

A LEADERSHIP MODEL For the Local Church

From the Southern Gables Church (EFCA) www.sgc.org

WHAT GIVES LEADERSHIP INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY IN A CHURCH?

More is involved than the ability to simply “make things happen”. Biblically, a church is a “faith-community”, a “Christ-community”. It is a group of people connected in relationship by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Authentic leadership in such a community requires a particular kind of involvement in those relationships - an involvement which:

**reflects our Lord's covenant relationship with His people
and
grows out of one's personal relationship with God.**

By relating to each other on the basis of covenant, church leaders enact, model, reinforce and perpetuate the values of the Christ-community.

What are the distinctives or mutual commitments to which all leaders in the Southern Gables Faith-community should commit themselves as they model and perpetuate discipleship?

For leadership to have integrity and authenticity, as defined by the culture and mission of the church, it must be rooted in covenant commitments which:

*are based in Scripture

*are mutual between all leadership

*model healthy church involvement

*facilitate healthy, growing discipleship in others

ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING COVENANT COMMITMENTS ARE ASKED OF ALL LEADERS AT SOUTHERN GABLES CHURCH:

***to diligently pursue a life which reflects the Lord Jesus Christ**

II Peter 1:5-9

“...make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”

***to be committed in word and action to the unity of Christ's church at Southern Gables**

Ephesians 4:3-6

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

***to respect and nurture the faith of others by exercising discretion in personal choices**

Romans 14:1, 13, 19

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

***to be sexually faithful if married and celibate if single.**

Colossians 3:1,2,5 “Since then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts

on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed.”

***to be guided in ministry by Christ's mandate**

Matthew 28:18-20

“...All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

***to pray for the believers, other leaders and ministries of Southern Gables**

Colossians 1:9

“...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

***to regularly support the church's ministry with a portion of one's income**

I Corinthians 16:2

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collection will have to be made.”

***to grant due respect to the judgments of the elders and pastors in matters regarding the church**

I Thessalonians 5:12

“Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.”

IN ADDITION TO THESE GENERAL COMMITMENTS, THE FOLLOWING REFLECT A LEADERSHIP COVENANT APPROPRIATE TO THE CULTURE AND MISSION OF SOUTHERN GABLES CHURCH.

***to hold in agreement with Southern Gables' Statement of Faith**

I Corinthians 1:10

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

***to regularly participate in the church's services of worship**

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer."

***to participate in the congregational business meetings**

Acts 15:4, 12

"When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them."

"The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them."

ACCORDINGLY, YOUR ELDERS AND PASTORS COMMIT TO THE ABOVE AND TO:

***be diligent in preparing you for effective ministry in the name of Christ**

Ephesians 4:11-13

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to be whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

***be authentic and straight forward in our ministry to you**

I Thessalonians 2:3, 5

"For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed - God is our witness."

***be faithful to the Scriptures in our decisions and teaching**

II Timothy 1:13

"What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus."

***be actively and carefully nurturing your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ**

I Thessalonians 2:7, 8

"...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

When accepting a leadership position in SGC, I affirm that I will, by God's grace and to the best of my ability, act in accordance with this model of leadership. I further affirm that I am familiar with the SGC Articles of Faith, am not knowingly in disagreement with any of them and will live in harmony with them - neither teaching nor promoting any doctrine contrary to them.