

## **Five Opportunities for Change**

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1. **A time of crisis.** The crisis may be anything that causes people in the church to announce, “Something must be done.” A church fire, the death of a pastor, or the loss of church property to a new highway are all samples of crises that enlarge a congregation’s openness to change.
2. **A time of pastoral change.** The coming a new pastor raises questions about the future of the church. It opens the door to discuss the purpose, vision, and goals of the church – all inquiries that force the church to look to the future.
3. **A time of budget preparation.** The annual budget planning process allows the church to rethink its priorities. It can be a time to set new directions and priorities.
4. **A time of revival.** The Holy Spirit occasionally blesses a church with special times of spiritual refreshment. Such moments may follow the prayers of people in the church, but like the wind, we have no sure way of knowing when the Spirit’s renewing presence will come. When God does sovereignly touch the life of a church, doors of opportunity open for new approaches to ministry.
5. **A time of planning.** The most common open door for change is created through a normal process of planning. Scheduling a new class or designing a cutting-edge program induces a church to think in new ways. Developing a long-range plan for the future causes a church to review its past, analyze its present, and envision its future..