

## Church Health Process

### Stone Mountain Baptist Association

**Objective:** To work through a customized approach with a church to help them “reach the summit” and become healthy, witnessing, reproducing churches.

#### Alignment with Convention and Associational Objectives and Goals

**SMBA Mission Statement:** SMBAC strengthens churches to mobilize and multiply in partnership to ignite spiritual awakening.”

**SMBA Core Value:** Our Focus is strengthening the local church

**SMBA Goals:** Grow: to help churches grow, reproduce and expand the Kingdom!

#### The Process

SMBA’s Missionary, Dr. Larry Cheek and our Church Health Team will work to help the church with the following:

- A. Work with a Pastor a Church staff and key laity who have a desire to lead their church to “reach the summit.”
- B. We will begin by conducting a church health survey with the church in conjunction with the project to establish a “baseline” assessment of the challenges facing the church and its future.

We use the Natural Church Development process which helps a church identify its strength and its weakness based on the 8 quality characteristics of a healthy church that have been common in churches worldwide, which are:

- Empowering Leadership
- Gift Oriented Ministry
- Passionate Spirituality
- Functional Structure
- Inspiring Worship
- Holistic Small Groups
- Need Oriented Evangelism
- Loving Relationships

Proposed Introduction of the Process and Survey to the Church: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Survey date: (25 needed for the survey/a cross section of the church)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Site Visit: We will spend a day in your community for the following purposes:
  1. To visit and interview key government and civic leaders regarding the future of the area.
  2. To conduct individual interviews of key church leaders and staff.

3. To visit the physical plant and the community and to make observations and suggestions.

This will be conducted on a date suitable to our calendars and that of the church staff.

- D. We will compile an initial report and share that first with the Pastor and then message that report to the Implementation Team as a guide for their work.
- E. The Implementation Team and Pastor will be responsible for how this report and their work is presented to the church.

**Resources Needed:**

- A. The church will enlist a Reach the Summit Implementation Team (5-7 persons) selected by the church. The Team will be provided copies of Reaching the Summit and its Implementation Guide.
- B. Church will purchase the Natural Church Development Survey from the Association and we will score the survey in our office. Cost is \$200.00
- C. SMBA will covenant to lead a meeting once a month with the Summit Implementation Team. The guide to this process will be Yate's book, Reaching the Summit: Avoiding and Reversing Decline in the Church along with its accompanying Implementation Guide. (Visit [www.soncare.net](http://www.soncare.net) for a bio on Yate's and his book.) The team will commit to meeting a minimum of once a month in another meeting led by the Pastor. Books are available at cost through the Associational office. Cost: \$21.50 per person
- D. SMBA will provide trained leaders and resource support from individuals who have been through the process to come alongside the church to work with the church throughout the process.

**Resources (these may or may not be used, at the discretion of the coaches)**

**Church Health Interview Questions**

**Leadership Survey**

**Assessing Your Church's Health**

**Natural Church Development Survey Results**

**Leadership Evaluation Questions**