

NEChog Guiding Principles

Mission Principles (Values & Practices)

Definition: The values and practices that guide us in our efforts to fulfill our mission.

MP1 Relational Evangelism

Every Christ-follower is called to carry out the Great Commission in their sphere of influence. Therefore we will continually communicate this value and train believers for this mission.

MP2 Relevant Environments

Relevance is crucial to communication. We want our services (and everything we do) to be obviously relevant to both the lost and the saved. A relevant environment helps people tune in to the message, thus giving the Holy Spirit opportunity to work.

MP3 Bible Application

James said it this way, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* In all of our teaching we want everyone to know *what they need to do* and *why they need to do it* in response to Scripture.

MP4 Measurable Discipleship

We want people to make five commitments: 1) to Jesus as Savior and Lord (including baptism), 2) to the Body of Christ via corporate worship, small groups, 3) to a devotional life (time with God in His Word and prayer), 4) a life of stewardship (time, talents and treasure), 5) to relational evangelism. Our focus is on spiritual growth steps, not programs. We may use a program if it helps people make one (or more) of the above commitments, but the emphasis is always on measurable discipleship, not programming.

MP5 Intentional Apprenticing

We want people to think, “reach up and reach out”. I.e. We want mature disciples to be intentional about helping other disciples take steps and we want all of our leaders to intentionally seek to *“replace themselves”* by seeking out others whom they can train to do what they are doing.

Boundary Principles

Definition: the limits of acceptable means that the Lead Pastor is hereby authorize to use in achieving the mission.

BP1 Comprehensive Boundary Statement

The Lead pastor shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision, or organizational circumstance that is unlawful, unethical, or unbiblical.

BP1 Biblical and Moral Integrity

With regard to the teaching, leadership, and membership of the church, the Lead Pastor shall not fail to uphold high standards of biblical teaching, ethics and morality.

BP2 Financial Integrity

Financial planning shall not deviate from the church's stated mmission, or risk financial jeopardy.

BP3 Asset Protection

The Lead pastor shall not allow the assets of the church to be unprotected, inadequately maintained, or unnecessarily risked.

BP4 Treatment of Staff and Volunteers

With respect to the treatment of paid and volunteer staff, the Lead Pastor may not cause or allow conditions that are unfair, illegal, undignified or that undermine the church's mission..

BP5 Communication and Support to the Board

The Lead pastor shall not permit the board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work.

Accountability Principles

Definition: (for the Elder Board chair) the standards to uphold for enforcing the integrity and fulfillment of the board's process.

AP1 Comprehensive Accountability Statement

The responsibility of the Elder Board—before God, on behalf of the congregation and those in the surrounding community who need to be led to Christ and nurtured in Him—is to see that the North Euclid Church of God, through the leadership of its Lead Pastor: 1) achieves the fulfillment of its mission, and 2) avoids violation of its Boundary Principles.

AP2 Relationship with Christ, the church, and the community

The Elder Board shall maintain an active and healthy relationship with Christ and the people he has called his church to serve.

AP3 The Focus and Emphasis of the Board

The board will govern with an emphasis on: 1) outward vision rather than inward preoccupation, 2) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, 3) clear distinction of board and staff roles, 4) collective rather than individual decisions, 5) future rather than past or present, and 6) proactivity rather than reactivity.

AP4 Board Member Code of Conduct

The board commits itself and its members to the following code of conduct:

- a. Members of the board must exhibit loyalty to the interests of Christ regarding those whom he has called his church to serve (Matt. 28:18-20). This loyalty supersedes any personal or group interest among or outside consumers of the church's services.
- b. Members of the board must honor the principles and decisions of the board acting as a whole.
- c. Members of the board must respect the confidentiality of sensitive board issues and must avoid facilitating gossip or other "triangulation" against the practice of direct, biblical resolution.
- d. If there is a decision or discussion by the board and a member has a special or close financial, relational or any other interest that could be seen as

a conflict of interest, the board member should first state that and then excuse him or herself from all votes pertaining to it.

AP5 Clarification of parameters

Only decisions of the board acting as a whole and documented in the Guiding Principles or the minutes of Elder Board meetings are binding on the Lead Pastor.

AP6 Performance of the Lead Pastor

The board will monitor the Lead Pastor's performance solely against accomplishment of the Mission Principles and compliance with the Boundary Principles.