

TEAM MINISTRY

Teams play a very important role in our lives. We find the concept of team everywhere. In marriage, family, business, sports, broadcasting, politics, and in church and Christian activities. But, what is most important, we find it modeled throughout the Word of God.

When Christ sent out His disciples by two's, He established a pattern of team ministry, which continued, after His ascension. Thus we see in the book of Acts extra-local ministry carried on by apostolic bands which were led by leaders coupled together such as Peter/John or Paul/Barnabas, and later Paul/Silas and Barnabas/Mark. At the local level, elders in plurality were established to give guidance and care to each new community of believers. We never see by example of the New Testament where a leader, singularly, was set in to oversee the church. Ministry always functioned in the context of team. From Scripture and experience we have grown to appreciate the inherent wisdom and value of team ministry:

- In the multitude of counselors there is safety and wisdom (Prov. 11:14; 15:22; Ecc. 4:10).
- There is greater productivity (Ecc. 4:9)
- There is companionship (Ecc. 4:11)
- There is greater strength (Ecc. 4:12)
- No one person has all the needed gifts for a situation, thus they can complement one another (Rom. 12:3-8)
- A team ministry provides a *mini-workshop* of how the whole body is supposed to function in coordination and cooperation with each other. (1 Cor 12—14)

Team ministry is modeled in the Scriptures as the norm not the exception. Therefore, every believer must learn the value of teamwork. We must learn how to be an effective team-player. This requires relational, work, and team skill development. WCC is committed to this philosophy and



Philosophy of Ministry



Destiny is a matter of choice—not chance. It is something to be achieved—not something to be waited for.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Philosophy can be defined as the pursuit of wisdom. It is a search for understanding of the values of life. In this context it is a search for the understanding of ministry. In our desire to please the Lord and fulfill His purposes in the earth, we believe it is important not only to have proper ministry goals in view, but proper methods and attitudes as well. Thus we subscribe to the following ***Philosophy of Ministry***:

SERVANTHOOD

We see servanthood as the spirit and foundation of ministry. The word ministry literally means to serve. It comes from the Greek word *diakonos* (*διακονος*) which speaks of a servant. Jesus was the model of a perfect servant. We will fail in our mission to see the life of Christ formed in others if we do not exemplify it in ourselves. Perhaps nowhere does the nature and character of Christ shine in contrast to the spirit of this world than in His posture as a servant. Jesus expressed it best in Matthew 20:25-28;

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This is one of many paradoxes in the Scriptures. Others, such as; "If you want to be great you must become the least, if you want to be first you must be willing to be last, and if you want to gain your life you must lose it." And the list goes on.

If Deity can humble Himself to take the form of a bond slave (Phil.2: 7), can we as mere mortals dare to do anything less. Thus, as much as lies within us, we will endeavor to have this same mind that was in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5) and serve our brethren and humanity in humility and simplicity of spirit.

EQUIPPING

We firmly believe that God's work is not to be done by a gifted few. Rather, the ascended Christ has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip or prepare all of the Lord's people to do work of the ministry to the end that His Church would reach the fullness in quantity and quality which He intends (Eph. 4:11-16). We see preparation for ministry as both a command and a necessity. The church must make a paradigm shift from a religious mindset in order to embrace a biblical view. We must shatter the religious walls in both our thinking and living if we are going to have an impact on those around us. Thus we reject such artificial distinctions as *clergy/laity* in God's people and *secular/Christian* in their work.

All of us are called to "full-time" service or mission for the Lord. Our mission field can be defined as, "wherever we work, live, shop, and go to church." We are all "on the mission field." Our mission in relationship to the world is to seek and save the lost (Luk 19:10). Our mission in the church is to edify or build one another up in the Lord (Eph 4:16).

God has given grace to each us so we may, walk worthy of and, accomplish our call in him (Eph 4:1). In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul said;

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and this grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them —yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

We must discover and develop this God-given grace within ourselves if we are going to be effective. Our "grace-mix" is a combination of our passion, spiritual & natural gifts, and our personality. We have an excellent class here at Westside Community Church that will help each Christian discover and gain understanding of their "grace-mix." Mentoring and equipping are means of growing and becoming strong in the grace of God to which we are committed.