

The Consultation is a combination of assessment of the health of the local church, a detailed growth plan, the coaching follow-up and accountability for the pastor and leaders. The process involves the church leadership (not the pastor) completing the congregational self-study. Various parts of the self-study can be assigned to leadership personnel (or others in the church) to be completed. It is critical that all of the requested information be supplied or it delays the process. Once the self-study is received at the Florida Church of God Ministries (FCOGM) offices, a consultation date is scheduled with the church.

Depending on the size of the church, the consultation may be a one or two day event. If the church is less than 50-75 people, the consultation event will likely be Saturday during which the FLCOGM Consultation Team (approximately three persons) will meet with the pastor (if the church has a pastor), a focus group of approximately 15 persons from the church, and the governing board. This is a time to ask questions and listen. There is also a time of teaching integrated in to the meetings. A list of strengths, areas of concern, and recommendations (approximately five of each) are then presented to the governing board and all interested persons from the congregation Saturday afternoon.

If the church is large than 75 persons, the consultation even usually involves a Friday evening and Saturday and includes the same components. If the church has paid multiple staff, the consultation event usually begins mid Friday afternoon and involves one-on-one interviews with each person on the church staff. The recommendations are normally shared with the church following morning worship the next day.

The consultation report gives the leadership and church a designated period of time to consider formally adopting the recommendations. If adopted, a covenant is developed which explains the responsibilities of FLCOGM, the pastor, the church leadership and the congregation. A person on the FLCOGM Coaching Team is assigned to meet with the pastor monthly to coach him or her regarding the implementation of the recommendations. This is a three-year commitment on the part of all parties. The goal is to help the church become healthier and to expand the Kingdom of God.

There is no cost to the local church for the consultation. FLCOGM provides this service free of charge. FLCOGM also underwrites the expenses related to coaching the pastor and church leadership. Any church costs are identified in the covenant, which is customized for each congregation.