

5 Seismic Shifts in the Church

- 1. New normative attendance levels** - Churches that average 75-200 in attendance will be very common / Large churches with over 1000 in attendance will be on the decline
 - Millennials prefer closer community found in smaller congregations
 - Multi-site revolution is dispersing the crowds
- 2. The virtual revolution** – Outsource some of the full or part-time employees positions
 - Greater funds for ministry
 - Greater efficiency
 - Decrease in liability for the church
- 3. Massive downsizing of facility structure** – Space that is not utilized or underutilized
 - Churches will build small facilities
 - Remodeling worship space for smaller capacity will become normal
 - Churches will discover new ways to use their facilities during the week
- 4. The small group revolution**
 - Churches emphasizing discipleship through groups
 - Churches will be healthier because of it
 - Discipleship requires strategic planning
- 5. The continually learning leader** – Leaders will be “Life Long Learners”
 - Church leaders will continue to press forward and challenge themselves.
 - Church leaders will be systematic about how they organize their lives to make time for reading, school, and conferencing.

Top 5 Trends Impacting Mississippi Baptists for the Next 5 Years

1. **The Perceived Attitudes of Churches – *positive trend***

1. 2012 people in MS who were not attending church believed people inside the church were too judgmental.
2. 2017 the number had fallen of people outside the church believing people inside the church were too judgmental.

2. **People's trust of organized religion - *positive trend***

1. 2012 people in MS not attending church did not trust religious organizations.
2. 2017 the number had dropped of people who do not trust religious organizations.

3. **Baptism rates of MBC churches per 1,000 people in the state population - *needs to improve***

1. 2010 MS Baptist churches reported 12,605 baptisms. (4.25 baptisms per 1,000)
2. 2016 MS Baptist churches reported 10,650 baptisms (3.56 baptisms per 1,000)

4. **Growth of Millennial & Gen Z generational groups as percentage of population – *must change methods without changing the Gospel.***

1. 2017 Millennials is our states single largest generational group. (32.1 % of the population) / 2017 Gen Z represents 17.0% of the state's population – 49.1 % total
2. 2022 they together will represent 54.6 % of our state's population

5. **Decline in the Baby Boomer generation -**

Millennials replacing the leadership and resource providers will be difficult.

1. 2017 Baby Boomers comprise 16.22% of the population / 2022 boomers will represent 14.73% of the population
2. Presently Baby Boomers represent strength of leadership and financial resources in our churches.