



LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION

**LIVING
THE WORD**



The purpose of this orientation is to clarify expectations, begin building essential knowledge and skills, and communicate a unifying understanding of Legacy's unique leadership culture across all Legacy campuses.

It is designed for all those who have expressed a desire to lead others and a willingness to submit themselves to Legacy's vision, values and process.

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The Biblical Understanding of the Church

What is the Church?

1. The Church is the Spirit-filled community of redeemed people, who are trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior. The word "church" is derived from the Greek word *ekklesia*, from which we get "ecclesiastical." Literally, the word translates "the called-out ones."
2. It was a common word describing any special gathering, where people were called out of normal life for a special purpose. In ancient Athens, juries, often composed of hundreds of people, were called churches. It was a secular word describing people called out of normal life to perform a sacred duty.
3. Within decades of Pentecost, the once common secular word had become an almost exclusive sacred word describing Christian congregations.
4. Church – with a capital C – describes the universal mystical community of the redeemed, on earth and in heaven.
5. A church – with a small c – is one visible expression of the Church. A church is a covenant community called out of the world to pursue God's sacred purposes in and from their city.
6. A biblical church – as distinguished from man-made ministries – will always be marked by a plurality of Holy Spirit called and gifted teacher-shepherd leaders who are focused on equipping all of God's people for ministry, according to their own unique giftedness.

"The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community.

For his purpose . . . is not just to save individuals and so perpetuate our loneliness, but rather to build up his church, that is, to call out of the world a people for his own glory."

John Stott, *The Living Church*

Biblical Truths About the Church:

- A community that has been **filled with the _____ of Christ.** (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:13-14)
- A community that **lives to the praise of his _____.** (Eph. 1:3-10; 1 Cor. 10:31)
- A community that **exists to reveal the _____ of God.** (Acts 17:24; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 4:11)
- **A _____ of heaven** in a world of darkness. (Phil. 3:20-21)
- A community of people that have **personally identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through baptism.** (Acts 2:38; Romans 5:6; 1 Pet. 3:28; Eph. 4:4-6)
- The community of which Jesus is the author, architect, builder, sustainer, and finisher. (Heb. 12:1; Matt. 16:16)

Biblical Metaphors for the Church:



The _____ of Christ
Eph. 5:22; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:9; 2 Cor. 11:12



The _____ of God
2 Co. 6:18; Mt. 12:49-50; Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 5:1



The _____ of Living Stones
1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:6-7; 1 Cor. 3:16-17



The _____ of Christ
1 Pet. 4:17



The _____ of God

Heb. 11:10, 13:14, Rev. 21:2



The _____ of God

Col. 1:13; Rom. 14:17



The Living _____

John 15:1-5

Every one of these metaphors for the church emphasizes its unity. The church is one bride with one husband; one flock with one shepherd; one set of branches on one vine; one kingdom with one King; one family with one Father; one building with one foundation; one body with one head.

What is the Mission of the Church?

Legacy leaders must understand and be able to clearly articulate the mission of the Church according to Scripture.

The mission of the church is **to make _____**
of all nations.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matt. 28:18-20

- **Evangelizing the lost.** *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... (Matt. 28:19)*

- **Edifying believers.** "... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20)

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." – Col. 1:28-29

- The word "disciple" comes from the Greek "mathetes" which means a learner, pupil, or someone who has chosen to submit their lives to the life and teachings of a particular rabbi. A disciple of Jesus is one who is **striving to become like Jesus**. The Biblical word for this is "sanctification." (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18)
- According to Jesus, his disciples are those who obey his commands, love others, bears fruit, sacrifice, and serve. (John 14:21; 13:16-17, 34-35; 15:1-8; Luke 14:25-33)

"It is not that I belong to God and then make a decision to join a church. My being in Christ means being in Christ with others who are in Christ. This is my identity. This is our identity. . . . If the church is the body of Christ, then we should not live as disembodied Christians."

Chester and Timmis, Total Church



Legacy's Philosophy of Ministry

Legacy's Vision

It's crucial for Legacy leaders to have a clear understanding of our strategy for accomplishing the mission of the Church in the context God has placed us in.

The vision of Legacy Christian Church: **"to be a biblical community, living the Word."** Every leader at Legacy should know this and be able to answer what this means, specifically the two parts to this vision statement.

1. A biblical community...

- Modeled after the early church. Key Verse: Acts 2:42 (apostle's teaching, the breaking of bread, fellowship, and prayer).
- A community for whom **the Bible is the authority for all of life and practice.** Key Verse: 2 Tim. 3:16.
- A community that devotes itself to 'what the Bible teaches,' and not the opinions of people or the popular trends in culture. At the same time, on non-essential issues, leaving space for varying interpretations.

2. Living the Word...

- A community of people **HEARING** and **OBEYING** God's word.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." – Matthew 7:24ff



Legacy's Venues for Disciple Making



The Disciple's Pathway

The Disciple's Pathway is a **list of values** that characterize a mature follower of Jesus. Every leader needs to understand the different values and know how Legacy seeks to lead people in each area. These values are a tool for Covenant Group leaders to help members grow.

- New Creation (*Lordship; surrendering your life to Jesus*)
- True Worshiper (*Worship; Godward focus in all of life*)
- Covenant Partner (*Fellowship*)
- Kingdom Manager (*Stewardship*)
- Legacy Builder (*Discipleship*)



Leadership Standards

4. **PRAYER.** Legacy Leaders are skilled in using prayer tools, disciplined in spending time with their heavenly Father, and consistently interceding for people God has placed in their circles.
5. **REPRODUCTION.** Legacy Leaders are constantly looking for ways to reproduce disciples, small groups, and ministry initiatives. You only live once!
6. **GENEROSITY.** Legacy Leaders set an example for everyone else in personal generosity with time, talents, and treasure.

Commitments for Legacy Leaders

To lead in any capacity within the ministry of Legacy Christian Church, one must be a covenant member of the church who has made himself/herself accountable and is diligently pursuing the following covenant.

Legacy Membership Covenant

1. I will be faithful to protect the church's unity by my personal practice of Matthew 18 and submission to the biblical shepherding of the church's leadership. (Heb. 13:17)
2. I will be faithful to participate in corporate worship. (Heb. 10:24-25)
3. I will be faithful to pursue biblical community through the personal accountability and mutual ministry of a Legacy Life Group. (Acts 2:42)
4. I will be faithful to honor God and support the mission of His church through my gifts and giving. (1 Pet. 4:10; Pro. 3:9-10)
5. I will be faithful in my personal witness for Christ and His church by practicing both lifestyle and team evangelism. (Matt. 5:16)

Legacy Leadership Covenant

Understanding that leaders and teachers must live exemplary lives of integrity, before God and the leadership of Legacy Christian Church, I make the following covenant:

1. I will embrace Legacy's vision and protect the unity of the church by honoring and submitting to the church's leadership.
2. I will protect the unity of Legacy by refusing to entertain negative talk about the church's leadership or about other Legacy Leaders.
3. I will faithfully pursue my own personal spiritual growth.
4. I will honor God and support the ministry of Legacy Christian Church by making an annual financial pledge through regular and proportional "first-fruits" giving. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 8:7)
5. I will pursue a life on mission, engaging people that are far from God in everything I do.
6. I will pursue a life of absolute integrity in everything I do, to honor God and to enhance the church's witness.
7. I will pursue excellence in the development, communication, leadership, and implementation of our ministry plans.
8. I will maintain sexual, ethical, and moral purity; and promise to avoid any and all compromising situations.
9. I will practice relational balance as a disciple-maker. (Luke 6:12-19)
10. UP: I will prioritize my time with God every day.
11. IN: I will always be discipling someone. (2 Tim. 2:1-2)
12. OUT: I will be prayerfully watching for opportunities to connect with people far from God.
13. If at any point I fall short on these expectations, I will practice regular confession with my coach or ministry leader. (1 John 1:9)

