



OUR PHILOSOPHY OF TEAMWORK MINISTRY

我们共同事奉的哲学



Introduction: Why do we need a philosophy of teamwork ministry?

1. For we should not assume that we are striving towards a same goal
2. So that we can always tell others the direction of our ministry
3. A philosophy of ministry provides priorities for ministry
4. To avoid waste of human resources, finance and time
5. To foster a teamwork spirit



1. Unity

- 1.1 We should emphasise our agreement instead of our disagreement.
- 1.2 In essentials, unity; in peripherals, liberty; in all things, charity.



2. Evangelism and church planting

- 2.1 We believe that the Lord's commission for us is to pioneer and build churches as continuation of His mission in this world.
- 2.2 We believe that the Holy Spirit has already begun His work before we even begin ours (in the church as well as mission fields). We know that God is the one who works and we are merely His vessels. In view of that, we will persist in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in the face of oppositions and setbacks.
- 2.3 We pursue the highest meaning of life, the greatest of which is to share the gospel so that others may believe in it and know the purpose of their life. In other words, the primary task of the church is to carry out the Great Commission of evangelism.
- 2.4 We believe that the gospel mandate has priority over the cultural mandate (eg. social concern). We believe that the emphasis on the primacy of the gospel will naturally result in the fulfilment of the cultural mandate.



3. Suffering, simplicity and privileges

- 3.1 We should not mourn over the crosses that we bear in our ministry, but view them as our response to the love that Jesus has shown through the cross. The cross is the source of our thanksgiving in our ministry.
- 3.2 We believe that the kingdom of God is not of self-centred and materialistic pursuit, but of giving and caring (Acts 4:32-35; 20:35). Therefore, we emphasise on co-operation over competition, and the spiritual over the material. We are willing to live a sacrificial and simple life.
- 3.3 We are willing not only to suffer for the Lord, but also to be mistreated (or unfairly-treated) for Him.
- 3.4 We assert that each in the team should be given equal privileges. However, each in the team should also subject his privilege under the well-being of the whole team. Both parties (the team and its members) are answerable to God.



4. Changes

- 4.1 We will seek to accommodate with contemporary values in the society. Our tradition is not the fault. The fault is that our habituality hinders the changes of our tradition. Our orthodox tradition is a starting point instead of destination.
- 4.2 We will seek to be open-minded while being conservative and vice versa.



5. Our concept of the kingdom

- 5.1 We emphasise on the kingdom-based-church-growth direction which includes the growth of each congregation, pioneering and social concern.
 - 5.1.1 The church is not the end of the kingdom. It is the means of the extension of God's kingdom.
 - 5.1.2 Christ is the ruler of this kingdom, and we are His servants.
 - 5.1.3 The kingdom of God exceeds local congregation.
 - 5.1.4 The truth of God's kingdom is precious and rich. It is both present and future. It manifests itself both within and outside our hearts. It belongs both to individual and the whole body of Christ.
- 5.2 We define the success of a church not merely according to her growth in quantity and quality, but also her impact on the morality and life-style of the society and the nation.



6. Consistency in our speech and our behaviour

- 6.1 We teach what we believe and live out what we teach.
- 6.2 What we proclaim should be recognised by others as what we have experienced in the kingdom of God, so that we can say boldly, *Imitate me as I imitate Christ?* (1 Cor 11:1).
- 6.3 Unless we have first been changed in our lives, we believe that people will not be changed through us.



7. Faith and vision

- 7.1 Together we seek a "prophetic vision" that surpasses our own living circumstances, viz. a vision which is "in the world, but not of the world". We seek a vision that surpasses our limitation and looks through the present into the future. We are living a life of faith, and we believe that God is changing our lives daily.
- 7.2 We reject a monotonous life that dares not take challenges and opportunities and experience growth.
- 7.3 We will not grow if we dare not venture out of our comfort zone.
- 7.4 We believe that we are sojourners in this world. Thus, we are not being faithful to God's calling if the church decides to stay permanently in one place.



8. Excellence, glory, loving God and humility

- 8.1 Together we pursue excellence in all our ministries. In all things we seek to glorify God.

- 8.2 When we have any achievements, let us pray that we will not seek our own crowns, for our reward is to glorify God.
- 8.3 Not only do we pursue excellence in all things, but we also seek to grow unceasingly in our love for God. For our love for God is what makes our knowledge and actions meaningful (1 Cor 8:2-3).
- 8.4 None of us is perfect. All of us are in the process of growing, thus we are willing to always come before the Lord to ask for His forgiveness, healing and protection (2 Chron. 7:14).



9. Mutual edification

- 9.1 Together we commit ourselves to make our co-workers better servants of the Lord. We define encouragement as *making others better believers*.
- 9.2 We view our team more as an organism than an organisation. Thus we emphasise on the mutual edification of our lives, so that we will be a witness to the world that we are the body of Christ. Therefore, we emphasise on our relationship and fellowship with one another. We are children of God in one family in Christ. Thus we seek to live a life of mutual edification, caring, encouragement and intercession. Therefore, we deem that it is worth spending our time in meetings and discussions.
- 9.3 We emphasise on unanimity in decision-making rather than the principle of majority wins.
- 9.4 We view the ministry of the entire team as more important than the individual. We deem the ministry of every individual as equally important. Each one's performance is a matter of the whole team.
- 9.5 We will strive towards implementing our philosophy of team-work ministry.
- 9.6 We deem our differences in personality as an advantage more than a setback.
- 9.7 We will let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another (Romans 13:8).



A Prayer of Covenant

The merciful Heavenly Father who loves us,

As a member of the Church - Your home of eternal life on this earth, and a servant whom you have shown mercy to and anointed, I am willing to reverently accept the above philosophy of team-work ministry and make it my covenant with you. I will do my best to fulfil the covenant. Now that you have given me this covenant, I pray that you will give me the grace and strength to fulfil it. May my prayer be acceptable to you. In the name of Jesus Christ who has exemplified true servanthood. Amen.

Date: _____ Signature: _____