



DR. LAMAR E. SMITH CENTER FOR
EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

I recently returned from Kansas City where I attended the Leadership Institute 2017, at Church of the Resurrection. It was gratifying to know that around 85 people from the Central Texas Conference were also in attendance. I have found this event to be an invaluable learning experience for me through the years, and this season was no different. The new Sanctuary was pretty amazing too. The Church of the Resurrection, which is referred to as COR, was recently noted as the 32nd fastest growing church in America by Outreach Magazine and the only Methodist Church on the list. COR is also the largest attended Methodist Church with over 10,000 in attendance each weekend.

Adam Hamilton, Sr. Pastor at COR, said this, **“The best way to grow a church is with new worship services.”**

I am convinced this is true. Creating new places for new people attracts new people. Research and my own experience have proven this. The church I served for many years had plateaued. As we began adding new services over the next several years, we added more than 900 people to our average worship attendance. Typically, new services not only grow a church, they also transform it. Churches have a tough time staying member-centered when new services are directed at those outside the church. New services are a wonderful way to step off a plateau, turn around stagnation, and change the culture of a church to a growth culture.

Tony Morgan, with The Unstuck Group, another presenter at Leadership Institute 2017, spoke on **“Churches don’t drift to health, its new actions that create new results.”**