

**Table 11.1 Comparison of Characteristics between Maintenance CONGREGATIONS and Missionary CONGREGATIONS**

| <b>Characteristic</b>          | <b>Maintenance Model</b>   | <b>Missionary Model</b>   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Terminology                    | Church   | Missionary outpost of the larger body of Christ   |
| Goals                          | Maintenance of the status quo, with some improvement   | Making disciples who disciple others; growth in worshipping community; spiritual development of disciples; seek transformation and miraculous expectation   |
| Focus                          | Church members   | Community (disciples) and mission (unchurched and dechurched); all parts of the ministry have a focus on engaging people who are outside the fellowship   |
| Discovery                      | Confirmation or inquirer's classes, with varying content   | Opportunities to go deeper; clear content that leads to deeper relationship between those apart from faith community to be in relationship with Christ, and follow Him                              |
| Language                       | Christian jargon (that is, phrases that are confusing or meaningless to the unchurched despite their powerful effect on the church; i.e. Narthex!!!) | Language that is meaningful and familiar to the unchurched  |
| Relevance                      | Requires the individual parishioner to dig it out  | Church and faith made relevant to everyday life of disciples and unchurched through sermons, Christian education, small groups, and all other activities of the missionary outpost                  |
| Acceptance of doubt and belief | Discouraged  | Encouraged, sought!!!   |
| Sermon quality                 | Not as important as other factors  | Crucial; powerful; directly relevant to joys and struggles of daily life; useful to visitors; newcomers, unchurched and disciples (note, this group is last in the list)                            |
| Signage                        | Inadequate signage so that visitors are easily lost or intimidated while finding their way around  | Clear signs / maps that welcome visitors and newcomers and point the way to all possible opportunities on the property; large signs that provide times or worship; designated parking for visitors. |

| Characteristic      | Maintenance Model   | Missionary Model  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Biblical studies    | Some Bible study  | Biblical teaching; regular Sunday Bible study; weekday study at variety of times from early a.m. to late p.m.; special Bible studies (topical) of varying lengths   |
| Prayer              | Limited opportunities for participation in prayer with others | Emphasis on prayer and praying, especially with and for others; many opportunities to pray or be prayed for (prayer meetings, prayer teams, events, retreats, ministries, chains, groups, walks, etc.); all of this “from the heart” not from pre-printed forms, books, or worship aids |
| Small groups        | Some, but not emphasized                                      | Emphasis placed on small groups through which to experience community, fellowship, and faith; many small groups that attract visitors and involve newcomers   |
| Lay ministries      | Some lay ministers involving a few members                    | Many, varied; developed to meet the needs of disciples and unchurched; involve vast majority of congregation  |
| Welcome to visitors | Cold to warm reception  | Enthusiastic!!! reception; newcomers acknowledged and celebrated; mentors and guides available; special packets offered to visitors; follow-up is seen as crucial and significant   |