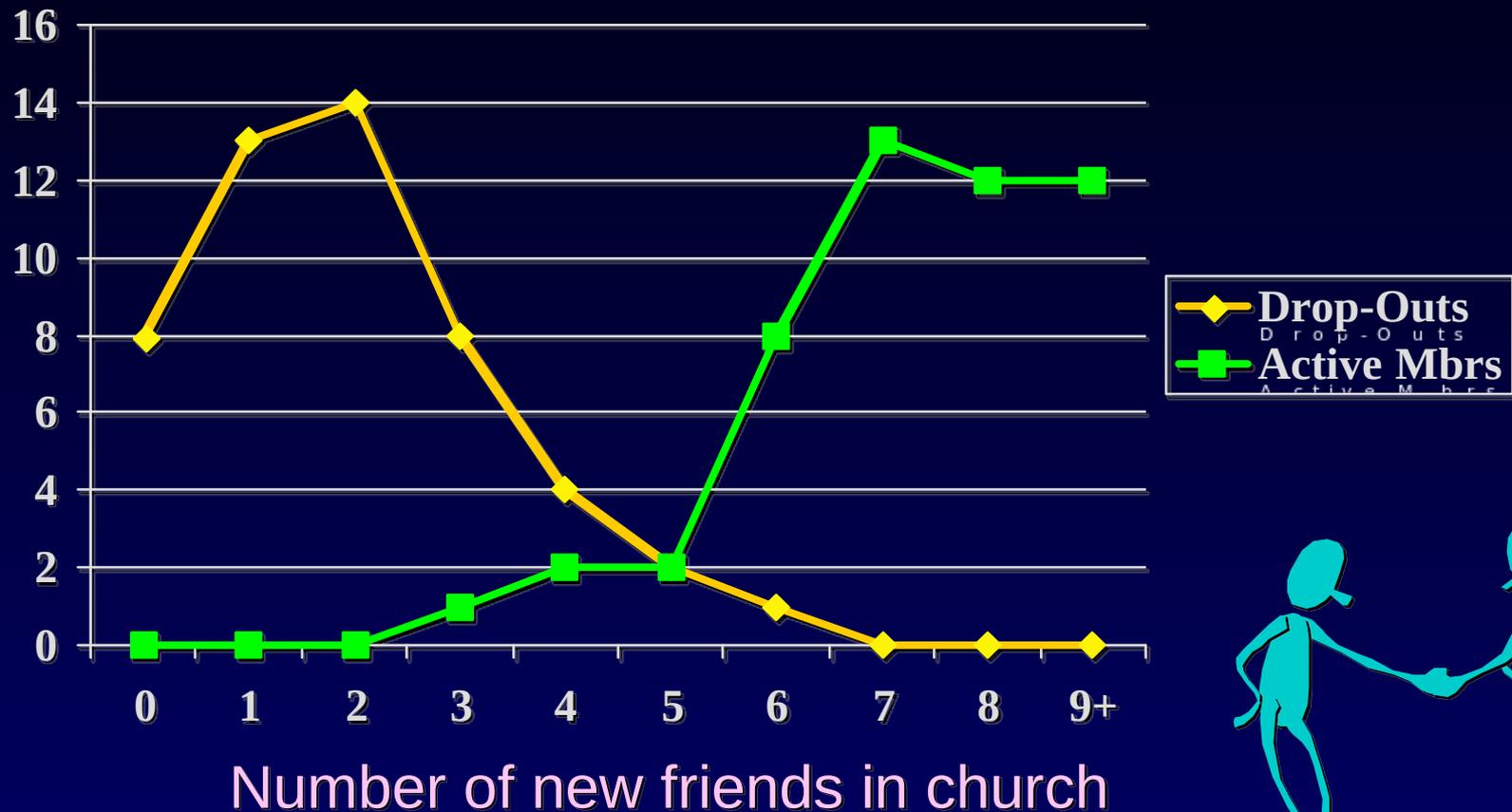
Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?

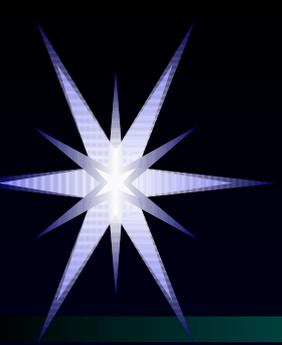


8. Is there a high percentage of new members who were not exposed to the ministries and people of your church prior to joining?
9. Are there large numbers of new members who don't have a friend or relative in the church?



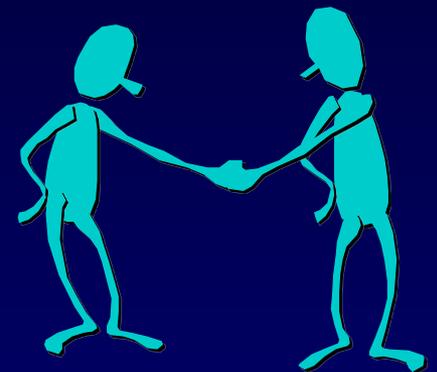
New Friendships Established After Membership

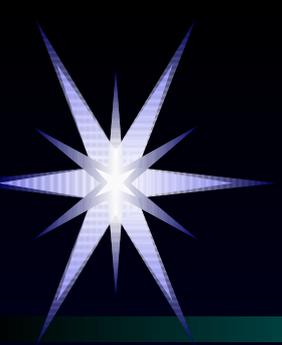




New Friendships Established After Membership

- ▶ Average number of new friends in church for active members: **7**
- ▶ Average number of new friends in church for drop-outs: **2**

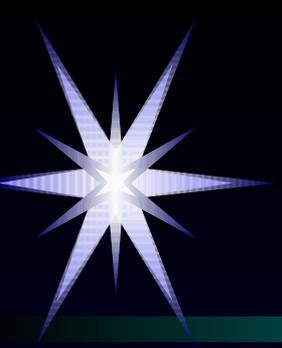




Do We Have An Assimilation Problem?



8. Is there a high percentage of new members who were not exposed to the ministries and people of your church prior to joining?
9. Are there large numbers of new members who don't have a friend or relative in the church?
10. Are there members whose level of involvement has suddenly declined?



Discussion Question:



Based on these questions ...

“What issues stood out in your mind (for your church) during this morning’s sessions?”

