

## 8 KEYS TO LONGEVITY IN YOUTH MINISTRY:

### 1. Do you relate to and validate students?

- Do they feel like you are their pastor?
- Do you teach them things that they can relate to and care about?
- Are you challenging them as a pastor and not as a friend?
- Do you keep relationships above board by not sexualizing, keeping confidences you shouldn't or going along with things you know to be wrong?

### 2. How well do you relate to your lead pastor?

- Take him to lunch or coffee to hear what he is thinking about you, your efforts and ministry.
- Are you part of the church at large or are you doing your own thing?  
This would be a good time to talk about his vision and the trickle down.
- Pay attention to what he has said twice or more. He is trying to tell you something that is important to him. If you don't heed his words you may be looking for another job.
- Ask how you can better serve him and the church.
- Affirm him and the job he is doing.

### 3. Do you communicate and relate to parents as well as students?

- Do parents know you enough to trust you?
- Have you given them your heart for youth ministry, your direction, vision?
- Do they know what the rules are that you use to maintain order?
- Do they know your pastoral heart and leadership for students?

### 4. Are you doing what you were hired to do?

- Paying attention to students.
- Answering phone and emails in a timely manner.
- Planning and calendaring.
- Doing what you said you would do.

### 5. Are you organized?

- Do you hear complaints about being last minute?
- Do you give enough time for your staff and volunteers to plan and ask time off work?
- Do you publish dates, times and costs of events?

### 6. Do you have a written policy on boundaries with students for staff?

- Is staff/pastor allowed to go to games and extracurricular activities?
- Can staff/pastor correspond on social media?
- Can staff/pastor take students home or give rides?
- What is your discipline policy?

7. How do you recruit and qualify volunteers?

- Do you have others to help you?
- Do you have others to just be there for accountability purposes?
- Do you expect them to do everything you do?
- Do they know expectations and what their job is?

8. Who is in your circle of friends?

- Are you being challenged to grow by maintaining friends on different levels?
- Do you have people you can talk openly and honestly with?
- Who do you go to for advice?
- Do you have people that have your permission to speak into your life?