

# **Church Momentum Killers**

Every church leader struggles to keep momentum. It is a fact of life that momentum comes and goes. However, what I have discovered is that those who succeed the most are the ones who purposefully and endlessly struggle to keep momentum on their side. I remember the very first time I felt that I lost momentum. I made a series of bad decisions because I was trying to avoid conflict with a disgruntled church member. I should have dealt with that person on my own and faced a very uncomfortable situation early before it got out of hand. Instead, I tried to appease him and it backfired. While our young church had gained much momentum in its first year, it took a long time to recover from the loss of momentum brought on by that situation and its effects were felt for a number of months thereafter. Let me share with you four things that kill momentum.

## **1. Financial challenges**

Leaders of small churches in particular can experience shifts in momentum based on the financial health of the parish. A good Sunday offering, and all is well. But a bad offering, and we feel like the sky is falling and with it, the whole of our ministry! I encourage you to resist the perspective of “financial doom and gloom” over your ministry; keep the momentum by purposefully planning the next stage of growth.

## **2. A Disgruntled Church Member**

Church leaders tend to overextend themselves trying to reason with someone who most likely will not turn to reason. A momentum killer is failing to recognize when it's better to release than to reason. That applies particularly when the disgruntled is the parish secretary or treasurer or a previously trust church official. No one knows more about the inner workings of your church than the church secretary or the treasurer. They know where you are strong and where you are weak.

## **3. Repeating a Mistake**

Nothing can take the wind out of a church's sail more than to make the same mistake twice. It takes away momentum because leaders generally tend to be harder on themselves than they ought. The Apostle Paul counselled that we should choose no longer to focus on the past but rather press on towards the prize of the high calling. But it can be difficult to let mistakes go, especially when you realize that it is the second or third time committing the same mistake.

## **4. Noticing that there are other parishes that seem “more successful” than yours**

If you look hard enough, no matter how healthy your parish is, you will always be able to find some parish somewhere that seems to be doing better than you are! But success is a matter of perception (Pr. 13:7). It is very good to rejoice when others are blessed. But it is always fatal to believe that that blessing has come because that parish is somehow “better” than yours. This type of thinking kills all momentum.

## **Fight the good fight**

Keeping your momentum is a battle worth fighting. If you find yourself struggling with any of the above mentioned momentum killers, perhaps it is time to examine what you are focusing on. God's voice of encouragement reminds us that we are to fix our eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith; he who calls you is Faithful. When our eyes are appropriately focused on him, all else falls into its proper alignment and the channels of momentum flow again.