

10 Ways to Know if Your Church Needs Help with Hard Conversations

- 1) When people are hurt, angry, or confused by someone, they explain it to that person first before speaking with friends, other church members, or church leadership. **Yes or No**
- 2) Our church is growing slowly, but steadily as members share their faith with family, neighbors, and coworkers. **Yes or No**
- 3) Numerous church members share the ministry of visiting the sick, comforting the dying, and caring for caregivers, rather than relying on the pastoral staff. **Yes or No**
- 4) We consistently and effectively work through church conflicts about decisions that effect the entire church community. **Yes or No**
- 5) Hurting members of our congregation feel safe sharing their struggles with issues as serious as addiction, marital strife, financial hardship, and/or mental illness with at their small group or several praying church members. **Yes or No**
- 6) Our members regularly use words to speak specific encouragement to one another and to build up the ministry leadership. **Yes or No**
- 7) There are several mature, capable church members on which the pastoral staff can call to help a member share difficult medical news with family members. **Yes or No**
- 8) Young adults in our congregation routinely come to older church members for advice talking about controversial topics and how the Bible applies to them. **Yes or No**
- 9) We intentionally create opportunities for members of all ages to engage in casual, safe conversations and many members take advantage of these opportunities. **Yes or No**
- 10) Our members see spiritual growth as an ongoing process and are open to hearing ways they can continue to grow from church members and/or leaders. **Yes or No**

If over half your answers are no or you feel there's room to improve in even the yes responses, you'll find help in *The Art of Hard Conversations: Biblical Tools for the Tough Talks that Matter*, by author and speaker, Lori Stanley Roeleveld. This new book provides tools, sample conversations, biblical background, and relatable stories in short, quickly applicable lessons. It's perfect for your ministry team, small groups from teens to seniors, or church school lessons! If you've longed to get your congregation talking, you'll want to order copies now. You can also find information about Lori's **Hard Conversation Workshops** on her website, www.loriroeleveld.com.