

## Birthing New Groups

Adapted from *Life Changing Small Groups*, page 165

by Bill Donahue

### Birthing Models

On the next five pages, you will find charts explaining five possibilities for birthing a small group. **There are no right or wrong choices** – each one has its own strengths and weaknesses.

#### A. Apprentice Births Out (Traditional)

##### Original Group

1. Leader stays
2. Finds new apprentice
3. Same host
4. Same group



##### New Group

1. Apprentice becomes new leader
2. Finds new apprentice
3. Finds new host
4. Finds new members
5. Small number of members from old group may choose to come along

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##### Strengths:

- Minimum amount of trauma to original group

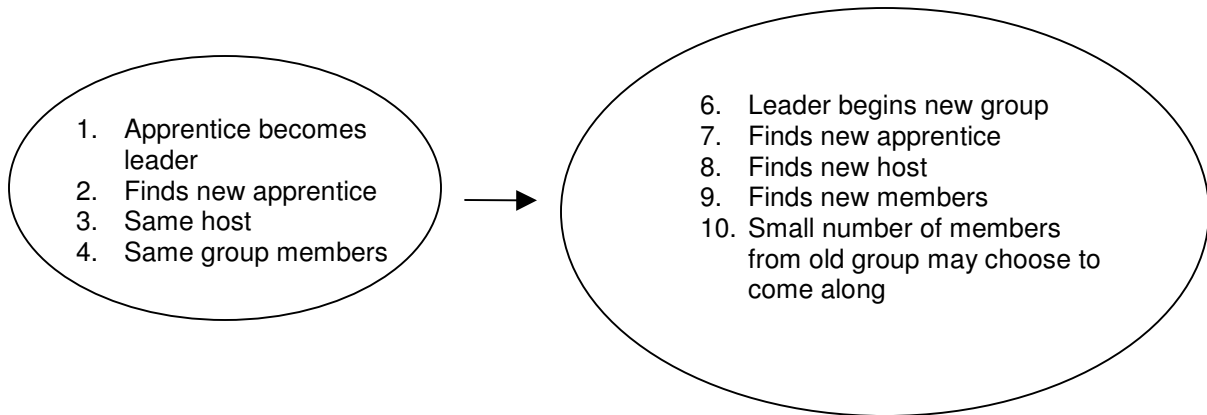
##### Weaknesses:

- Requires a strong apprentice to succeed

## B. Leader Births Out

### Original Group

### New Group



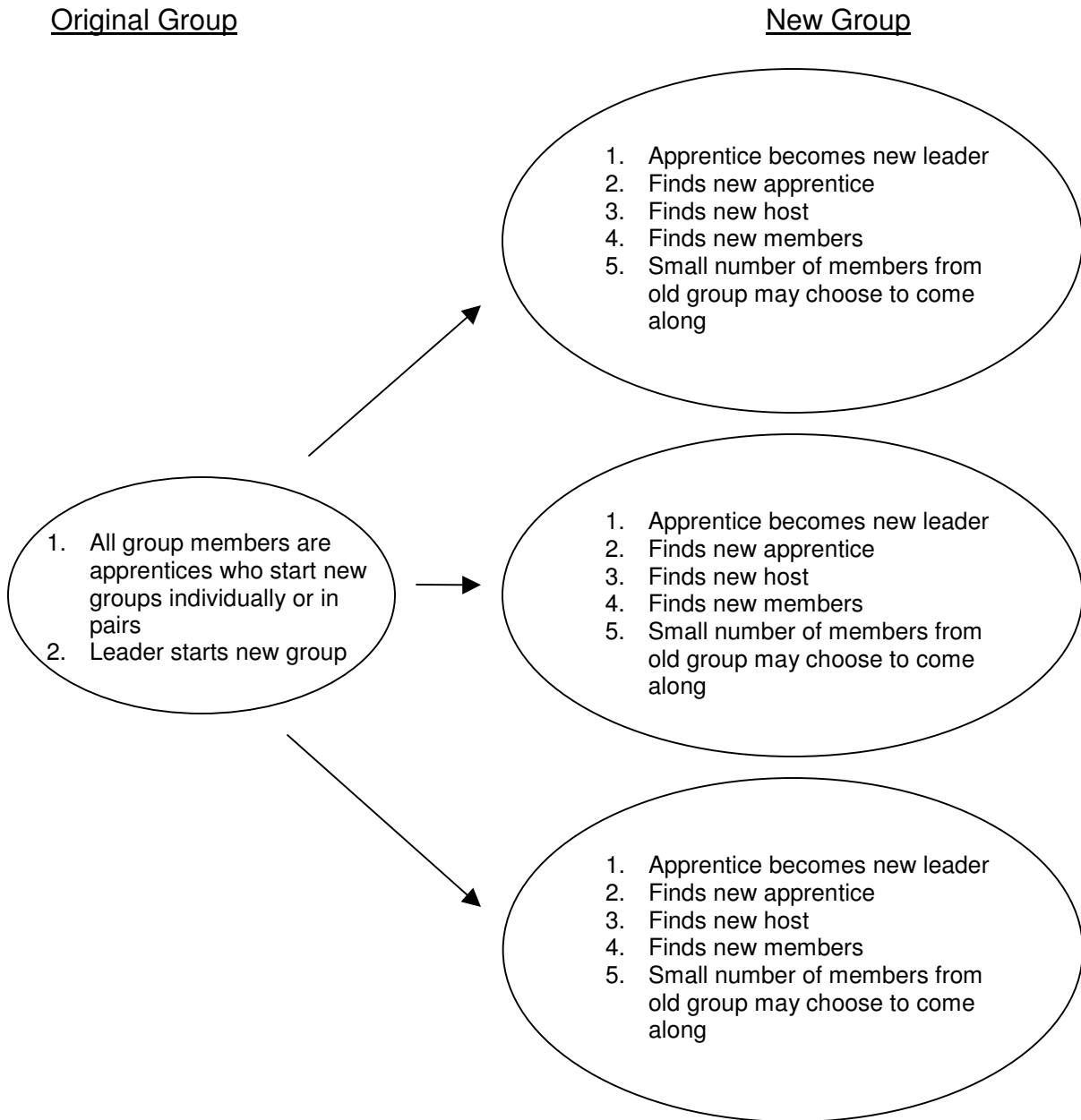
### Strengths:

- Original leader already had the experience of starting a group
- Apprentice has greater odds of success

### Weaknesses:

- Original group can struggle under the leadership of the apprentice, especially if members have a strong affinity to the personality and leadership styles of the departing leader

### C. Turbo: All Members Birth Out



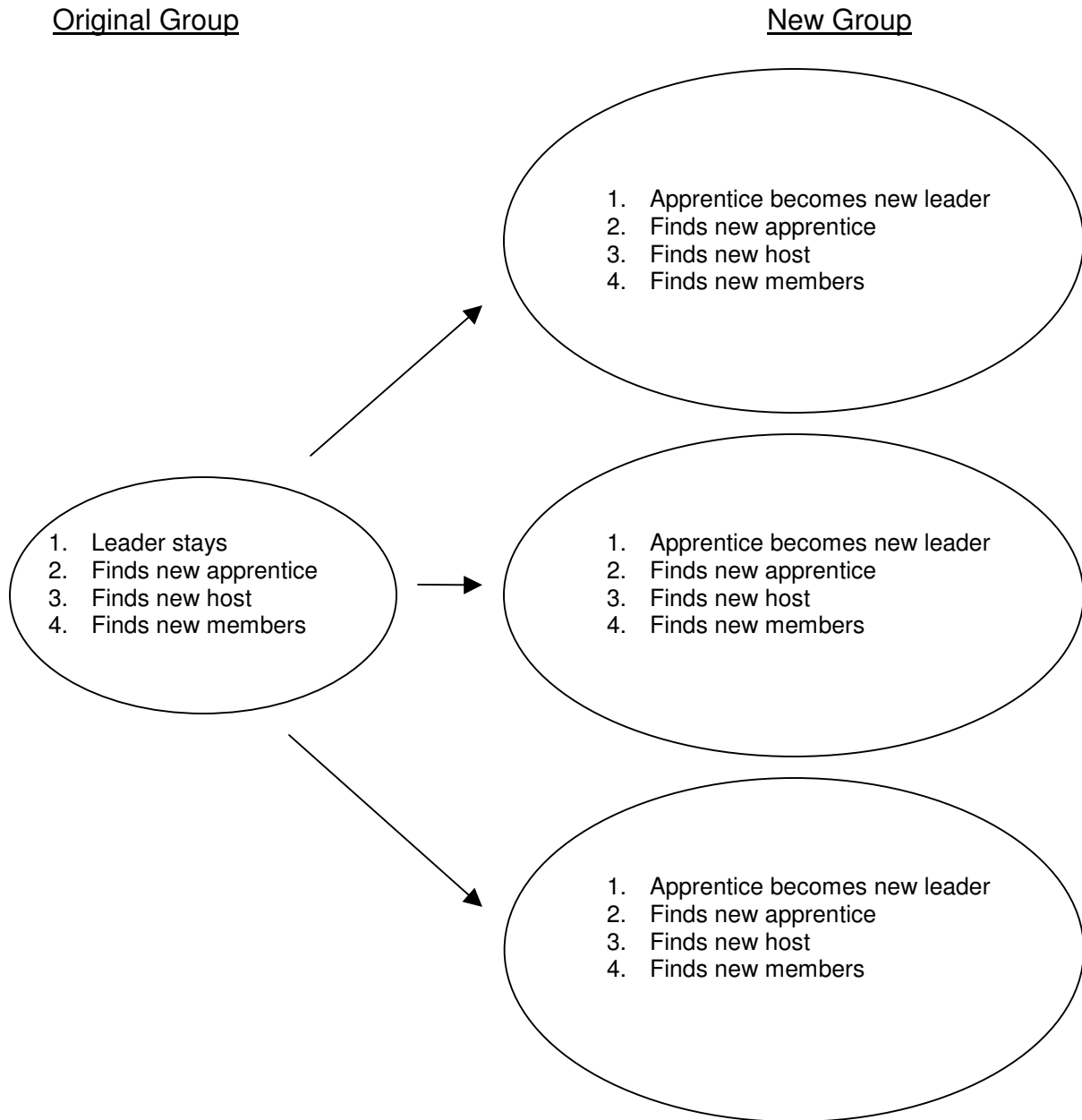
#### Strengths:

- Good model for beginning a small group ministry
- Good model for leader training
- Creates many open chairs when groups are birthed

#### Weaknesses:

- A group of leaders has different group dynamics than a typical group
- Leaders may be so drawn to this level of community that they resist birthing out

**D. Multiple Birth:** Clusters of two to four people leave a long-term group to start multiple new groups



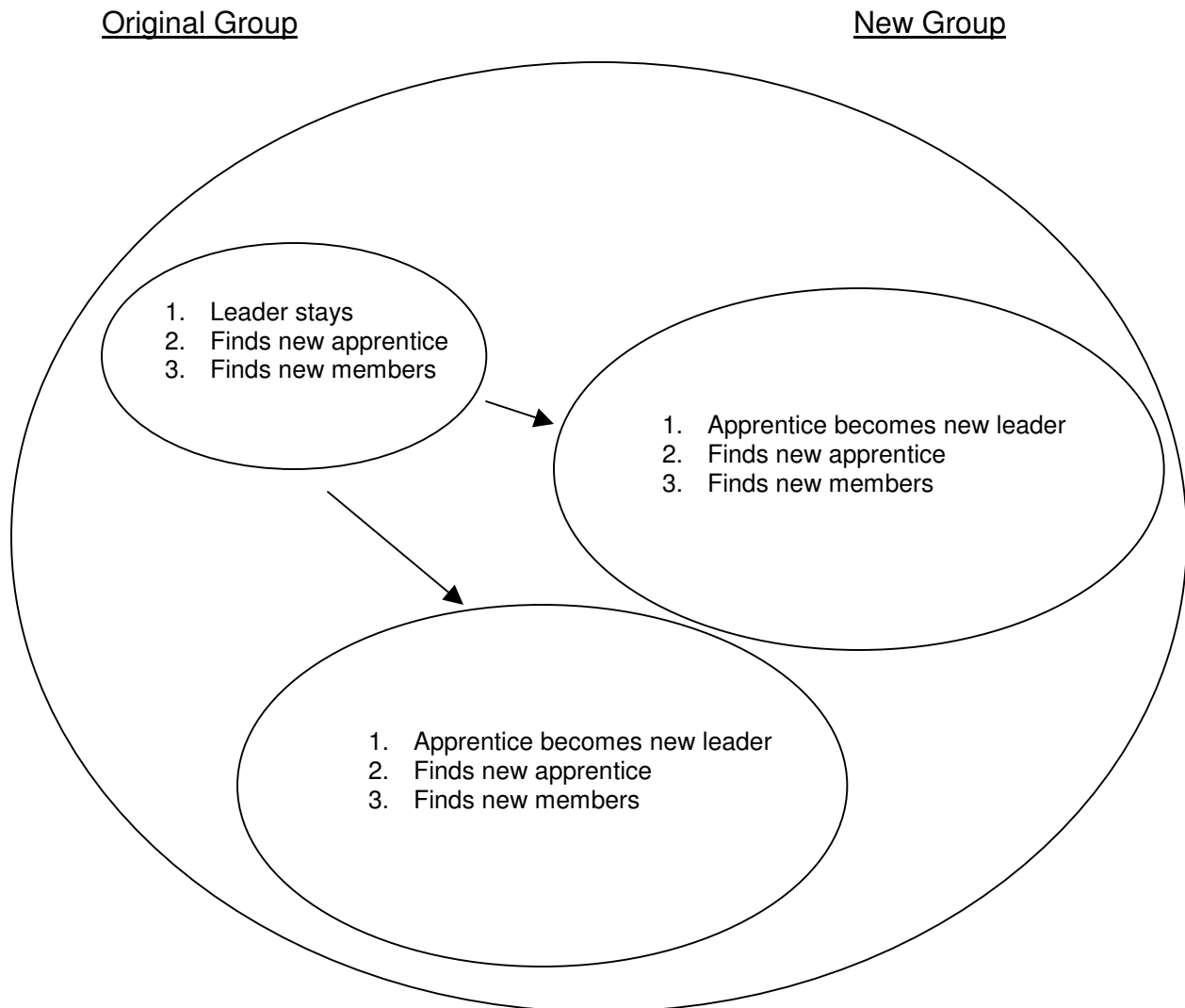
Strengths:

- Creates many open chairs when groups are birthed
- Leaders will still have community in coaches huddle (meta-model)

Weaknesses:

- Maximum relational trauma

**E. Super Group:** All groups meet in a single home at the same time.  
Apprentices birth internally, taking some members from the mother group.



Strengths:

- Allows for leader to develop multiple apprentice simultaneously
- Gives new group members multiple opportunities for community

Weaknesses:

- Requires a unique host home
- Model works best with leaders who have coaching ability and/or potential