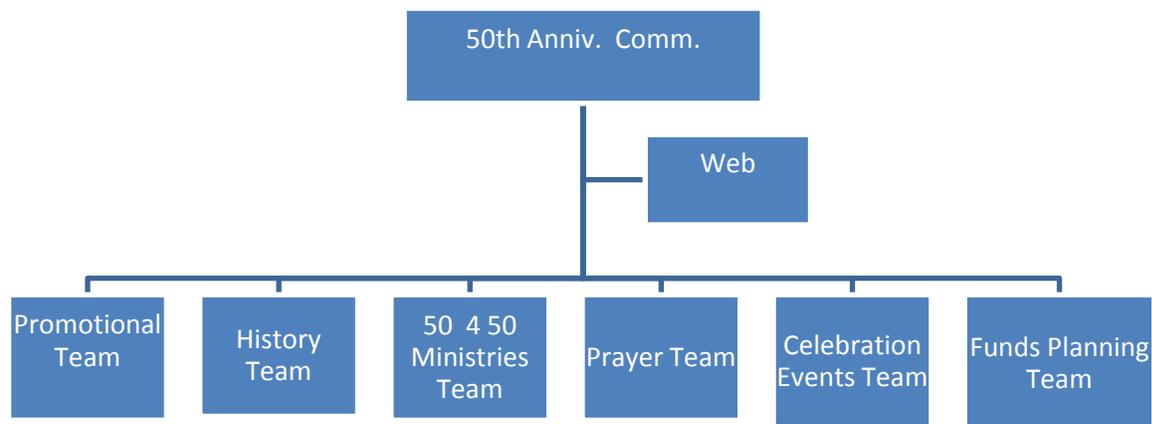


How to Make the Most of a Church 50th Anniversary –Part 2

As our celebration begins, I continue to reflect on what has made this anniversary emphasis so effective. The next two reasons that I would mention are closely related but worthy of separate mention.

Get organized

The third road to an effective celebration is to get organized. While many people decry committees, without them the size of the effort will be limited to the output of the one or two struggling to do all the work. But if the work is divided and delegated properly, the amount to be accomplished can be greatly expanded and diversified. Here is the way we chose to organize our subcommittee framework. Of course, the way another group chooses to organize will be different depending upon what they want to accomplish.



An organizational structure allows each team to focus on part of the task. Each subgroup brings their expertise, creativity, and energy to it. We had monthly meetings of this overall committee in the fall and winter to plan together, generate ideas, make decisions, and provide accountability. In our case, since there were 50th anniversary makeover projects being worked on in parallel with the planning of the celebration, we also had a kitchen makeover committee, a carpet committee, the trustees overseeing the sanctuary makeover, etc. All this functional structure helped us to accomplish much.

Bring many people into the work

A corollary of the above organization is the need to bring many people into the work. Our vision to bring glory to God in our celebration and to prepare our church for the future as the previous generations had handed it to us, motivated many people want to help. But they need to be asked. I learned many years ago that part of the leader's job is to unleash the ministries of others by recruiting them into the work. I teach committee leaders that this is part of their responsibility too. Unless

people are asked they will probably not step forward on their own and they will not have the privilege of sharing in God's work. So asking gives people an opportunity to find out how rewarding it can be to volunteer in God's work. In addition, without all the helpers, I could not possibly have accomplished even a tiny fraction of what has been accomplished in the past 30 months. Great things only happen as many people work together in harmony to honor God. A celebration time is a natural time for connecting with family groups that have long associations with the church. Our makeover emphasis made it an excellent time to get new folks involved in helping shape the future too.