



SIBURT INSTITUTE

for Church Ministry

WHEN TO ENGAGE A CHURCH CONSULTANT

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Congregational life and leadership bring daily challenges for church leaders. Sometimes those challenges create complexities that seem to defy simple responses, so bringing in an experienced outside voice can provide perspective and offer new insight that aids in finding a way forward. This is the work of consultancy, and more and more churches are engaging with consultants to learn, to gain clarity, and to practice wisdom for the sake of the mission. When might it be useful for a church's leaders to work with a consultant?

WHEN A CHURCH WISHES TO REVIEW ITS HEALTH AND DIRECTION

- Examining mission, vision, and values.
- Assessing whether the church is achieving its aims.
- Asking if a restructure of the leadership model would be beneficial.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the leadership team.
- Reviewing pastoral care.
- Assessing overall clarity of purpose.

WHEN A CHURCH IS GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF CHANGE

- When a church has plateaued.
- Before or after ministerial transitions.
- When a church plans to restructure.
- When a church is in decline.
- When a church is growing and needs to consider structural change to adapt.

WHEN A CHURCH NEEDS OUTSIDE HELP IN DIFFICULT TIMES

- During times of acute conflict.
- After a crisis has occurred.
- When there is a perceived need for an outside perspective.
- When a church struggles with a specific issue that could hinder unity and growth.

Visit siburtinstitute.org/consulting for more information, including recommended consultants.

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Adapted from *Church Consultancy Manual*, Baptist Churches of New South Wales and Australia.