



MARINERS CHURCH LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

The Call to Leadership at Mariners Church

We at Mariners 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 inspiring people to follow Jesus and fearlessly change the world. 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, Mariners 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 Mariners Church.

Mariners 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 Mariners Church

Foundational Doctrines: the core beliefs of Mariners Church

Standards and Commitments of Leaders: the Biblical standards for Mariners' 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.

MARINERS CHURCH: MISSION

Inspire people to passionately follow Jesus and fearlessly change the world

MARINERS CHURCH: VALUES

Teach God's Word:

We teach the Bible, God's written Word. It is the source of truth for faith and conduct inspired by His Spirit

Be God's loving family:

All we do is to be done for God's glory – demonstrating our love for one another so others will know we are Christ's Church, His family.

Recognize that every believer is a minister with a ministry:

Everyone is a vital part of Christ's family – we each serve a unique function. We are called by God to utilize our specific gifts in distinct areas of ministry. WE are then able to grow to the next step in our service as a minister.

Be innovative in our ministry and relevant to our community:

We want to make a difference in our community by being aware of and sensitive to current situations within our neighborhoods. In doing so, we challenge ourselves to stretch outside our "comfort zones." Our goal is to be innovative in the ministries of music, teaching, drama, dance, art and multimedia, as well as other ways that may capture the attention of those in our community who don't know Christ.

Be contagious in sharing Jesus Christ

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES OF MARINERS CHURCH

We believe the Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments, is the written word of God – our final and infallible authority in faith and life, inerrant in the original autographs.

(Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21*)

We believe that God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

(John 1:18-25, 8:40, 8:58, Matt 1:18-25, Heb 1:8)

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sin.

(2 Cor 5:14; Mark 10:45; Rom 3:24-26, 5:8-10, 8:28-30; 1 Pet 3:18)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ

(John 20:25-27; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; Heb 7:25)

We believe the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer to be used for building up the Body of Christ (the Church). These gifts are to be exercised according to biblical guidelines and priorities.

(1 Cor 12:1-14; Rom 12:6-8; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan who attempts to defeat all people through deception. Believers overcome Satan's schemes by applying biblical truth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Eph 6:10-19; Luke 10:18; Job 1:6-12; John 8:44; Mark 4:15; Rev 12:9; 1 Pet 5:8)

We believe all who by faith receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit who immediately baptizes them in to the Body of Christ as children of God. This salvation is not a result of any human effort or merit.

(John 1:12; 3:1-16, 10:27-30; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:28, 8:31-39; John 14:16-17; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-27; Phil 1:6)

We believe all Christians still have a sinful nature, but God is in the process of transforming believers into the likeness of His Son by the indwelling of His Spirit.

(1 John 1:8; Rom 5:3-19; 8:11-13, Gal 5:16; Phil 1:9-11, 19)

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 Mariners 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 Mariners 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:

“In the same way, deacons [those who serve] must be people who are respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers and must not be greedy for money. They must be committed to the revealed truths of the Christian faith and must live with a clear conscience. Before they are appointed as deacons, they should be given other responsibilities in the church as a test of their character and ability. If they do well, then they may serve as deacons.”

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, Mariners 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 Mariners Church, regularly support Mariners 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.”

- 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 – Mariners 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. Scripture is definitive where it declares the following behaviors as sinful:
- Fornication – sexual activity before marriage (Proverbs 5:3; Col 3:5, 1 Cor 6:9-18; 1 Thes 4:5; 2 Tim 3:6; Jude 1:4-7; Mark 7:21)
- Adultery – sexual activity with someone other than your spouse (Ex 20:14; Deut 5:18; Matt 5:27, 19:18; Luke 18:20; Rom 13; Jas 2:11)
- Homosexuality – sexual activity between members of the same sex (Lev 18:22; Lev 20:13; Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-10)
- Engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior (e.g. pornography, adult movies, strip clubs, etc.)

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 not use any flirtatious or suggestive language, even in jest that could be misinterpreted or could cause offense.
- 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 honor the sanctity of life for the unborn by not participating in an abortion and acknowledging that discretionary abortion is a sin.
- 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.