

# Modelling the Higher Standard

Leadership Covenant Ministry Board

Purpose of the Ministry Board:

To provide governance, leadership & guidance regarding the vision of the church in matters related to spiritual direction, ministry, and stewardship of NCC, as we seek to be The Church in Aurora, Ontario.

The Purpose of the Covenant:

To continue to foster a healthy church by adhering to healthy leadership practices. The health of a church is largely dependent upon the health of a leadership team, thus this covenant seeks to foster healthy leadership practices by:

Providing clarity regarding expectations

Providing the opportunity for healthy accountability

Ensuring the Ministry Board is composed of those equipped for the role Ensuring NCC stays true to a biblical worldview, is upheld by kingdom values, and is not swayed by the patterns of our world and culture.

A Definition of Leadership:

The influence of others in a productive, vision-driven direction, and is done through the example, conviction, and character of the leader.



As Leaders we will humbly strive to...

... be an example and advocate for Biblical life choices, values, conduct and love. Where we will not knowingly walk in disobedience to Jesus but willingly & humbly seek both His revelation and our repentance.

*“…in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.” Titus 2:7-8 - CSB*

*“... set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12 - CSB*

NCC is a church that dwells within a culture that does not always support our biblical worldview nor uphold the values of the Kingdom of God. Sometimes, our culture completely rejects Kingdom values, often relating to relationships, gender, standards of conduct, purposes of life, etc. Other times, the world aligns itself with Kingdom values but rejects the kingship of Christ, which sometimes leads to those values being warped. Either way, as leaders of NCC, we are visible representatives of the Kingdom of God and those whom our congregation are looking at, to show them what a Godly lifestyle looks like. This means that our conduct, lifestyle choices, and way we love those with conflicting worldviews without affirming their ideology, need to represent God’s kingdom well. As apprentices of Jesus, we chose the alternative lifestyle of holiness. In conjunction with that, if we don’t want our congregation to conform to the patterns of our world (Romans 12:2), then we need to show them what kingdom values look like

— not just as words on a page, but as an embodied lifestyle.



## ... embrace the life of discipleship to Jesus— one who is seeking to allow the Spirit to transform them into closer resemblance of Jesus Christ— by engaging in his teaching (reading the bible), engaging in his practices (prayer, tithing, worship, daily devotion, serving the marginalized, engaging with those far from God, etc.), and engaging in his community (the body of Christ).

*"…Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:24 – NIV)*

*“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV)*

Christianity is more than ethics and theology. It isn’t less than those things, but it certainly is more than those things. Christianity is a way of life. It’s an acceptance of Jesus’ invitation to be his disciple or apprentice— an invitation that demands a re-organization of the way we do life. Being an apprentice of Jesus changes the way we treat people, the way we use our time, what we spend our money on, who we bless with our giftings, and what our daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly calendars look like. It’s for this very reason that those living in the Mediterranean world in the first century, upon observing followers of Jesus, decided to refer to them as followers of ‘the way’ (Acts 9:1-2). As leaders of NCC, we need to be the ones showing our community what following the way of Jesus looks like. John Mark Comer, in reflecting on Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 11:1, says this, *“If I can’t say to some extent… ‘follow Jesus the way I follow Jesus. Organize your day-to-day life somewhat similarly to the way I organize my day-to-day life, in attempt to follow Jesus’ model’… then I have no business in leadership at a church.”*



## ... support the 5 Purposes for the Church — Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry & Evangelism — by regularly attending and supporting Sunday Worship services, corporate prayer gatherings, be engaged in a Life Group, and serve in some form of ministry at NCC.

*"…Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purposes that prevails.” (Pr. 19:21 - NIV)*

The rationale behind this expectation is twofold— the first concerns the mission of the church and the second concerns the role of the ministry board.

1. As a church, our mission is to know Christ better and make him better known—this is at the heart of everything we do. In effort to see this come to fruition, we offer Sunday morning gatherings, Life Group opportunities,, hold a monthly prayer gathering, offer serving opportunities, run a family service program, etc. Telling people to involve themselves in these opportunities from the pulpit only goes so far. What goes much farther, is seeing key leaders in the church promote their importance by sheer participation in them, and having those same leaders personally invite them to participate. If the leaders of our church are not engaged in what we define as the core gatherings and practices at NCC, then our desire to see others engage in them is bound to fail. Why? Because they won’t be seeing our key leaders engage in them themselves, and if that’s the case, then those leaders are also likely not making any effort to encourage those around them to participate. The leaders of our church need to be our number one advocates for our key gathering and practices, and do so through their active participation in them. Any desire to not participate in these practices is either an indication that a leader is not in alignment with the mission of NCC, is not passionate about seeing it come to fruition, or is simply not in a season life that allows them to be the leader that NCC needs them to be.
2. Our role as a ministry board is to provide leadership and guidance regarding the direction of the church. We cannot possibly provide adequate guidance if we are not fully-engaged in the life of the church.



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I confirm that the above statements are true of me and that, to the best of my ability, I intend to continue to seek Jesus and grow in these areas. I recognize that my character, servanthood and example are integral to leading Christ's Church well, and if I come to the conclusion that I no longer wish to maintain these commitments, I will step down from the Ministry Board.

First Name:

Last Name:

Signature:

Date:

Witness: