

Part 1

Taking South Shore
Community Church to...

THE NEXT LEVEL

WHAT IS OUR CURRENT LEVEL AS A CHURCH ?



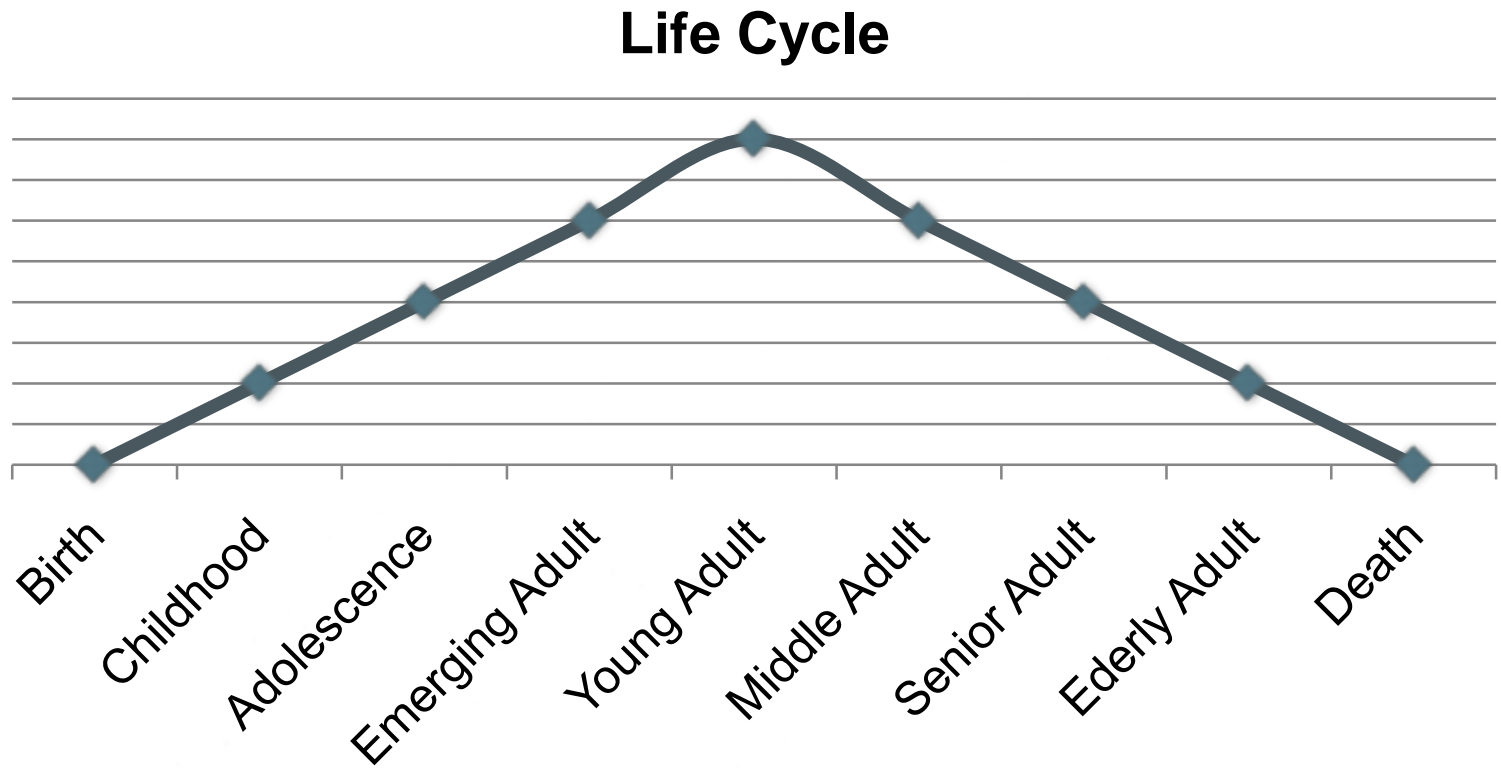
WHAT WE GOT HERE WON'T TAKE US THERE...

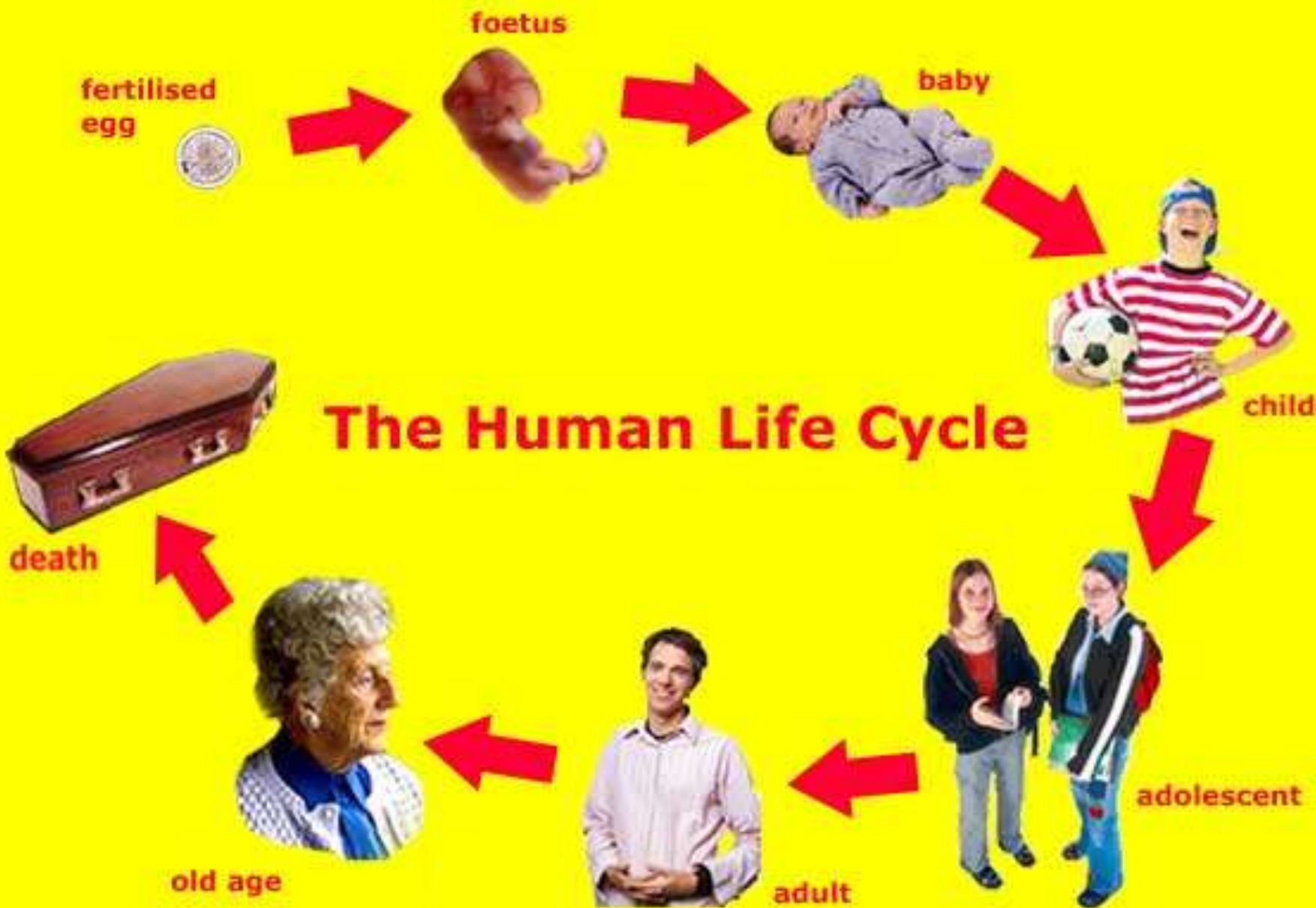
- THE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY CANNOT BE SOLVED AT THE SAME LEVEL OF THINKING WE WERE WHEN WE CREATED THEM – Albert Einstein

WHAT WE GOT HERE WON'T TAKE US THERE...

- The 2 major forces that impact a Church's Growth
 - **AGE**
 - **SIZE**

HUMAN LIFE CYCLE





Life Cycle of an organization

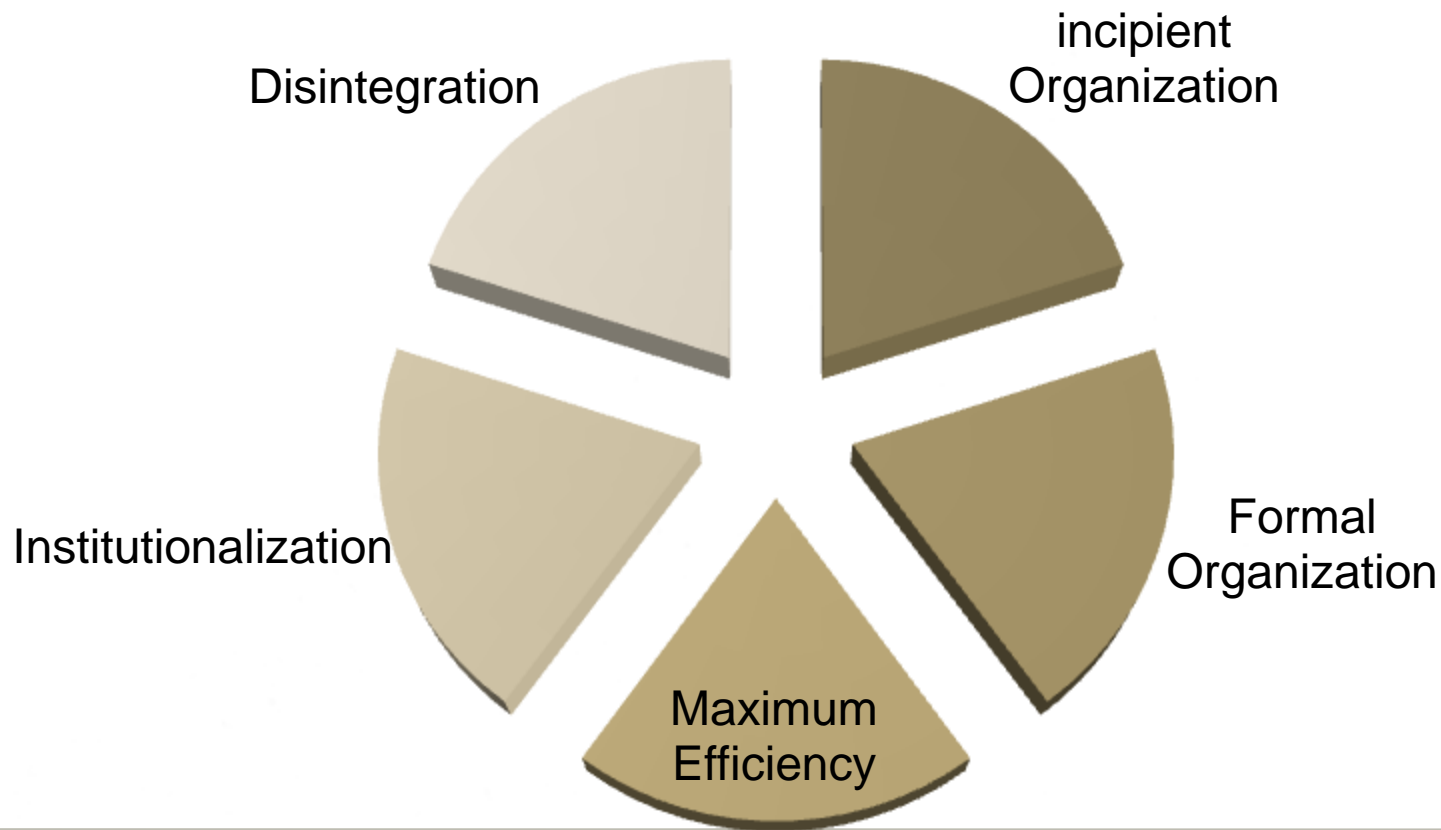
- The difference between a human Life Cycle and an organization is that in the human decline is inevitable.
- Organizations can re-invent themselves for renewed growth and vitality.

Life Cycle of an organization

- The first person to popularize the study of congregations was David Moberg.
- Churches emerge, grow and decline.

Moberg's Life Cycle for a Human Organization

Organizations



CHURCHES

- STUDY OF A LIFE CYCLE OF A CONGREGATION REVEALS A PATTERN AS THEY EMERGE, GROW, DECLINE AND ULTIMATELY DIE

7 Churches of REVELATION

- The book of Revelation shows different cycles of churches that began in the 1st Century.
- Christ praises 5 out of the 7 for their good qualities (aspects of their early cycle)

7 Churches of REVELATION

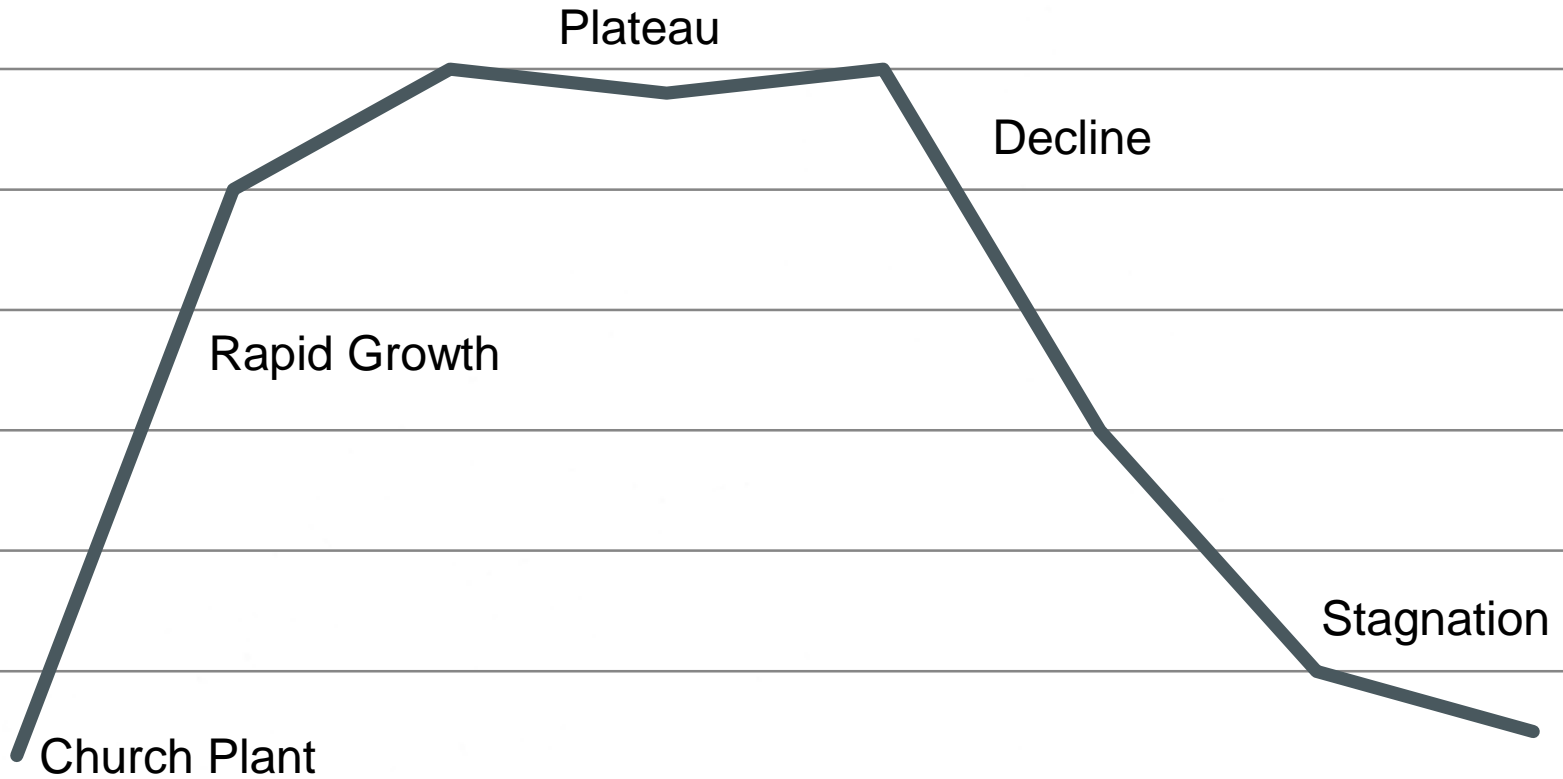
- Ephesus had left its first love; Pergamus harbored false teachers; Thyatira allowed wicked false prophets; Sardis looked good on the outside but it was dead on the inside; Laodicea was complacent

7 Churches of REVELATION

- Each of the 7 churches was on decline and they were only 40 to 50 years old
- South Shore Community Church is almost 80 years old

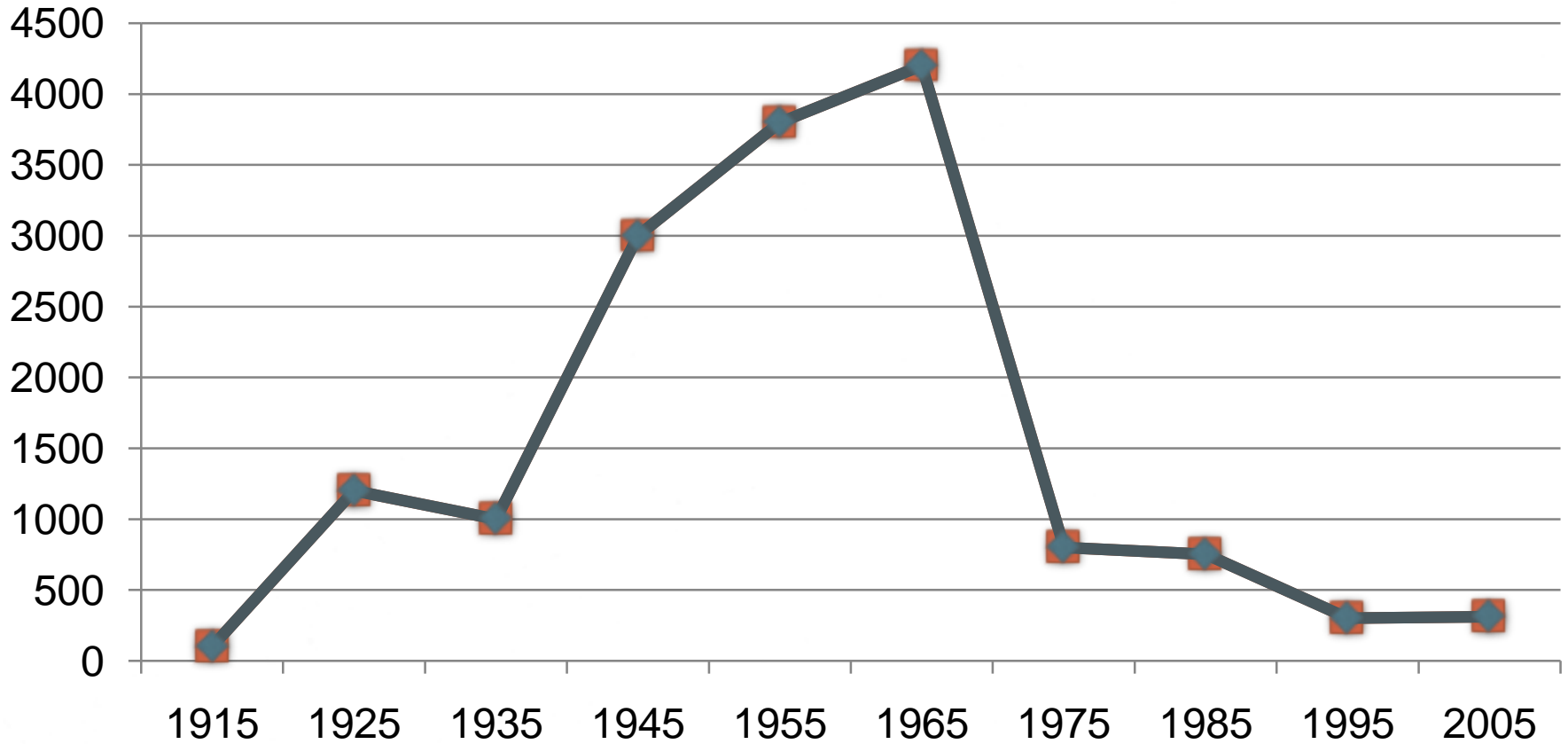
Life Cycle of a Church

Cycle



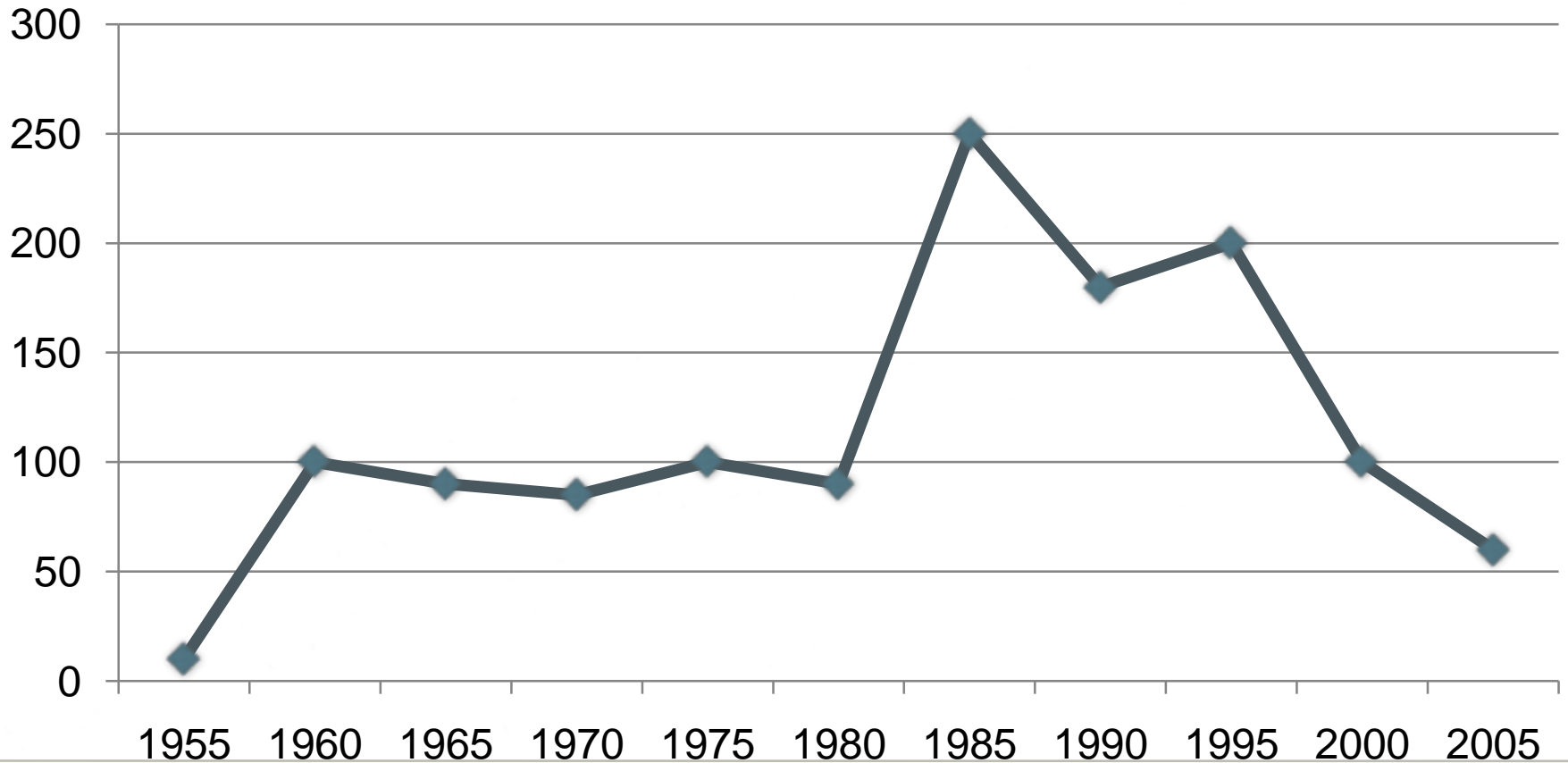
Typical Cycle -BIG CHURCH

Attendance



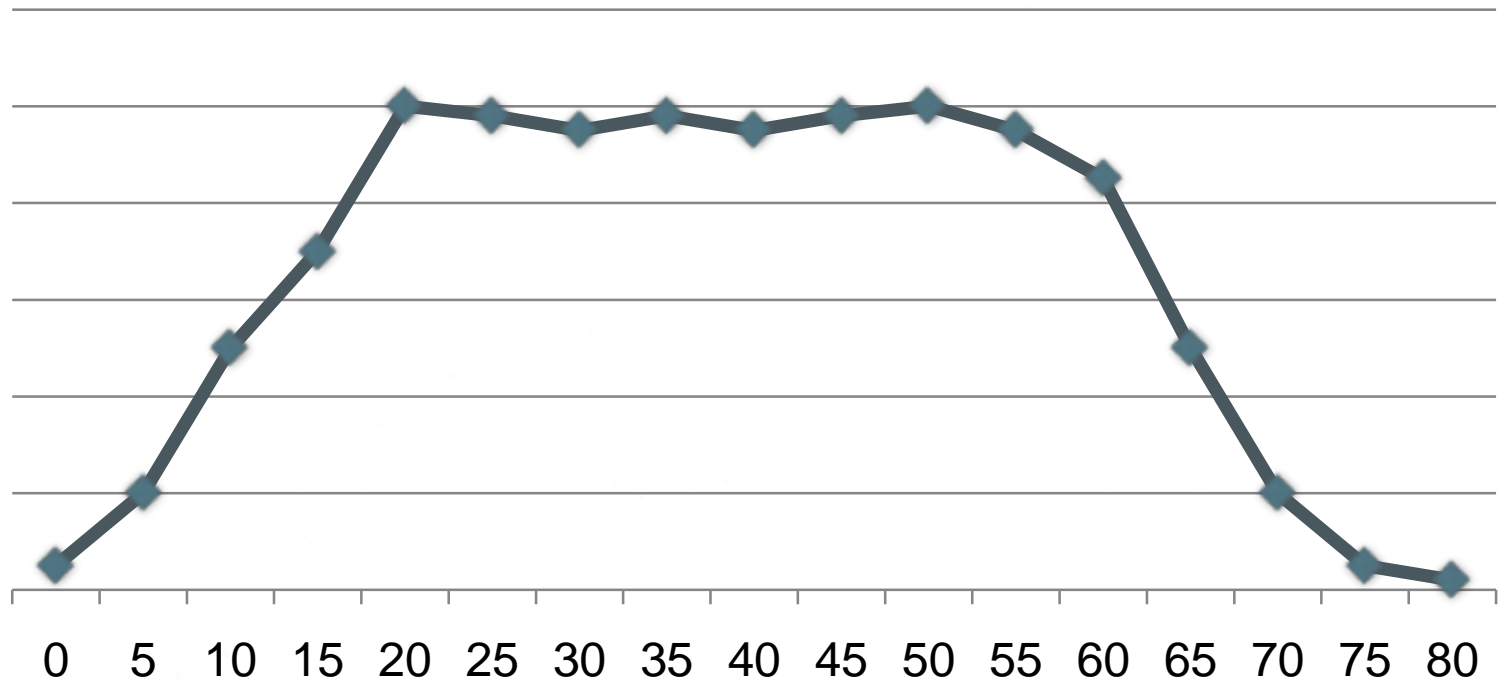
Typical Cycle- Small Church

Attendance



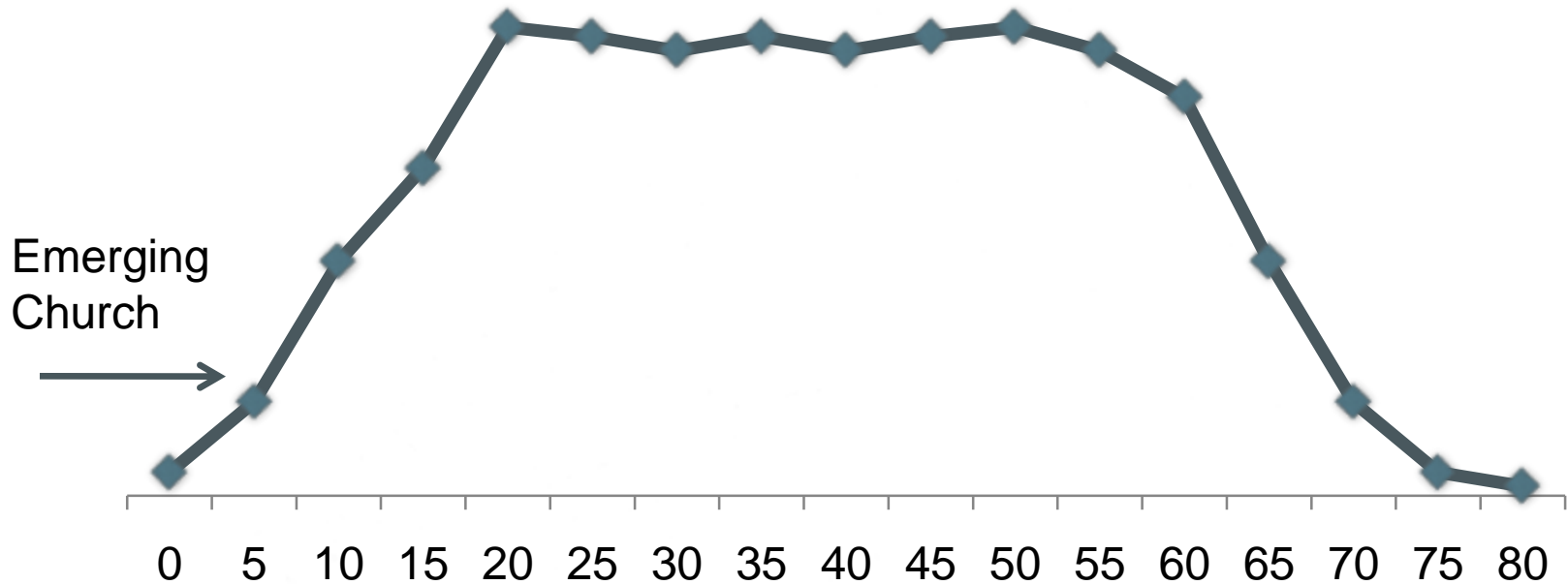
PREDICTABLE LIFE CYCLE OF A CHURCH

YEARS



EMERGING CHURCH

Life Cycle



EMERGING CHURCH

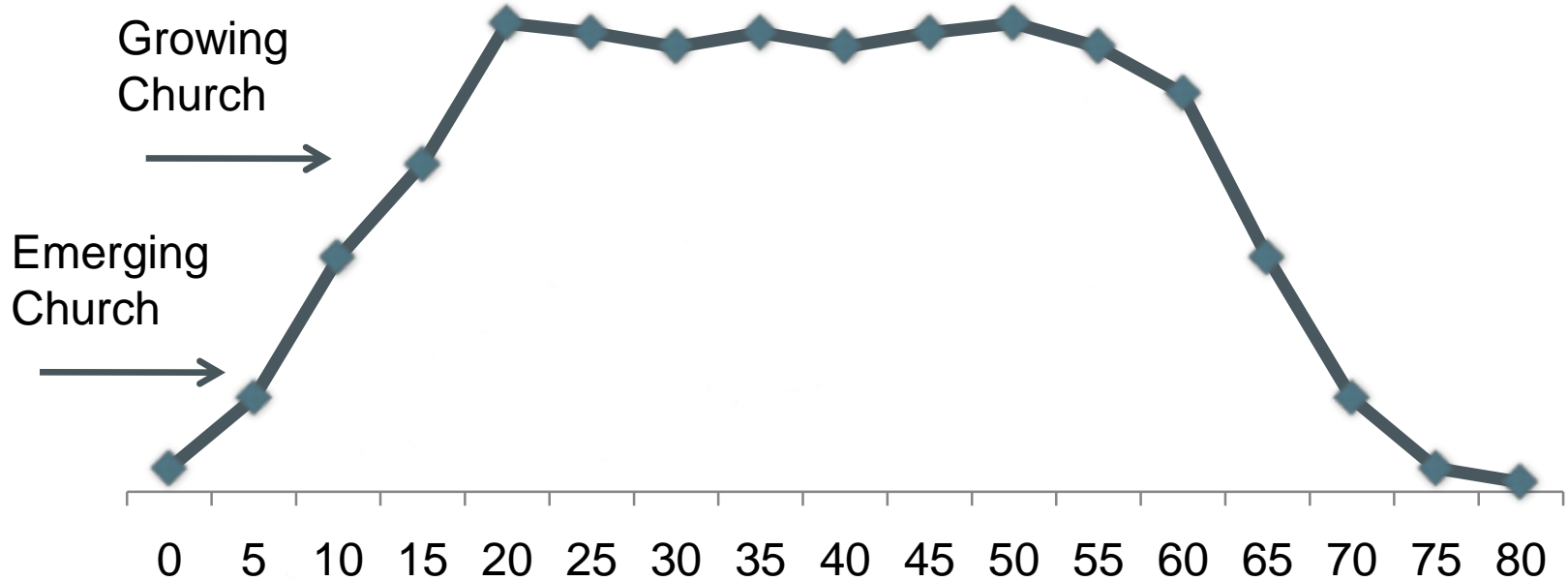
- Mission Very clear; people passionate to fulfill the mission; Energy driving the church into the future
- People committed; High involvement levels; members willing to work; 50% or more serving

EMERGING CHURCH

- Morale is high; positive attitudes; hope for the future
- Facilities rented or leased; meetings in homes; programs start and are canceled; lots of trial and error; spontaneous decision making; changes constant
- Visionary leader; small volunteer staff; designed for the non-christian in mind; desire for more people.

GROWING CHURCH

Life Cycle



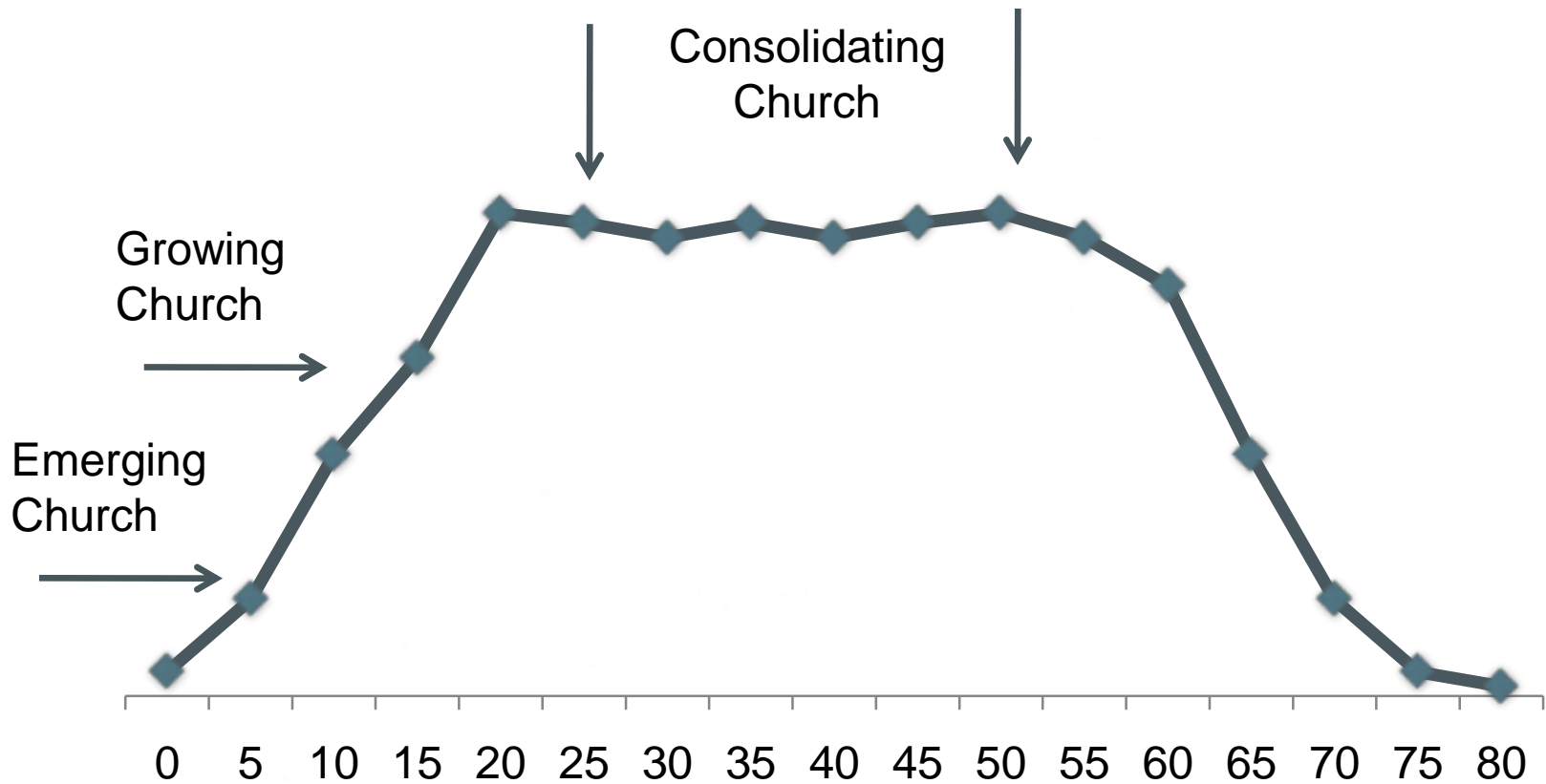
GROWING CHURCH

- Strong sense of mission; high level of ownership; excited about what God is doing;
- Volunteers easily located; people donate time and money; 40% serving; morale is high; core values
- First building completed; vision for bigger facilities

GROWING CHURCH

- Programs developed in response to needs; traditions begin to form; changes easily adopted and accepted
- Full-time pastor with 1 secretary; People very regular in attendance; people invite family and friends

CONSOLIDATING CHURCH



CONSOLIDATING CHURCH

- High visibility of Mission; Second generation members and new members are unaware of mission
- Higher quality of leaders desired; Enthusiasm begins to wane and only 30% serving

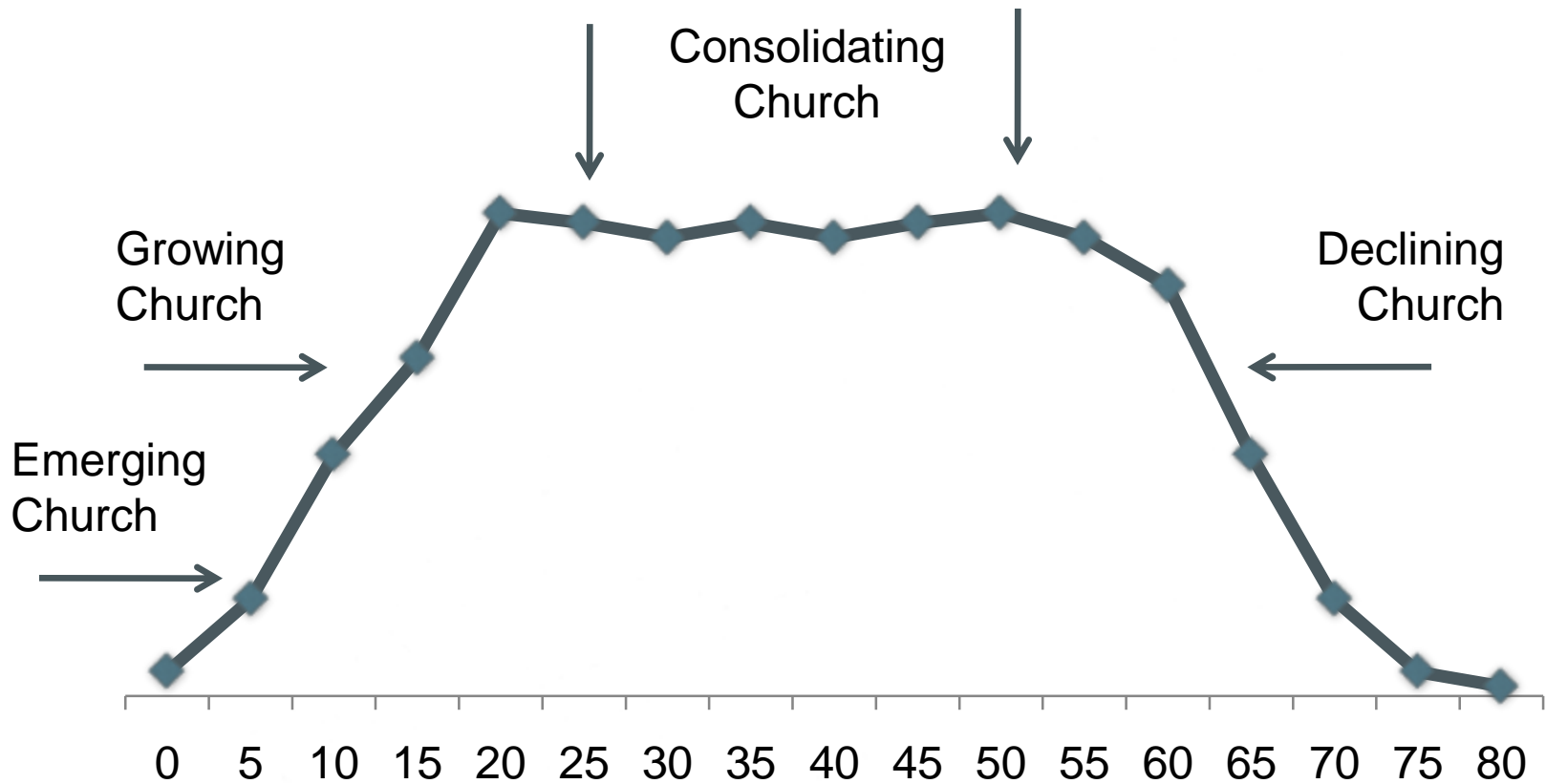
CONSOLIDATING CHURCH

- Morale is at highest; Confidence in goals is contagious; people are proud of their church
- Property is maxed out; possible vision to relocate; programs are formalized Ministry maximized maintenance minimized

CONSOLIDATING CHURCH

- New ideas and leaders responsible for approval; pastor leads multiple staff; pastor works primarily with Church leaders;
- Worship center full; More inactive members but not missed; newcomers not connected due to overcrowded conditions

DECLINING CHURCH



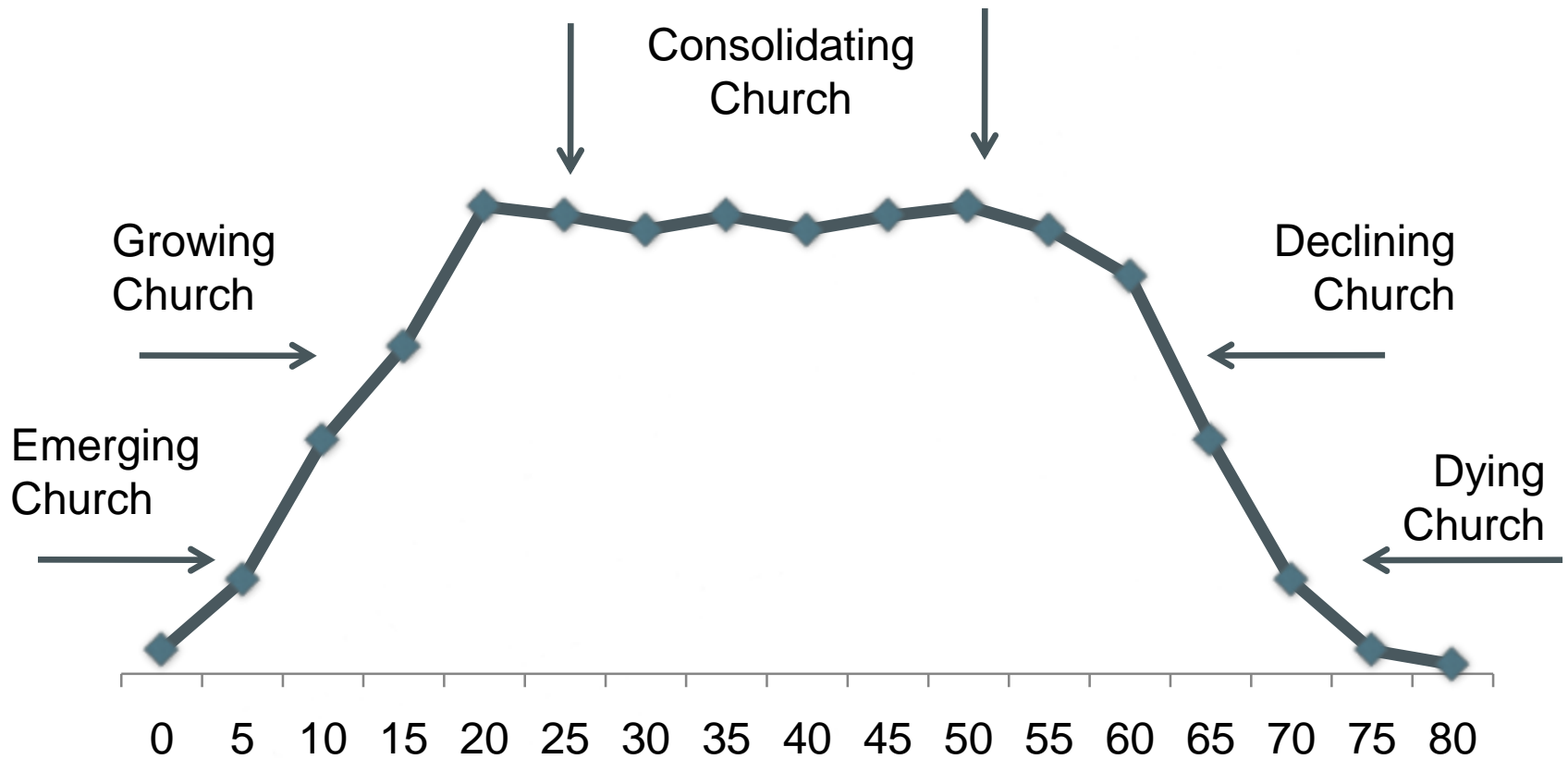
DECLINING CHURCH

- Newcomers and third generation don't know the mission; old members try to restore former mission to avoid decline; original people say "we have done our part"; only 20% serving
- People lose a sense of corporate identity; Self-esteem is based in looking to the past for better days; Morale polarizes; Buildings show their age; Deferred maintenance becomes problem; space for meetings is not a problem

DECLINING CHURCH

- Few new ministries added; programs create needs rather than meet needs; few changes proposed
- Pastor focused on management; Oversees a dwindling staff; worship style out of touch with younger generation; 55% of members not at worship; few newcomers attend

DYING CHURCH



DYING CHURCH

- Sense of mission is lost; Purpose is meeting the budget and survival; few volunteers available; ministry programs eliminated due to lack of leaders or participation; people say “it’s the pastor’s job” only 10% do 90% of the work; frustration evident

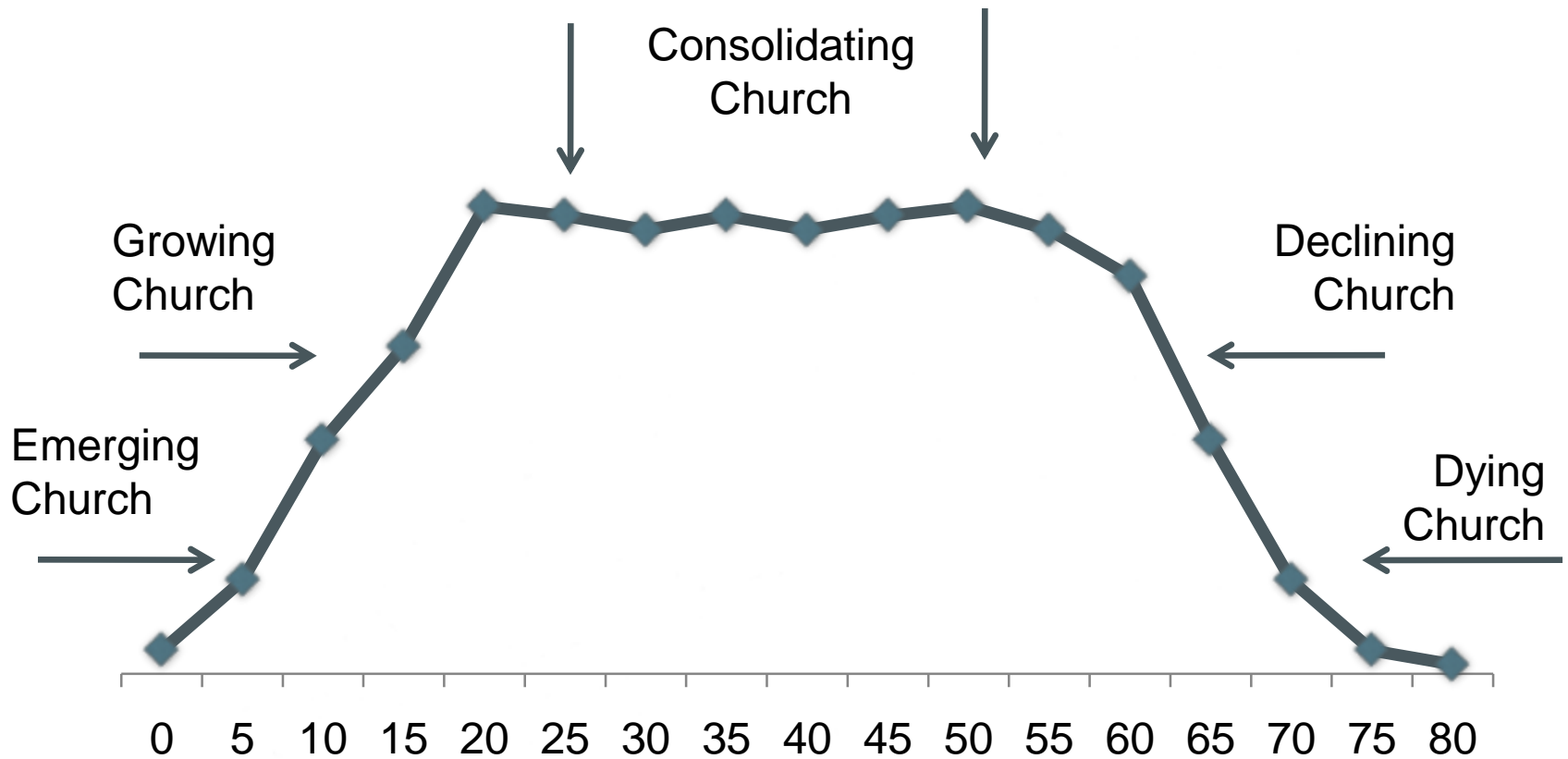
DYING CHURCH

- Corporate self-esteem is based on meeting the budget and missionary obligations; upkeep and maintenance are a problem; more space than needed; closed to change; people say “we tried that and it didn’t work”
- Business meetings are held only to report financial struggles; changes are not allowed; newcomers leave quickly

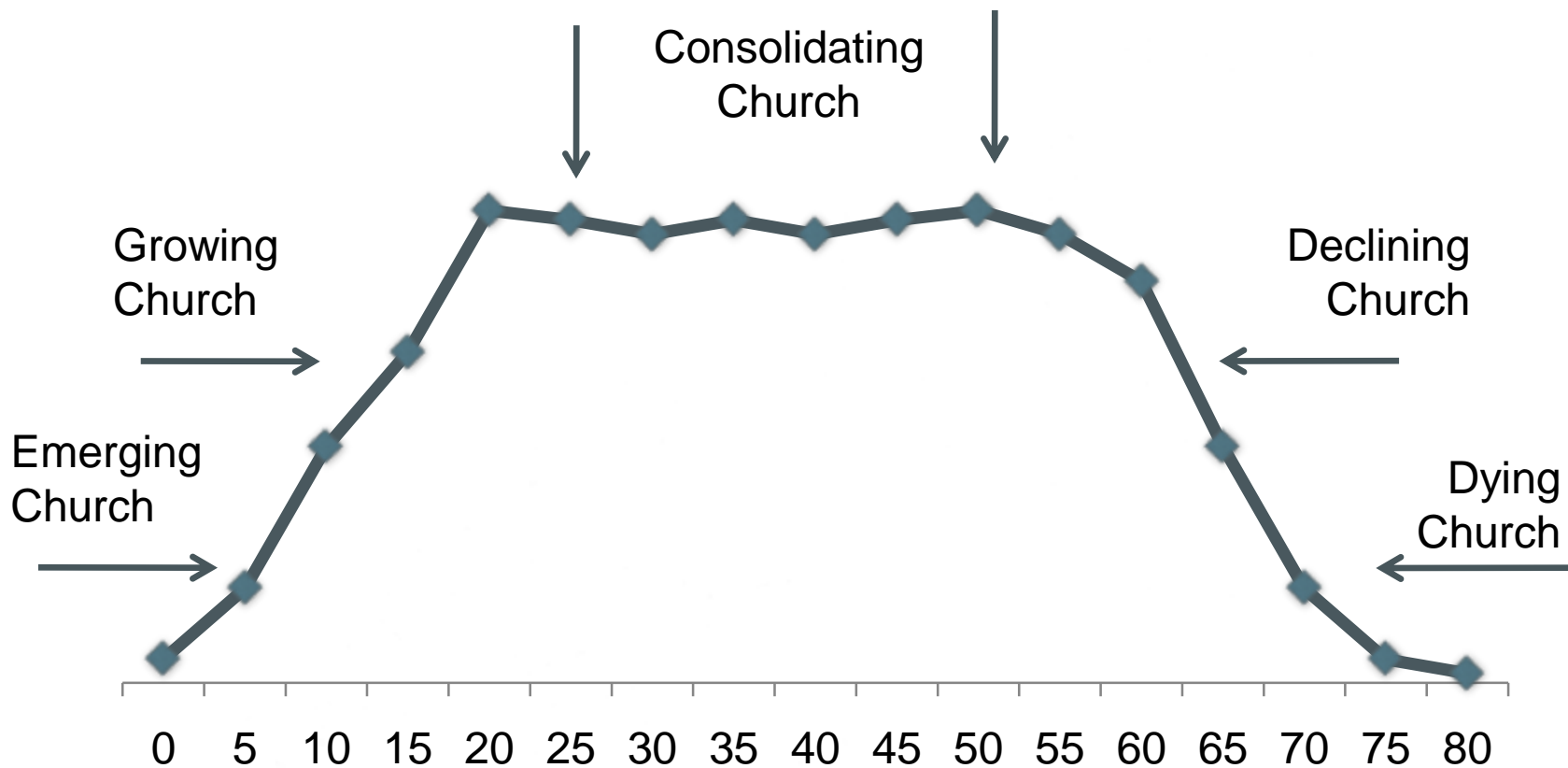
DYING CHURCH

- Pastor looks forward to retirement; Staff eliminated due to budget concerns; Pastor(s) move to other church with more potential
- Worship center uncomfortably empty; 65% of members not at worship; Newcomers rarely seen and never return

WHERE WHERE WE IN 2009 ?



WHERE ARE WE IN 2010 ?



WHAT IS OUR CURRENT LEVEL AS A CHURCH ?



NEXT WEEK....



- How to break declining cycles
- Taking our Church to the next Level