2G CHURCH IN A 4G WORLD

Can You Hear Me Now?

CEF Meeting
September 8, 2011
Dan R. Dick, presenter
WHAT THE HECK’S A “G”? 

- In communication technology, “G” connotes the Generation of technological advancement.
  - **1G** is personal, face-to-face communication.
  - **2G** is personal, point-to-point distance communication.
  - **3G** is point-to-multi-point broadcast communication.
  - **4G** is multi-point-to-multi-point/multi-platform communication.
### CHURCH IN 1911 (2G)

- Average size of Methodist Church/Evangelical Association/Church of the United Brethren in Christ congregations: 65 members
- Average attendance: 110
- Average number of worship services per week: 3
- Average footprint (physical size of church facility): 2,100 sq. ft.
- Average annual church budget: $6,212.00
- Average annual clergy compensation: $572.00 ($11/wk.)
- Average annual cost of insurance: $0
- Percentage of budget spent on mission work: 67%
- Percentage of churches with electricity: 39%
- Percentage of churches with indoor plumbing: 28%
CHURCH IN 2011 (3G)

- Average size of United Methodist Church: 131 members
- Average attendance: 78
- Average number of worship services per week: 2
- Average footprint (physical size of church facility): 11,800 sq. ft.
- Average annual church budget: $87,446.00
- Average annual clergy compensation (w/o housing): $39,900 ($767/wk.)
- Average annual cost of insurance: $19,100
- Percentage of budget spent on mission work: 3%
- Percentage of churches with video projection capability: 39%
- Percentage of churches with wireless Internet access: 28%
• 1 – in – 9 clergy lived in the church building
• 3 – in – 5 clergy had a second job
• Children’s Sunday school was the focus of Sunday morning – more children attended SS than adults attended worship (by about 50%)
• 31% of clergy were single men
• The highest paid clergy in the state of Wisconsin made a whopping $40 per week!
• From 1911 to 2011, expenses have risen 1400%, giving 900%
• Mission allocation shrunk from 67% of our budgets to 3% (bumped to 11% by World Service and other general church apportionments – when paid-in-full)
WHAT IF…?

- ...worship wasn’t all about us?
- ...we trusted our laity leadership as much as our clergy to actually lead?
- ...we saw technology as a gift and not as a threat and learned to make friends with it?
- ...we envisioned a truly pluralistic global community of faith?
- ...we got serious about making disciples and transforming the world?
- ...we dedicated ourselves anew to be “connectional” and “united?”
CHURCH FOR A 4G WORLD

- **4G is all about RPG:**
  - **Relationships** (Networks, Dialogue, Communication)
  - **Productivity** (Performance, Engagement, Making a Difference)
  - **Global Community** (Unity, Harmony, Justice, Service, & Breaking Down the Dividing Walls of Hostility)
4G CHURCH EXAMPLES

- Skype, Texting, Live Streaming, Instant Messaging in Worship
- Online Bible studies
- Podcast, Global association networks, social networking learning communities