

You can't do this *and* expect the best results for your church. Which will you choose in 2018?

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



## Welcome to the New Leadership Network *Advance*!

Our email newsletter just got an upgrade for 2018. We hope you will enjoy the new look and feel, as well as fresh content on the church, our research, innovative ideas, and opportunities for your team to grow and learn.

## You Can't Stand Pat

*By Dave Travis*

Well you can, but the results are less than best.

A few years ago I was talking to one of our pastors who had been engaged with us for a long time. The church had just gone multisite and it went very well for them for that past year.

He asked: "What do you think we will have to address now?"

I said, "That depends. If you want to consider growing in the multisite expressions you are going to have to focus on leadership development more. And if you are trying to do that, you had better address some of the financial issues. Your giving might look good for the size you were last year, but at your growth rate, it's clear to me that the people need to be taught more on generosity."

After a few weeks, he called me back.

"I have decided that we should stand pat right now. The staff doesn't want any more change. They are struggling now getting their heads around multisite and layering any additional plans will tip them over. I think we will just wait."

**Seven years later they are still waiting.**

This is a church that has a lot of things going for it. Good location, facilities, opportunities

for ministry. It's a pretty good church.

But since that time they have actually declined in attendance. Declined in giving. Stopped developing staff. Some good ones have left for other places and others have stepped in.

What happened?

**I think the decision to stand pat was the wrong decision.**

I understand how leaders can feel overwhelmed when navigating change initiatives. I get it emotionally, spiritually and leadershiply. But standing pat for too long kills momentum, enthusiasm and morale.

As you think about your leadership and your church for the next year – What are the growth areas? What are the areas that need an intentional plan to be shaped up and developed?

**If you want to stand pat, that is an intentional decision. That decision has consequences.**

Today that same pastor is considering succession. The issues that need to be addressed are now worse than if the church had been intentional then to address the issues at hand. Sure, they can engage them now and they should.

But now fighting lethargy and getting unfrozen is the issue.

Call me an old man, but in my experience, it's always best to stay moving in the direction you want to go by trying to stay up to day, moving forward and working on at least one area of your ministry all the time. It may not always go as planned, but you are moving ahead.

**As you may know, Leadership Network NEVER stands pat.**

We are always adapting and changing. We change our processes when we find a new one or new wrinkles that serve to accelerate our clients.

In the coming year, we have multiple programmatic and leadership changes we will be addressing while at the same time finding new and better ways to serve you, the church leaders that lead innovative churches, in the future.

Our new Accelerator processes even include layers of "Sprints" and new tools to help you make progress even faster.

Learn more about all those by clicking or tapping the banner below.

**The new year is a good time to answer the question: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO ADDRESS THIS YEAR?**

And may you never call me seven years from now and say “We decided to stand pat.”

I would love to hear your thoughts...send me an email to [dave.travis@leadnet.org](mailto:dave.travis@leadnet.org).

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## Our New Multisite Report Is Coming Soon!

*By Tim Nations, Director of Communication & Design*

Based on our research conducted in partnership with Portable Church Industries, a new report on multisite trends will be released to the public soon. In this report we take a look at a key shift in mindset, particularly among younger pastors, and the impact that shift is having on the landscape of the church.

We will give you early access to that report in a subsequent edition of *Advance*. However, if you'd like us to also notify you via email once the report is released, [click or tap here and complete a simple contact form](#).

If you missed our first report, **8 Launch Wins for New Churches and Multisite Campuses**, click or tap on the button below to be taken to our download page.

Download Now



## Things You Want to Know About

*Opportunities for you and your team*

### ImplementationLAB with John Ortberg

*Tuesday, February 6th*

Join us for our next edition of the ImplementationLAB as John Ortberg, author and senior

pastor at Menlo Church, shares how to become a better storyteller. Join the LAB today at [lab.leadnet.org](http://lab.leadnet.org).

## New Research on Developing Women Leaders

### *Starting Today!*

Are you a female serving in a paid or volunteer leadership role at your church? If so, we want to hear about your unique leadership journey! One of our Directors at Leadership Network, Kadi Cole, is doing some landmark research on the process of developing and empowering female leaders in the church. If you have a few minutes to share your perspective, please click or tap on the survey link below to help us out. And if you know of other female church leaders who would also have great input, please forward this to them or share it on social media so they can participate as well.

Thank you for your help! We can't wait to share the results with you.

[Female Church Leaders Survey](#)

## Miss a Previous Edition of Advance?

Catch up with past editions of Leadership Network Advance at [leadnet.org/advance](http://leadnet.org/advance).

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