



TEN PRINCIPALS

For a Vibrant Church Community:
Dr. David Keck

COVENANT: A LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIP

- A relationship of mutual regard for the other's welfare, not mutual self-interest, is the basis for giving life to one another.



BOUNDARIES: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BAD AND GOOD AND GREAT

- Pastors and congregations thrive together when they have the maturity to covenant together to establish and maintain good boundaries.

MUTUAL MINISTRY: WE ALL SERVE

- One of the greatest gifts a church can give a pastor is a clear statement of pastoral priorities and what responsibilities others will assume.

ORDINATION: RESPECT FOR THE “SET APART”

- All pastors are the public face of a church while also being called to be set apart from the congregation. They are both at the center and on the outside.



MATURITY: CULTIVATING HONESTY, TRUST, AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE

- The ability to be both connected to others and independent from them. The ability to negotiate tensions and conflict with a respect for the diversity of roles in a community.



EUSTRESS: KEEPING THE INEVITABLE TENSIONS IN TUNE

- Healthy churches and healthy pastorates depend to a great extent on how tensions and stresses between necessary polarities are addressed.

EUSTRESS: USEFUL STRESS

- Inreach / Outreach
- Tradition / Innovation
 - Always do it that way / Never done it that way
- Pastoral / Prophetic / Priestly
 - Confirmation / Contradiction / Continuity
- Others???????

EUSTRESS: MANAGING USEFUL STRESS

- Some form of stress is required for the good
- Polarities are seen as “tuning points” not arguing points
- Balancing or “tuning” requires constant attention and reaction to the changing environment.



RESURRECTION: PRACTICE RESURRECTION

- Death and resurrection is the central dynamic of the Christian life, a continuing process of dying to the old and living into the new.

ACCOUNTABILITY: THE SACRAMENT OF FAILURE

- Therese Schroeder-Sheker – the “*Sacrament of Failure*” - God’s transforming and renewing grace at work in the midst of our weaknesses and mistakes.

ACCOUNTABILITY: MEANINGFUL EVALUATION

- 3 Simple Questions
 - What worked?
 - What didn't work?
 - What do we need to do differently?
- Usually useful to determine “why” something worked or didn't to inform the 3rd question
- Most of the time the answer will not be “who”, but it does happen.

SAFETY: DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED

- The question of safety requires that we consider the extent to which a congregation is governed by fear or anxiety. Safety requires a balancing between accountability and support.

PURPOSE: STRIVING TO BE THE CHURCH

- A pastor flourishes when she can see that her work is making a difference, that her congregation is indeed embracing the Great Commission to make disciples.



IMPORTANCE OF VISION

- Answers 'why' to what we do
- Names motivation
- Provides energy
- Brings urgency to risk taking
- Legitimizes & energizes leadership
- Sustains ministry
- Inspires generosity and giving

VISIONING WITH OUR KEY VALUES

- **Hospitality** – Looking In
 - Welcoming, Openness, Tolerance, Inclusiveness, Respect
- **Compassion** - Looking Out
 - Helping others/community, Kindness, Love, Hope, Charity, Mission
- **Service** – Looking Up
 - Spirituality, Faithfulness, Growth, Prayer, Knowledge, Calling
- **Community** – Looking Around
 - Meaningful Relationships, Friendship, Cooperation, Environment

SEEING WHO WE WILL BE

- A vision statement defines who we are going to be based on who we are now and the opportunities ahead of us.
 - It should be easy to remember and easy to share.
 - It should answer the question, “so what”.
- It's purpose is to galvanize us, to motivate us, and to propel us forward in God's mission to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Why are we doing God's mission?
- Where is God leading us?
- Who will we be when we live out our values marvelously well?
- How will someone from the community (not our church) describe us to another person?
- Who in our community are we preparing this church for?
 - Who/what/where will we be in 5 years?, in 10 years?, in 25 years?

GOAL DRIVEN VISION STATEMENTS

- **Feeding America:** A hunger-free America
- **Human Rights Campaign:** Equality for everyone
- **Habitat for Humanity:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live.
- **ASPCA:** That the United States is a humane community in which all animals are treated with respect and kindness.
- **Radio Flyer:** To be the world's most loved children's brand.

MORE

- **Cleveland Clinic:** Striving to be the world's leader in patient experience, clinical outcomes, research and education.
- **Boy Scouts of America:** To prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.
- **Amazon:** "to be earth's most customer centric company; to build a place where people can come to find and discover anything they might want to buy online."

PURPOSE DRIVEN VISIONS

- **Apple** - “Apple is committed to bringing the best personal computing experience to students, educators, creative professionals and consumers around the world through its innovative hardware, software and Internet offerings.”
- **Canon** - We will continue to develop innovative technologies as a means of bettering the world we live in - redefining the workplace and enhancing lifestyles.
- **Smithsonian** - Shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world

CHURCH VISION STATEMENTS

- **High Point Church:** To be a place where LOVE WORKS
- **Glide:** To create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization.
- **Austin Stone:** To build a great city, renewed and redeemed by a gospel movement, by being a church for the city of Austin that labors to advance the gospel throughout the nations.
- **Lafayette Park UMC** - will be a church without walls creating a visible sign of Christ's presence in our urban community.
- **North Kansas City First UMC** - A Friendly Smile, A Warm Embrace, A Spiritual Home
- **Trinity UMC, Kansas City** - "We are a joyful people daring to live God's inclusive vision of justice, love and reconciliation in midtown Kansas City."