

## **Philosophy of Ministry**

The local church is the structure that God primarily uses to carry out His mission for this World. I believe the local church is a people not a building. We don't go to church we are the church. God has given us His Word for instruction, guidance, care, and sustenance or the church. My personal philosophy of ministry stems from these understandings. I believe the church is both a gathered body and a scattered influencing community. Hebrews 10 would encourage us not to forsake the assembling as a people. Ephesians 4 would call us as pastors and elders to equip the local church for the purpose of building up the body and unity. The goal would be to have those who call their local church home to be transformed by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to maturity and fullness in Christ.

## **Regarding the Gathered**

My heart's desire would be for the local church to resemble Antioch of old. A teaching center that equips and sends the saints to fulfill God's purposes and mission to a lost and dying world. Primarily, I would teach, preach, and equip towards the hearts and minds of those in the local church. I desire to create an environment where God is elevated and His name, character, and holiness are revealed. God did not create us to experience the gathering in isolation. When we gather with other believers, we are encouraged in fellowship, communion, baptism, and prayer. The gathering has a focus both on our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with other believers. It is a taste of what heaven will be like for eternity.

## **Regarding the Scattered**

As the church leaves the building on its gathering days they need to spur one another and encourage each other in their day-to-day lives. It is imperative that all believers be working out their salvation with fear and trembling as well as spiritual forming relationships with others. Walking with others in wisdom and love would be the aim. The church is to live on mission for the purpose of making disciples. As the scattered church we engage our time, talents, and treasures into the places where we live, work, and play. We live as both salt and light impacting a fallen world around us.

## **Regarding the Staff**

My greatest desire in regards to leading a staff would be to primarily operate out of a team environment. For too long the church has often depended on one person, usually the senior pastor, to lead and do

everything. I believe God designed the church to operate together in unity by the leading of Jesus and a plurality of elders. Leadership, Vision, and Preaching are important tasks for a Lead Pastor. My greatest strength to the local church is building team and empowering leaders to carry the burden of ministry. I would want to build a staff committed to team, healthy relationships, and staff trust. I would also desire leadership development, personal holiness, and effectual living from the staff. Outside of the preaching of God's word, I see development of the staff into a great team as the highest priority. Staff health would directly impact the lives of those in the congregation.

Below are some bullet points to as best I can at this time in my life point to what I would desire to see the Lord do in me.

### **Personal Desires**

1. Continue to follow Jesus fully and in humility every day.
2. Maintain a strong and healthy relationship with Jen in our marriage.
3. Raise my boys to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and strength. Raise them to love their neighbor as themselves.
4. Live out my calling as a pastor in the place God desires.
5. Take care of myself physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.
6. Discipline the hard work of writing.

### **Ministry Goals**

1. Build a healthy elder team to lead the local church effectively.
2. Transition to a new flock while building trust over time.
3. Preach faithfully the Gospel of Christ.
4. Begin work on a Doctorate from Southern Seminary.
5. Build a strong, healthy, reproductive staff team.
6. Shepherd people faithfully.
7. Push the local church to have a long-term mission plan.
8. Steward the finances of people who give well and for the glory of Christ.
9. Reproduce myself along the way.
10. Dream dreams for God's church that are only possible with His involvement.

## Thoughts on Elders

After reviewing the documents on the Shadowbrook site there are a lot of shared philosophies I have with eldership, board management, and practical ministry. I look forward to the dialogue that may come in that process down the road. I have attached a list of personal desires for the elder board I could be a part of in the local church.

- Working with a plurality of biblically minded men to lead the local church.
- Oversee and empower a deacon team to carry out specific ministry needs.
- Strive for all the biblical qualifications as an elder.
- Regular training and development of the board towards eldership and Jesus.
- Shepherd the flock of God along with the elder board in a God honoring, Christ exalting way.
- Regular planning sessions and retreats to work on the church not just in it.
- Pray, Pray, Pray regularly and powerfully with these men.
- Make sure each elder's family is supported and cared for.
- Raise up the next generation of elders through active spiritual formation and discipleship.
- Empower elders with a teaching gift to use their skills for the benefit of the local body.