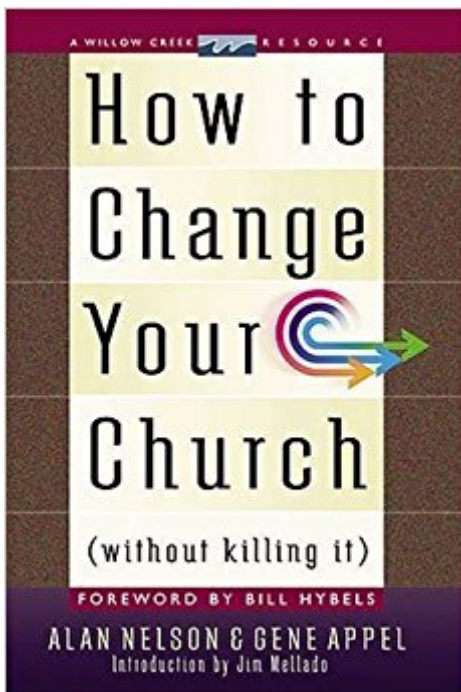


The book was found

# How To Change Your Church



## Synopsis

If you sense that your church's best days are ahead, use this book's guidelines for deciding where and what kind of change to implement. Then tackle Mellado, Appel, and Nelson's strategy for wise planning and team building so your goals will find rich fulfillment. The authors authoritatively cover the elements of initiating change in a church body, addressing such topics as: Examining what motivates you Getting below the skin of improvement Honoring past traditions while developing new ones Understanding the emotional side of change Identifying opinion leaders in your church Determining where you want to go as a body Creating a transition plan Sailing the "leader ship" Making conflict work for you Enjoying the benefits of improved ministry Though many American churches are fading in number and effectiveness, yours can stay on course. Take advantage of others' experience: *How to Change Your Church (Without Killing It)* contains many success and crash-and-burn stories, as well as pointed lessons about how to guide your church through innovation with the least pain possible. Embark on the journey through church change with these able guides and make your local church body irresistible to believers and seekers alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jim Mellado is president of the Willow Creek association, which now has a membership of more than 3,700 congregations. A former Olympic athlete with a Harvard MBA, Mellado is an in-demand church network and organizational expert whose insight has helped the Willow Creek Association

become a leading model in the 21st Century ministry. He and his wife, Leanne, reside in South Barrington, Illinois.

Very good book. It is helpful for any pastor trying to change the culture of the local church to reach those who are unchurched. It is well thought out in regard to dealing with many of the obstacles that each pastor faces as change occurs. It also seems to help those pastors who want to change their church without running people off. The vision section is also very helpful, and this section seems to be one of the most important in the book. It seems that everything starts there. This book was recommended to me by another pastor who used a lot of these methods described in this book to change his church so that they could reach more unchurched people in the community. They had significant growth as a result. In fact, this pastor's church was around 100 years old! The age of that church alone, and the results they got from some of these strategies, should speak volumes about the possibilities that can be developed in any church setting. Further, this book focuses on getting everyone in the church involved in the ministry; and this seems to be what Jesus had in mind. Too many pastors try to do too much on their own, and this book helps to point that out. I recommend it to anyone who needs a strategy for changing the local church culture.

After 28 years in the game of continuous improvement, I was about retired. (Hooray!) Then an opportunity came along for me to do a continuous improvement session with my new church, a dated, slightly dying church with a new pastor. How could I say no? After pouring over three or four books just to get warmed up on church change in conjunction with my decades of experience, I ran across this one. What I like about it: It is comprehensive, and has actual meeting exercises and rating systems you can use to rate items within your church. It covers most types of churches, unlike "Breakout Churches", which only covered churches with long-term pastors, or "Who Stole My Church", which is basically fiction and does not address a whole congregation. It gives you almost immediate tools to use to get started. I like the fact that it does use comprehensive analysis, much like a business would, save with a Biblical bent. There is a useable plan and synopsis at the end of each chapter to refer back to so you don't have to chug back through pages of tight text. What I don't like about it: It was written in 2000. Thirteen years has been an eternity in our culture, our economy, we have almost a whole new generation to worry about. It is becoming a little dated and you need to factor that in. It does not address the power of social media, which has become a huge factor in reaching people, especially the young. With Twitter, Facebook and updated websites with streaming video, you have to kind of fit these in somewhere in your improvements. The book doesn't know

about or address them. They are strong, free types of media you cannot afford to ignore. It is wordy once in over 70 pages. The chapter about emotions almost put me to sleep. They layer up multiple types or personalities and action styles to the point you have to keep a scorecard. It does not use Scripture to back up the things it advocates, although you obviously know what you are reading about. If you need Scripture lines to drive your points home, look elsewhere. Overall, this is so far one of the best I've read. There is stuff in the first 20 pages you can get up and running with. And it is way more detailed and less of a 40,000 foot overview as is "The Purpose Driven Church", which is mainly based on Saddleback and is older yet. (1995) This one, for all its shortcomings, is a keeper. Highly recommended, save for a one star hit due to the wordiness.

It's a gift.

One of the best nuts and bolts books a pastor could have in their library. The only book I would add to this is Kotter's "Leading Change" before taking my church down the path of change. Do your homework before leading congregational change, it'll save you time, money, and heart ache. Do yourself a favor and read this book. It is currently out of print (also not currently available through willowcreek.com) so keep your eyes open for a reasonably priced copy, or borrow from a friend. While it is probably worth the \$90 that it sometimes goes for here on .com, I'd suggest you find one to borrow before you drop that kind of money. I also hope they reprint this, and make a few updates sometime in the near future.

The book binding has not held up properly.

its okay

A friend gave me this book to read as I am praying and thinking about church planting or moving to a dying church to revitalize it. Our church would not have much in common with the Willow Creek philosophy of ministry so I expected to see things I disagreed with, but was looking forward to be challenged in unexpected ways. I was right on both counts. To the reviewer who said there are no references to Scripture, I empathize with your concerns about a Willow Creek model, but there are lots of Scripture references in the book. Unfortunately, many of them are taken completely out of context and incorrectly interpreted to make the author's point (e.g. their "theology of new"), but in many other cases they are helpful and wise such as reminding us of the importance of Eph 4 and 1

Cor 12 type body life during church transitions. I wasn't comfortable with their holding completely secular and pagan theories as equal in authority with the Scriptures ("these things have not changed in 40,000 years), since everything changed 2000 years ago, but they do offer some pragmatic ideas that are not unbiblical which will undoubtedly be a help to some people some of the time. Even with this issue, the authors are not trying to disguise these points as biblical (in most cases) and explain why they think these secular concepts are helpful in a local church context. I'm not going to go buy every Willow Creek book I can find as a result of reading this one, but I am glad my friend gave it to me and there were a handful of things that I thought were helpful to me where I am right now.

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