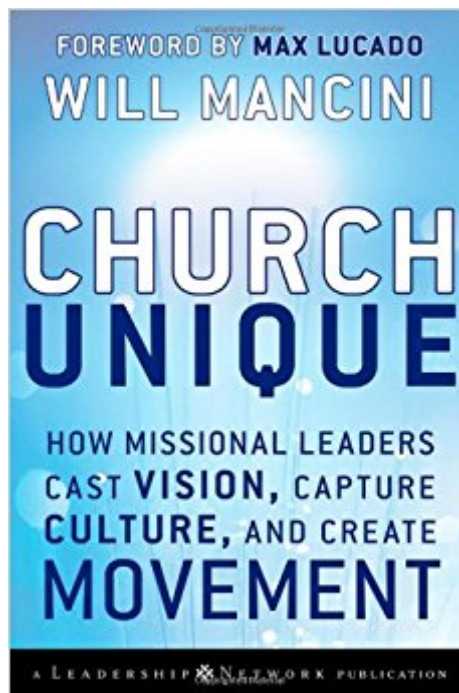




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# Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, And Create Movement



## Synopsis

Written by church consultant Will Mancini expert on a new kind of visioning process to help churches develop a stunningly unique model of ministry that leads to redemptive movement. He guides churches away from an internal focus to emphasize participation in their community and surrounding culture. In this important book, Mancini offers an approach for rethinking what it means to lead with clarity as a visionary. Mancini explains that each church has a culture that reflects its particular values, thoughts, attitudes, and actions and shows how church leaders can unlock their church's individual DNA and unleash their congregation's one-of-a-kind potential.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[Mancini] gives a compelling rationale for the church to move on and accompanies this rationale with instructive support and church-wide challenge. All mission boards and vestries would benefit from the materials contained therein." —The Rev. Jeffrey A. Mackey, *The Living Church* magazine (Sept. 2008) Mancini (founder, Auxano consulting group) believes that all churches need not be megachurches like Willowcreek (IL) or Saddleback (CA). Here, he avoids a mere discussion of churches worthy of emulation and further crosses denominational lines, having himself worked alongside Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, and others. Mancini eschews the title consultant, preferring instead vision navigator. In short, he helps leaders focus on their own unique cultures and congregational fingerprints. Once churches grasp that they are one of a kind—much like galaxies, fossils, DNA, and sandbanks—they can then, Mancini writes, unleash their full potential.

The book, complete with an appendix as well as logos and icons illustrating various churches' visionary thinking, is strengthened by numerous flow charts, diagrams, graphics, and pithy quotes. It has the potential to unseat Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Church* in popularity. Yet academic libraries may want to pass on this title for its admitted lack of supporting empirical evidence. Public libraries, on the other hand, would be wise to purchase a copy. With a foreword by inspirational giant Max Lucado. —C. Brian Smith, Arlington Heights Memorial Lib., IL (Library Journal, May 1, 2008)

*Church Unique* offers church leaders a way to transform their leadership and vision with missional effectiveness. *Church Unique* is written by church consultant Will Mancini—an expert on a new kind of visioning process to help churches develop a stunningly unique model of ministry that leads to redemptive movement. He guides churches away from an internal focus to emphasize participation in their community and surrounding culture. In this important book, Mancini offers an approach for rethinking what it means to lead with clarity as a visionary. Mancini explains that each church has a culture that reflects its particular values, thoughts, attitudes, and actions, and shows how church leaders can unlock their church's individual DNA and unleash their congregation's one-of-a-kind potential. Mancini explores the pitfalls churches often fall into in their attempt to grow, such as adding more programs, using outdated forms of strategic planning, or adopting the latest conference technique. He explores a new model for vision casting and church growth that has been tested with leaders in all kinds of congregations, including mainline, evangelical, small, and large. The practices and ideas outlined in *Church Unique* will help leaders develop missional teams, articulate unique strategies, unpack the baggage of institutionalism, and live fully into their vision. Whether leading a megachurch or church plant, a multisite or mainline, a ministry or parachurch, *Church Unique* will provide inspiration as a practical guide for leading into the future. There is a better way.

From an era of vision casting in the church this work is very thorough in the topics covered yet at the same time gets bogged down in details. It is not a text book that reads like one. It seems out of place in the simple church concepts that church leadership is seeking in this era of 2017. It is amazing how much has changed in such a short time. "Simple Church" by Geiger and Rainer on the otherhand has continued to be relevant in the quest to be pleasing stewards of God's provision of the church. Just over halfway through *Unique* I started flipping through the pages. It wore me out. There are some very helpful portions but for me they came early on.

This book offers some helpful guidance for developing a vision that leads to action rather than just looking good on paper. It lays out the groundwork for establishing the foundation for the vision and giving it a frame within which to develop. There are some good tips for communicating the vision as well. There is a lot of information here, and the process can seem complicated, so reading it slowly and/or more than once can help one digest the information better.

I recommend this book to anyone looking to improve the performance of you team, business or church. The concepts are easily understood and replicated without diminishing the unique qualities of your group or organization. A must read for Pastors of Ministry development.

Awesome book on the essentials of defining and redefining your unique "Mission from God." Book arrived earlier than expected... does a great job!

Will Mancini puts his visioneering process on paper. Biblical, practical, extremely helpful. Mancini delivers on his subtitle: "How missional leaders cast vision, capture culture, and create movement." Working his process is helping us discover and clarify our unique role in God's kingdom.

This book gives me the handles that I need to lead our church in the direction of momentum and traction. I can't wait to put into place and practice the principles laid out in this book. I recommend it for every church leader.

We all need to be stirred but toward a real better intermediate future as a God clears our path. This book is a great instrument in our hands for God to do just that.

Every church as unique is a foreign concept in the mega church/celebrity pastor/leadership conference world we live in today. Mancini reminds us that all those churches we want to copy today found their success by discovering their unique vision. Your church can begin to find its unique vision from the principles in this book. Distinction between mission language and vision language was very good.

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