

# THE CROSSING CHURCH LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

## The Call to Leadership at The Crossing Church

We at The Crossing Church share the vision that the local church is the best hope for change in our community and the world. At a time when culture is crying out for leadership, we are entering an exciting new season of possibility for reaching thousands with Christ's love and helping people discover Jesus and The Journey. Exceptional leadership is required and we are the key.

With unprecedented opportunity also comes extraordinary responsibility and our effectiveness depends on our integrity. As leaders, we are continually scrutinized and our calling is worth nothing short of a holy lifestyle.

1 Peter 1 instructs us to be holy in everything we do, just as God – who chose us to be His children – is holy. Our desire is for every member of our team to live out his/her faith in uncompromising devotion to this challenge. Seeking to honor God in all of our daily lives and work and understanding that we each have the opportunity to impact the world for Him,

The Crossing Church is enthusiastic about this leadership commitment. We see it as an important step in fulfilling the call to courageous leadership and we express a relentless commitment to accountability in all we do and say for the sake of Jesus Christ.

## Purpose of the Leadership Commitment:

This document explains the Biblical standards applicable to all leaders at The Crossing Church.

The Crossing Church is a religious non-profit organization based upon Christian tenets. Biblically it is a part of the Body of Christ. All leaders are called to read, understand and commit to live and support the:

- Mission and Values: the philosophy and objectives of The Crossing Church
- Foundational Doctrines: the core beliefs of The Crossing Church
- Standards and Commitments of Leaders: the Biblical standards for Crossing leaders

Leaders are not called to lives of perfection, for we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But we are called to be different, to live upright, holy and disciplined lives, holding to sound doctrine and loving what is good and turning from wrong, confessing our sin and turning from it once recognized.

# THE CROSSING CHURCH: MISSION

*At The Crossing, we exist to help people discover Jesus and The Journey*

# THE CROSSING CHURCH: VALUES

## **COME AS YOU ARE**

Colossians 3:12-17

Romans 14:13

We value the culture of intentional acceptance that Jesus created. We value his kind of unconditional love that accepts brokenness but encourages healing. Our community will point like a neon sign toward Jesus, and offer everyone an invitation to join our journey toward wholeness in him.

## **TRANSFORMATION IS THE EXPECTATION OF EVERY BELIEVER**

Romans 12:1-2

1 Timothy 4:15

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We value the visible, never-ending, total transformation that the Holy Spirit longs to accomplish in every Christian. We value and celebrate the heart and life changes that take place in a person who is surrendering to Christ more and more unconditionally.

## **THE BIBLE IS RELEVANT TO YOUR LIFE**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Acts 17:11

We value the Bible as absolute, universal, timeless truth inspired by God. Everything we believe and everything we teach will always assume a Biblical worldview, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will interpret and apply scripture in a way that is understandable and relevant to our current culture.

## **LIFE CHANGE HAPPENS BEST IN RELATIONSHIPS**

Exodus 17:12

Ephesians 4:15-16

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Matthew 22:36-40

We value interdependent relationships as the best way to grow spiritually. We will encourage every believer to develop authentic relationships with other Christians, in which they experience both unconditional acceptance and loving accountability. We also value intentional, authentic relationships with non-Christians, and challenge all believers to love others unconditionally; no questions asked.

## **WE WERE CREATED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Ephesians 2:10

Jeremiah 1:5

Romans 12:4-8

We value every believer's service according to their God-given gifts, abilities and passions. Our community will operate with the expectation that everyone will regularly use what God has given them to accomplish what God has planned for our church, our community and the world.

## **EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE UNITY AND IMPACT**

Philippians 1:4-5

2 Corinthians 8:23

3 John 1:5-8

We value the role of strategic partners both with individual Christians, and with other organizations that seek to serve others and advance God's plans. Our community will partner with individuals who are seeking God, facilitating spiritual growth so that each of our lives has maximum impact in God's plan. We will also form partnerships with other organizations so that our impact can be extended and amplified throughout Las Vegas and the world.

# **WHAT WE BELIEVE AT THE CROSSING CHURCH**

## **ABOUT THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible is the divinely preserved and inspired Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16.)

## **ABOUT GOD**

We believe God is eternally and simultaneously both one and three: Father, Son, and Spirit. (John 17:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16)

## **ABOUT JESUS**

We believe that Jesus Christ was, in the flesh, both God and man...and that he died for our sins...and that he arose from the dead. (John 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

## **ABOUT MANKIND**

We believe that every person has a worth as a creation of God, but all have sinned and fallen short of God's perfection, making union with God by human effort impossible. (Romans 3:23)

## **ABOUT FORGIVENESS**

We believe that forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life are available to all people who will accept the free gift of God's grace through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17)

## **ABOUT SALVATION**

We believe that those trusting Christ should repent of their sins, confess their faith, and be baptized into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:19-20)

## **ABOUT THE CHURCH**

We believe that the church is the community of God and the body of Christ on earth and exists to reach those who are far from Christ and to disciple believers. (Matthew 28:19-20)

## **ABOUT ETERNITY**

We believe that Jesus Christ will one day return, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to take the church to heaven for eternity. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We agree to disagree. There are some doctrines on which two Christians may agree to disagree, even though they are in the same local church and part of the same leadership team. Examples include: the dating of events in Genesis, order of events associated with the Lord's return and degree of separation from worldly practices. When teaching in any such area, it is made clear these beliefs are not essential for salvation or leadership in the church. We may state the case for our position, but will also acknowledge that sincere and intelligent Christians hold different views. We are committed to nurturing the unity we share as the family of God and to obeying His command to love one another.

## **Standards and Commitments for Leaders**

As a servant leader of The Crossing Church, you recognize that you are not to bring dishonor to Jesus, the head of the church, by engaging in activities that are inconsistent with this commitment or constitute a conflict with the interests of The Crossing Church. As a servant leader, you are called to: "Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and in your purity." (1 Timothy 4:12b)

Let "the Holy Spirit control" your life, so "he will produce this kind of fruit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22)

In addition, you are called to conduct yourself in keeping with the principles outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-10. Six words sum up concisely God's will for your life and work: "Be holy in everything you do." (1 Peter 1:15) We recognize these are high standards. Where appropriate, The Crossing Church, as a redemptive community, will seek to restore individuals that are ensnared in sin to a place of purity through a Christ-centered process of confession, repentance and forgiveness (Luke 17:3, Gal 6:1, 2 Tim 4:2). Individuals that have completed a process of confession, repentance and forgiveness may over time be eligible for restoration to leadership on a case-by-case basis.

## Standards and Commitments:

I have committed my life to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I am committed to a growing relationship Him.

I am committed to regularly attend The Crossing Church, regularly support The Crossing Church with my giving and pray for its leadership.

I feel called by God to serve Him for His glory. (1 Peter 5:2-4)

I will order my life according to biblical priorities, among them being:

- Cultivating my personal relationship with God by spending time in God's Word and in prayer. (Col 3:16-17; Matt 22:37; 1 Thes 5:17; John 15:4)
- Showing love to fellow believers by serving them in prayer, time, effort, ability and resources. (Matt 20:26-29; Gal 6:10; Phil 2:3-8; Rom 15:1-17; John 15:12-13)
- Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with non-believers in both word and deed. (Matt 28:19-20; Matt 5:16; Acts 20:24)

I will turn from sin (1 John 1:9; Rom 6:6) and avoid immoral, unethical, unbiblical or questionable behavior (as defined in Galatians 5:19-21).

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

This would include:

- Committing a crime
- Use of illegal, illicit substances or abuse of addictive or mood-altering drugs, whether medically prescribed or not.
- Dishonest or deceptive behavior (Rom 13:6-8; 1 Cor 6:5-10)
- Gossip, slanderous, destructive or divisive conversation. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Sexuality – The Crossing Church stands firm on the biblical truth that sexuality is a gift from God given to mankind for the purposes of pleasure, procreation and the creating of intimacy with a marriage relationship between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24). Any expression of this gift outside of God's created order is clearly sinful and not in accordance with God's plan for sexuality.

I will avoid even the appearance of inappropriate relationships with members of the opposite sex.

Such as:

- I will only show appropriate affection to a member of the opposite sex such that the behavior cannot be questioned.
- I will use discretion in correspondence to members of the opposite sex.
- I will avoid one-on-one appointments or travel with a member of the opposite sex here such behavior could be questioned.
- I will respect and protect the sanctity of marriage, both my own and that of others (Mark 10:5-12; 1 Cor 7:12-16)
- I will be accountable for my walk with God and commit to have others assist me in this process. Those individuals should include one or more of the following:
  - Life Groups
  - Prayer Partners
  - Accountability or Support Groups
  - Individual Accountability Relationships

I accept the responsibility to honor the obligations of Matthew 18 and constructively and with love, confront my brothers and sisters in Christ with the truth if there appears to be sinful behavior (Matthew 18:15). Before doing so, I acknowledge I am admonished by Scripture to objectively and earnestly in prayer, seek to get the log out of my own eye before approaching another (Matthew 7:5). I recognize that my purpose is to demonstrate Christ's love by gently bringing God's truth to those I have relationships with and encouraging their rebuilding.