

Changed Attitudes

Changed Attitudes Key Result of Reading Book Manuscript

Many New England pastors have read "Becoming a Healthy Church." We wanted to find out what impact that reading had on them and how they "do church," realizing that ideas generated can take years to implement. Here are some responses from pastors we contacted:

Questions Changed Deacons' Focus

When Pastor Mike Rowe of Osterville Baptist Church on Cape Cod read "Becoming a Healthy Church," he was aware that 30 people had come to faith in Christ the previous year. How could they nurture and disciple these new members effectively and prepare them for leadership?

"I condensed some of the material in the manuscript, added the key questions for each of the 10 characteristics, and gave this to the deacons. An amazing thing happened," says Pastor Rowe. "Up until then we were basically problem-solvers in our deacon meetings. But these questions changed our focus dramatically. Now the deacons were asking, for example, 'How does this affect our level of worship, or spiritual disciplines, or loving and caring?' or 'How do we develop more of an outreach focus?'"

For the leadership at Osterville Baptist Church the focus on process and principles rather than programs generated a pro-active stance, rather than a reactive, problem-solving attitude.

"We are now thinking strategically," says Pastor Rowe.

Helped Remove Barriers to Cooperative Ministry

For Pastor Art Gay of First Baptist Church of Portland, Maine, the reading of "Becoming a Healthy Church" coincided with an evaluation of the results of the New England Research Project co-sponsored by Vision New England and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary on unique traits of New Englanders.

"Steve's book and the NERP report helped us identify some of the obstacles that have been barriers to cooperative ministry in the State of Maine," says Pastor Gay. "Out of that came the decision to send our Senior Associate Pastor and chairperson of Mission Maine, Kevin McBride, to Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary to participate in the Doctor of Ministry studies on how to do effective ministry in New England."

As the largest Conservative Baptist Church in Maine, the leaders at First Baptist Church are well aware that they could be a catalytic agent for improving cooperation among churches in Maine.

"Steve's book helped make us aware how we can take out the power of some of the things that have kept us apart in our state," says Pastor Gay. "One of the things we have to deal with in New England is the feeling of despair. That's one reason we have such big crowds at Congress, for it is one time we can get together and feel hopeful about what God is doing in New England. Other parts of our nation do not have the same sense of despair and thus there is not the same kind of getting together for mutually uplifting experiences. In New England, we need each other, and I hope we never get past this."

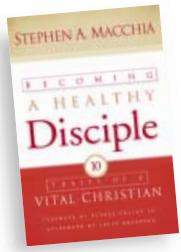
Book Affirmed What Was Working—and Not Working

For Pastor Scott Slocum of Essex Alliance Church in Essex Junction, VT reading "Becoming a Healthy Church" proved to be a most positive experience. "Becoming a Healthy Church" proved to be a positive, affirming experience," says Pastor Slocum. "As I read I kept saying to myself, 'That is happening,' or 'Yes, I see those principles at work in our church.' I was able to recognize areas of health. But I also identified what was not working, where we were not healthy. For example, I recognized what it means to focus on being a community—and feel the pain where it is not happening."

Pastor Slocum compared the experience to that of a doctor looking at an x-ray. He sees the areas of health, but he can also recognize the areas of disease. For that reason "I see pastors and elders going through the book together."

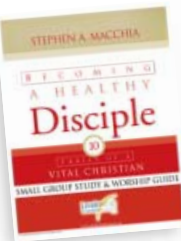
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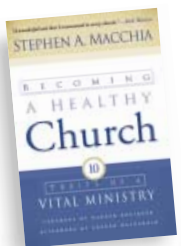
Becoming A Healthy Disciple (Baker, 2004) by Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Macchia. Are you becoming a healthy disciple? Discipleship is a lifelong apprenticeship with the Master, Jesus Christ. He does not expect perfection, only heart and skill development. *Becoming A Healthy Disciple* outlines ten traits that will help you grow as a Christian. Each chapter ends with a disciple's prayer and study questions for personal or group reflection.

Item #V1015 \$9.99 (Retail \$12.99)



Becoming A Healthy Disciple – Small Group Study and Worship Guide
A companion to Steve Macchia's book, *Becoming A Healthy Disciple*, this small-group resource provides discussion and worship outlines to enrich your study of the ten traits of a healthy disciple.

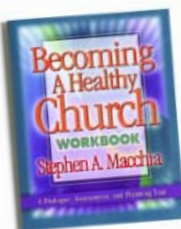
Item #V1016 \$5.99; 5 or more \$5.00 ea.**



Becoming A Healthy Church (Baker, 1999) by Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Macchia. ENGLISH Version. "If you have your health, you have everything; the old axiom about our bodies is equally true of our churches. Macchia goes straight to the heart of what churches need and can do to survive and thrive in the twenty-first century." – Leith Anderson, Wooddale Church

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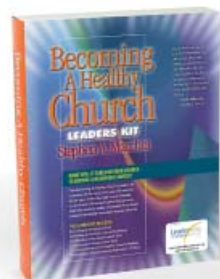
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Becoming A Healthy Church Workbook (Baker, 2001) by Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Macchia. ENGLISH Version. The companion piece to Steve Macchia's book, *Becoming A Healthy Church*, provides summaries of the Ten Characteristics of a Healthy Church and looks at seven key questions that need to be answered by every leadership team.

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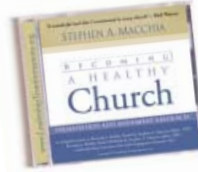
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The entire set of Healthy Church resources in one complete kit. Especially designed for church leaders, the kit contains all the resources you will need to guide your team through the healthy church assessment and ministry planning process:

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- *Becoming A Healthy Church Workbook* (Item #V1014)
- **Leadership Team Assessment Tool** (Item #V1011)
- **Congregation Assessment Tool** (Item #V1012)
- **The 10 Characteristics of a Healthy Church** booklet (Item #V1002)
- **Presentation and Assessment Resources CD-Rom** (Item #V1017)

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Newly published, this CD-Rom contains all the tools and resources you need to help you facilitate the assessment and planning process:

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- **Five R's of Implementation** (Word)
- **Introduction to the Healthy Church Process** (PowerPoint)

TEN CHARACTERISTICS

- **Ten Characteristics of a Healthy Church** (English version only: PowerPoint, PDF, and audio files)

ASSESSMENT

- **Assessing the Health of Your Church** (PowerPoint)

ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

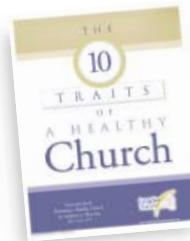
- **Leadership Team Assessment Tool** – Sample (PDF); Tabulation Spreadsheet (Excel); and Tabulation Instructions (Word)
- **Congregation Assessment Tool** – Sample (PDF); Tabulation Spreadsheet (Excel); and Tabulation Instructions (Word)
- **Additional Assessment Questions** (PDF)

PLANNING

- **Moving from Assessment to Planning** (PowerPoint)

*Formatted for Macintosh® and PC. PDF files require Adobe® Acrobat® Reader version 3 or higher. PowerPoint®, Excel® and Word® files require Microsoft® Office 97® for PC, and Office 98® for Macintosh.

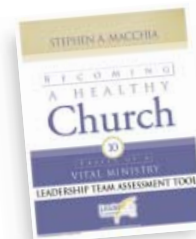
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The 10 Characteristics of a Healthy Church booklet

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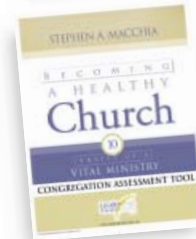
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Trained facilitators are available to assist your church with the health assessment process. Call 1-978-646-4175 for information.

“I loved reading Becoming A Healthy Church. It is a wonderful tool that I recommend to every church that is serious about being purpose-driven.”
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