

Equipping Counselors for Your Church

Appendix 5.1 A Formal Congregational Vote

Congregational Vote

Our church leadership [pastors, and/or elders, and/or deacons, etc.] is recommending the formal establishment of the LEAD (Life Encouragers And Disciplers) Biblical Counseling [or Spiritual Friendship, etc.] Ministry.

The mission of LEAD is to equip biblical counselors [or spiritual friends] and small group leaders to speak the truth in love to people struggling with suffering and sin, in order to promote Christ-like maturity in the Body of Christ. LEAD exists to assist our church to become an equipping center (Ephesians 4:11-14), a fully functioning family (Matthew 22:34-40), a Christ-centered community (Hebrews 3:7-16; 10:19-25), a healthy body (Ephesians 4:15-16), and a “teaching hospital” for soul physicians healing hurting and hardened hearts (Matthew 23:23-26).

We will seek to fulfill our LEAD mission through envisioning, enlisting, equipping, and empowering a congregation of biblical counselors [or spiritual friends] and small group ministers. We will comprehensively equip soul care-givers and spiritual directors in biblical content, Christ-like character, counseling competence, and Christian community so they can sustain, heal, reconcile, and guide individuals, couples, and families in our congregation and community to know Christ, grow in Christ, and become Christ-like disciple-makers.

The initial budget for the next fiscal year is _____. For the launch budget see _____ [reference the appropriate document].

We have consulted the appropriate outside counsel to establish best practice protocol regarding legal and ethical issues. For a summary of these policies and procedures see _____ [reference the appropriate document].