



Orientation Handbook

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Introduction

Mannahouse Global Movement has been in formation for almost seven decades. The origin of this global movement is greatly influenced by a key Scripture given to Pastor Dick Iverson, the founder of Bible Temple, now Mannahouse, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall" Genesis 49:22.

Since our conception, our vision and ministry have gone over the walls and touched many churches, leaders, and nations. Through this positive and fruitful impact, many close relationships with other influential leaders and movements have developed. Mannahouse has seen, experienced, and enjoyed the diverse strengths and blessings of these special relationships. Through these relationships, we have attained a greater synergy by coordinating our respective strengths and strategies in reaching the world together.

To this end, Mannahouse has formulated a plan to develop Families of Churches within our Global Movement that is comprised of church families that plant churches and are committed to keeping covenant apostolic relationships intact. This relational partnership continues to stimulate and enhance the mutual cultivation and utilization of these strengths and strategies worldwide. The following information defines the specifics of our Families of Churches vision:

"A family of like-minded leaders who are committed to partnering together to build and strengthen Families of Churches that multiply."

The following Handbook gives greater clarity as to the vision, purpose, and strategies that guide Mannahouse Families of Churches as we live on mission together.

Our prayers are that God will continue to greatly multiply our efforts to see many families of churches established that are planting multiplying churches.

With Great Faith,

Pastor Marc Estes

President Mannahouse Global Movement

What is Apostolic Ministry?

I Introduction

1. One of the greatest needs for the Body of Christ in this hour is the activation of Biblically-based apostolic leaders to step into their God-given assignment and mentor pastors and churches to fulfill their assignment of reaching people, making disciples, and multiplying churches to reach the world.
2. An essential gift given to the body of Christ is the gift of an Apostle. And on the other hand, one of the most misunderstood and abused gifts in the body of Christ is the gift of an Apostle.
3. When this office/person is properly functioning in their role, the kingdom of God is more well-rounded and fruitful in calling. When there is an absence or abuse of this office/person the church is stagnant or declines.
4. The Apostle Paul gives detailed instructions about the critical role of the Apostle in building the church.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 ESV

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28 ESV

5. These are the five ascension gifts, given by Christ. These ascension gifts pertain to the person and their office, not just the spiritual gifts given to the believer as mentioned in other passages.
6. Paul has given us the blueprint for building and establishing the local church. Each of these Five-Fold ministries plays a key role in the building and expanding of the church. And each one is unique!
7. One of these craftsmen who is key to building the church is the Apostle. They are the "First" and are the builder, pioneer, and forerunner. They lay the foundation for all the rest of the church to be built on.

8. Most of you are either functioning or will be functioning in this role. To be effective in what we are called to do, it is imperative that we understand **three key ingredients** to do the work.

- The Blueprint – What is an Apostle and Apostolic Ministry?
- The Workers – Who are the workers and what should they be doing?
- The Jobsite – What are we building?

II. The Blueprint – What is an Apostle?

A. Biblical Definition

1. An Apostle is derived from the Greek word, “Apostolos.” This word literally is translated as, “**One who is sent forth.**”
2. During the time in which Paul wrote the Epistles, it was a term commonly used in naval expeditions. An Apostle was an admiral or commander of a naval expedition or a fleet of ships. When a fleet of ships was sent by Rome to establish a new economy elsewhere, these leaders were called, Apostles.
3. In Biblical terms, this office is mentioned **79 times** in the New Testament and represents those leaders who are appointed by Jesus to establish new works in other regions. **They were, ‘commissioned messengers.’**

B. Apostolic Confusion and Abuse Today

1. New Testament Apostolic Context

There is a Biblical sequence to the office of an apostle in the New Testament and for today.

- Christ, the Chief Apostle [Hebrews 3:1]
- The Twelve Apostles of the Lamb – Those chosen by Jesus. [Revelation 21:14]
- Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles – Stands unique and distinct from others. [Rom. 1; 1 Cor; etc.]
- Ascension Gift Apostles – Those mentioned in Ephesians 4 and the Epistles. It is the Ascension Gift Apostles that still exist today; none of the other types.

2. The Office of an apostle has been taught to be extinct

- Many believe the office of an apostle was limited to a period between Old Covenant and New Covenant.
- Others believe the office of an apostle was a temporary gift given to a few unique leaders in the Book of Acts to establish the church.
- Upon the death of the Apostle John, this special Apostolic gift was no longer required.

Ephesians states, long after the death of John that these Ascension Ministries were needed.

“**UNTIL** the church comes to full unity and maturity”
Ephesians 4:13

3. The office of an Apostle has been sadly abused

On another note, many who believed this gift to be relevant for today, have used this platform to build ministries and names for themselves. This abuse caused many to become autocratic, authoritarians, and control freaks and it sadly resulted in many churches and people being ruined!

C. Modern Day Biblical Definition of an Apostle

“A five-fold, fathering-servant who has dedicated their life to equipping and strengthening leaders to build healthy, growing, maturing and multiplying churches.”

III. The Workers – The Seven Primary Works of an Apostle

A. Biblical Definition

It is important to distinguish the difference between the work and the workers. In the New Testament, no two apostles were the same in their ministry style, gift-mix, or function. Therefore, it is important that we don't try to demand that every apostolic leader function in the same manner.

Yet, there are some non-negotiables that must be the foundation of the works of every Apostolic Leader.

1. Apostolic Leaders help plant and establish healthy local churches on a proper foundation.

but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord

Ephesians 2:19-21 ESV

2. Apostolic Leaders are passionate to establish and protect Biblical doctrine.

And they devoted themselves to **the apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42 ESV

3. Apostolic Leaders are committed to the care, development, and correction of church leaders.

And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see **HOW** they are.

Acts 15:36 ESV

4. Apostolic Leaders are dedicated to feeding, training, and releasing others in ministry.

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men**, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

5. Apostolic Leaders willingly invest their resources in other churches and leaders.

just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:6-7 ESV

6. Apostolic Leaders are needed to assist with church judgments and disciplines.

I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers and stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

3 John 9-10 ESV

7. Apostolic Leaders are involved in ordaining and setting in new ministry leaders.

... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:5-6 ESV

IV. The Jobsite – What are We Building?

We are not building our church, our way with our design. It is Christ's church. He is the Master Builder and has a Master Plan, which requires key ingredients. He commands us to follow His plan. The blueprint for His church is the Book of Acts (The history... His Story... of the New Testament Church).

As you work to build your own church and pastor those who are building their churches, these are the Biblical ingredients we are to look for and encourage all churches to build.

1. A Presence-Filled Church

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2

They worshipped together at the Temple each day...

Acts 2:46

2. A Spirit-Driven church

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:4-5

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

Acts 1:8

3. A Word-Centered Church

And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine**

Acts 2:42-46

4. A Prophetic Church

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius)

Acts 11:27-28 ESV

5. A Gospel-Centered Church

"... Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38

6. An Evangelistic Church

... and you shall be my witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8

... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Acts 2:40-41

... and the number of the men added were 5000...

Acts 4:4

7. An Interceding Church

All these with one accord were **devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:14 ESV

8. A People-Focused, Community-Minded Church

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common...

Acts 2:44

9. A Team-Ministry Church

Now there were in the church at Antioch **prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.**

Acts 13:1

10. A Servant-Spirited Church

and they sold their possessions and goods, and **divided them among all**, as anyone had need.

Acts 2:45

11. A Generous Church

and **sold their possessions and goods**, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Acts 2:45

12. A Unified Church

All these with one accord...

Acts 1:14 ESV

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had

Acts 1:14 NLT

13. A Multiplying Church

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly.

Acts 6:7 NKJV

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Acts 9:31 NKJV

V. Conclusion

This is what God had in mind when he built His church. May we as leaders of churches and families do our part to develop a healthy, biblically based apostolic culture that keeps leaders healthy and churches multiplying to reach the world.



Mannahouse Families of Churches

Vision and Purpose

Introduction

Mannahouse Global Movement has been in formation for almost seven decades. The origin of this global movement is greatly influenced by a key Scripture given to Pastor Dick Iverson, the founder of Mannahouse (formerly Bible Temple, City Bible Church).

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall.”

Genesis 49:22

Since our beginning, our vision and ministry have gone over the walls and impacted many churches, leaders, and nations. Through this positive and fruitful impact, many close relationships with other influential leaders and movements have developed. Mannahouse has seen, experienced, and enjoyed the diverse strengths and blessings of these special relationships. We have found a greater synergy through these relationships by coordinating our respective strengths and strategies in reaching the world together.

Our Families of Churches consists of Church Planters and Apostolic Family Leaders who currently have three or more churches relating to their local first line of counsel known as, “A Family of Churches.” The ultimate objective of the Mannahouse Global Movement is to be a catalyst with other leaders to create a Movement of Families of Churches that rapidly multiply in planting more multiplying churches.

To this end, Mannahouse has formulated a “Families of Churches” concept within our Global Movement that continues to stimulate and enhance the mutual cultivation and utilization of these strengths and strategies worldwide. The following defines our Global Families of Churches vision:

“A family of like-minded leaders who are committed to partnering together to build and strengthen Families of Churches that multiply.”

Our Values

Mannahouse Families of Churches has been formed from a special bond between those who have been sent from or look to Mannahouse Global Movement as their primary apostolic first line of counsel. We share more than just a common vision; we share covenant relationships, common beliefs, values, convictions and resources. We can be identified by the following values:

Locally and Globally Focused

We have a passion to reach people locally and globally. We recognize the need to reach 'our Jerusalem and the ends of the earth,' is great, and partnering together will give us the privilege of reaching many more people as a Movement than we ever could with our own Family of Churches. Each apostolic leader has influence in different countries, and we desire to use every opportunity to reach as many around the globe as possible.

Relationally Connected

One of the greatest values we can possess is healthy, long-lasting, safe relationships that help each other to stay holistically healthy and passionately committed to the cause of spreading the Gospel. Each Family Leader fully embraces the importance of being in relationship with other leaders in the Mannahouse Global Movement and beyond, being accountable to one another, and abiding by a shared creed and ethics statement.

Strategically Collaborative

Together, we have a deep well of experience, resources, finances, and giftings to make a global impact. Each Family Leader understands the great value of collaborating with other Family Leaders in the Mannahouse Global Movement.

Shared Resources

Together, we can make a colossal difference in expanding the kingdom. Every Family Leader is committed to willingly contribute both finances and resources toward the great goal of planting more churches, sending more missionaries, and equipping more leaders.

Multiplication-Minded

From the beginning of time, God's mandate was to be fruitful and multiply. We are passionate about churches committed to raising leaders who multiply themselves within their own church family, which results in churches that plant multiplying churches.

Our Distinctions – Movement Makers

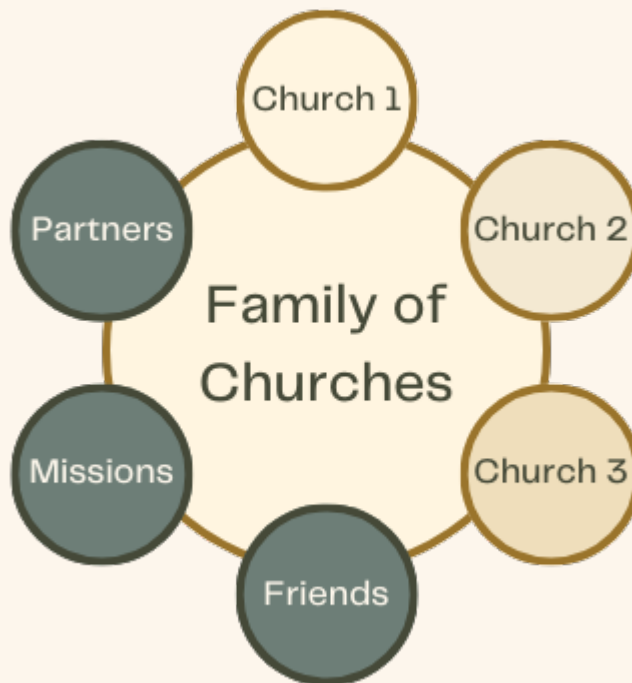
We recognize that many Apostolic Movements are having a great impact on the world today and we celebrate their efforts. But we also recognize a specific blend of Biblical distinctions that identify the Mannahouse Global Movement. They include:

- Covenant relationships
- Sound theology
- Gospel-centered
- Local church-based
- Kingdom-minded
- Eldership-led Governance
- Kingdom influence in every sphere of society
- Multiplication-focused
- Personal stewardship – character, and integrity
- Cultural astuteness
- Culture of honor
- Strategic and Spirit-empowered leadership

Our Strategy

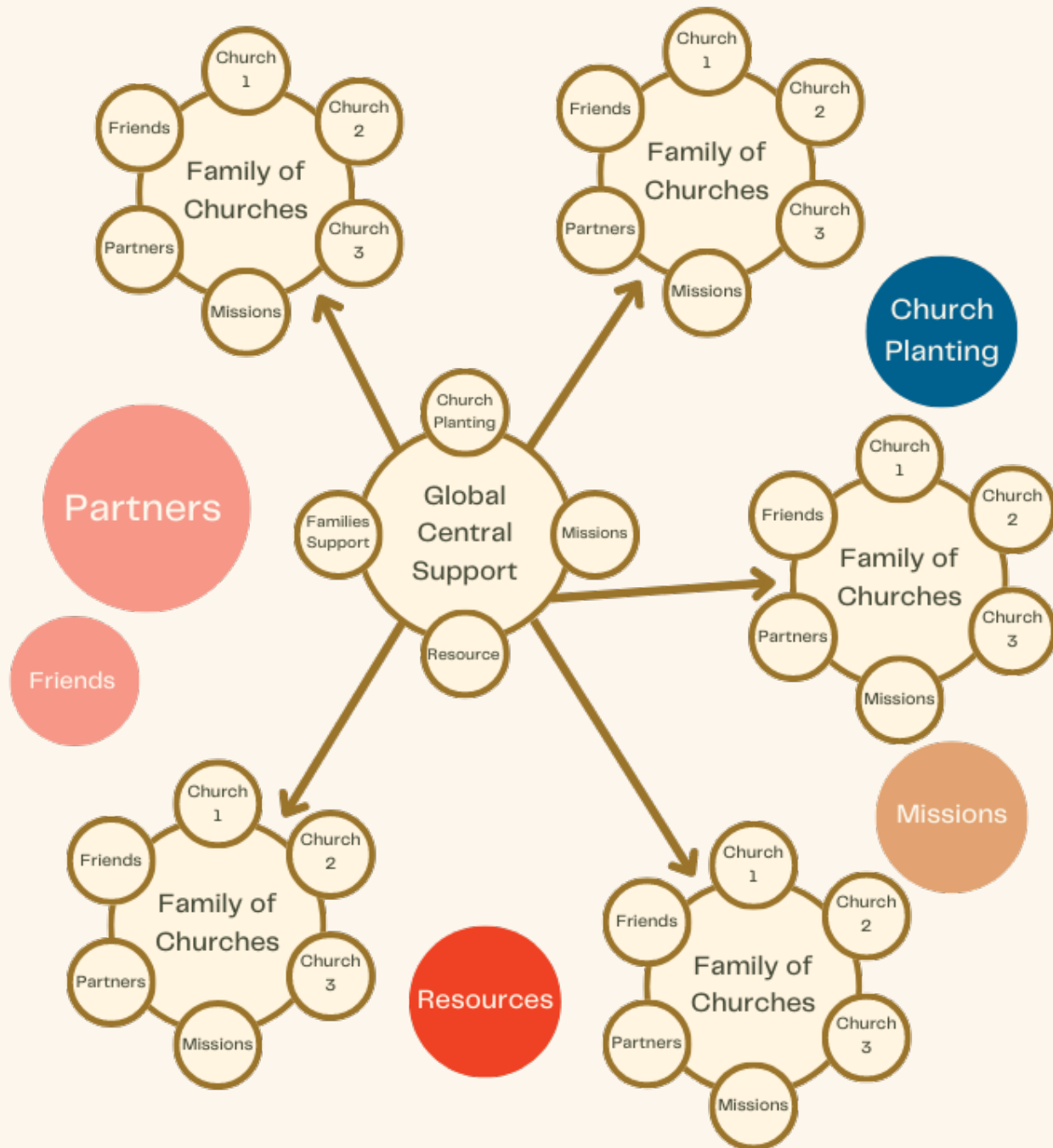
Our strategy consists of building a movement of Families of Churches. The Mannahouse Global Movement is comprised of many Families of Churches that have three or more churches that have been planted out of any given church or adopted into their Family of Churches.

The church plants from any given local church become part of their own Family of Churches and are dedicated to the relationships and health of their own individual Family of Churches. Primary Apostolic Leadership remains with the Apostolic Leader of that particular family and not Mannahouse Global Movement Leaders. These church plants are known as “Family Members” in the broader Mannahouse Global Movement. In addition, each Family of Churches may have its own expression of Missions, Partners or Friends as well.



When a local church has planted three or more churches, the Lead Pastor of that church serves as the Family Leader of their own Family of Churches and is recognized as their own Family of Churches (see diagram on next page). All the Families of Churches come together to form the Mannahouse Global Movement.

Mannahouse Global Movement



Each Family Leader sees themselves as a key part of the broader vision and is highly committed to connecting to and collaborating with Mannahouse Global Movement as a whole. They fully understand their role to apostolically cover their own churches yet celebrate the benefit of bringing their own Family of Churches to partner with the broader Mannahouse Global Movement.

Family Leaders and their Family of Churches benefit from other Apostolic leaders, relationships, resources, church planting training, and special church planting funding, missions and central support from the Mannahouse Global Movement.

As part of the Mannahouse Families of Churches, each Family Leader and their churches are committed to a reasonable financial partnership to help keep their Family of Churches and the Global Movement funded and fruitful. (See Finance section for more details).

Our Objectives

Our Families of Churches serve together to accomplish the following targeted objectives for our collaborative Global Movement vision. These objectives include:

Shared Best Practices

When there are no clear processes or standards utilized for any effort, waste is inevitable. A Family Leader or our global movement can expend unnecessary time, cost, and labor creating an asset or competency that does not already exist within our broader family. Sharing “best practices” is a method or technique that consistently shows superior results to those achieved through individual efforts. Inefficiencies can be eliminated by having influential leaders share and/or utilize each other’s respective core assets and core competencies.

Shared Resources

Although each influential Family Leader may have their own materials (print, audio, visual) to draw from, there can be a lack of sharing resources among leaders who are aligned in vision. Compiling, categorizing, and integrating these materials, and developing digital/online collaborative portals for these resources, will enable Family Leaders to easily access resources from all families for their own specific efforts. Mannahouse Resources technology is available for all Family Leaders to use, post, share with their entire church and family. This includes the option of creating their own resource landing page and portal.

Shared Projects

At times, there may be national or international projects that encourage all Family Leaders to join to accomplish one global initiative. Family leaders may choose to share finances or leadership teams above and beyond their normal financial commitment.

It is healthy to build vision items or share global needs that stretch beyond the immediate family of each Family Leader's own Family of Churches. This objective will also help to strengthen relationships and further connect our individual Families of Churches together like a worldwide net.

Shared Initiatives

Family Leaders are encouraged to develop and promote key initiatives such as Short-Term Missions (STORM) Teams, Training Intensives, special gatherings and events, buildings, material development, etc. These will focus on specific Global Movement projects, whereas the entire all will have the privilege to participate.

Ministry Opportunities

As relationships continue to grow between the Family Leaders, the opportunity to speak at each other's churches and conferences can be a great benefit for everyone. The Mannahouse Global Movement is filled with nation-impacting pastors and leaders, and maximizing these relationships should be a key strategy for every Family Leader.

Our Creed

We recognize that there are many great leaders and movements that share a different view on key theological positions. We celebrate their efforts and continue to pray for and work hard to maintain a spirit of unity and respect for each of these organizations globally.

However, the Mannahouse Global Movement has developed and expanded like-minded Families of Churches that embrace a shared theological position. Sharing these beliefs is critical in our desire to build alongside one another. The following fundamental teachings of the Mannahouse Global Movement are reflected in the following statements*:

WE BELIEVE in the plenary-verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal. 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16

WE BELIEVE in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible. Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

WE BELIEVE in the literal, special creation of the existing space-time universe and all its basic systems as indicated in Genesis. Genesis 1; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 42:5; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17

WE BELIEVE in the creation, test, and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness. Romans 5:12, 18

*Taken from Mannahouse Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE that sin is a transgressing of, or falling short of, God's standard in action, thought, and character. All individuals are born with a sin nature that affects their motivation, affection, volition, and actions. The results of sin include separation from God, and death. Romans 3:10,23; 6:23; 14:23; James 4:17; 1 John 5:17

WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully man. Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18

WE BELIEVE Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples. Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

WE BELIEVE in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal, and bodily coming again the second time for the Church. Matthew 24; Mark 16:19; John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9-11 Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 9:28

WE BELIEVE in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins. Romans 5:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12,22

WE BELIEVE in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of Christ. Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; 19:1-6

WE BELIEVE in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a distinct aspect of the Christian foundational experience with the primary evidence of speaking in tongues as well as evidence such as empowerment to witness, to conquer sin and to live a holy life. Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6

WE BELIEVE in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and the perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith. 2 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:18

WE BELIEVE that since the Bible is the inspired Word of God, it is then authoritative in all areas of human behavior, including marriage, family, sexuality, morality, and ethics.

WE BELIEVE that the Bible defines marriage as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman. The importance of this union to society requires that we support and protect marriage as the Word of God does.

WE BELIEVE in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as manifested in the Early Church and enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

WE BELIEVE in the healing of the body by Divine Power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the Early Church.

WE BELIEVE in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers.

WE BELIEVE in eternal life for believers (John 3:16; 5:24) and eternal punishment for unbelievers.

WE BELIEVE in the reality and personality of Satan and eternal judgment of Satan and his angels.

In addition to these basic fundamentals, we also hold that:

- ♦ The theological framework for understanding all of God's dealings with mankind is to be found in the divine covenants revealed in Scripture. *Romans 9:4-5; Galatians 3-4; Ephesians 1:9-14; 3:11 Hebrews 8; 13:20*
- ♦ We believe in the public gathering of the Church together for prayer, worship, teaching and preaching of the Bible and the administering of the sacraments of the church. *Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 11; Hebrews 10:25*
- ♦ The Bible defines marriage as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman. The importance of this union to society requires that we support and protect marriage as the Word of God does. *Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:4-6*
- ♦ Humanity as a whole is united in origin, in the fall, and in the provision of the atonement through Christ, making every person equally worthy of love and forgiveness; as well as just and unbiased treatment. *John 3:16; Acts 10:34; 17:26; Romans 5:6-21; Colossians 3:8-16*
- ♦ God's eternal purpose involves all races and nations, culminating in every nation, tribe and tongue being represented before His throne. *Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 2:14-18; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Revelation 5:9; 7:9*
- ♦ The Church of Jesus Christ is the last instrument that God is using to extend His kingdom prior to the second coming of Christ. *Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:20-23; 3:10*
- ♦ The local church is autonomous; it is self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating in its mature state. *Acts 2; 13:1-4*
- ♦ The biblical form of church government is a plurality of elders with a Lead Pastor who all qualify on the basis of 1 Timothy 3 in spiritual life, character, domestic life and ruling ability. Every believer in Christ must be subject to God's authority in a specific local church for spiritual protection and long-term fruitfulness. *Hebrews 13:17*

Our Ethics

The ethics of being a Family Leader is primarily one of service and support. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that the role of the Apostle is to be a gift – not a burden – to the local church. It is when apostolic ethics are ignored or abused in the execution of proper apostolic function that causes many pastors to be leery of embracing apostolic influence. For our Global Movement (or any Apostolic Movement) to progress, Family Leaders must practice healthy apostolic ethics including*:

Prioritized Relationships

Healthy apostolic influence is expressed through relationship, not legal or organizational institutions. Family Leaders must choose to relationally invest themselves into the people they are leading. For this reason, each Family of Churches must be of a size and structure that allows the formation and nurturing of personal relationships to exist and be sustainable. These face-to-face connections do not happen in large group settings, through mass mailings, or at conferences. These covenantal connections occur over dinner, lengthy phone conversations, digital interaction and in one-on-one meetings. These family relationships thrive in environments fostering healthy interactions founded upon mutual sharing, and they suffer under controlling, dominating, or manipulative oligarchies.

Financial Independence

The motivation for a Family Leader must be one of service to their churches and not personal profit. While it is proper for churches to provide a level of financial support to their Family of Churches, a mutual spirit of generosity should be a motivating virtue behind the relationship. If any church begins to feel that their Family of Churches is a burden (a clear indication of their perception of the “value” they are receiving), the Family Leader influence is negatively affected. We ascribe to adhere to the financial guidelines as defined later in the Finance section of this Handbook.

Instructional Influence

Family Leaders should have relational influence not control over their Family of Churches. Their apostolic voice should be one of comfort, encouragement, and – when necessary – gentle correction. A demanding, harsh, controlling, or critical Family Leader is the antithesis of healthy apostolic influence. The rare exception is in times of leadership crisis including financial problems, leadership moral failures, or heresy. In these instances, gentle, yet firm authority should be first granted from the local church, it's Elders to the Family Leader.

*This section was taken from Gateway Apostolic Meeting Document, October 10, 2018 and modified to fit our Movement terminology.

Servant Minded

Family Leaders have a sacrificial role serving the churches under their care and being present in the best and worst times. The Family Leader role is expressed similarly to how fathers influence their adult, married children; and how coaches motivate teams. In fulfilling this role Family Leaders should be a gift to the church, offering their time, extending their influence, sharing their heart, and giving of their resources freely without manipulation.

Personal Accountability

Every Family Leader should also have well-established, healthy apostolic relationships. These relationships should be first with the Mannahouse Global Movement Leaders and may be supplemented with other leaders outside the Movement. We believe that having authority starts first by being under authority. We all embrace the idea of having accountable relationships which have permission to speak into any area of our lives.

Our Future

Together we can see the power of multiplying our apostolic gifting to plant multiplying churches who multiply Families of Churches that create a movement that impacts the globe.

The time to multiply is now. May God grant each of us the grace to see our movement multiply.



Relationships: Structure and Function

Relationships: Structure and Function

Introduction

Relationships are the foundation of the Mannahouse Global Movement. We believe that together, we can reach many more people globally than any one church or family can do on their own. It is the unique blend of covenant relationships, shared DNA, unique distinctions, collaborative mindset, shared resources, and a passion to reach the world that makes our entire family all that we are today.

We recognize that any engagement in the Mannahouse Global Movement is a decision that a local church pastor and their elders choose, and in turn, the entire Global Movement embraces and celebrates. It is through these divine covenant relationships that all parties choose to partner together in extending the kingdom.

Furthermore, we recognize that healthy apostolic relationships are critical to every local church. The role of sustainable seasoned leadership functioning as mentors is a unique mark of our movement and a key biblical strategy in building our movement, families, and churches. Although there may be some apostolic counsel and care extended from the Global Leadership Team and Family Leadership Team, we continue to strongly support the autonomy of the local church which is governed by the Lead Pastor and Eldership team.

The primary vision of the Global Movement is to develop a **'Movement of Families of Churches'** which are knitted together by a shared vision and covenant relationships. As each local church begins to plant its own churches, the Lead Pastor of the sending church has the potential of becoming a Family Leader and enjoy some additional mentoring, meetings, and resources while remaining in the Global Movement. Their engagement with other Family Leaders will allow them to have more relationship and equipping with other key Family Leaders who can help them in building their own successful Family of Churches.

There are four specific teams that exist to serve the Families of Churches. These are the Global Leadership Team, Families Lead Team, Families of Churches, and Global Hubs. In addition, there are two types of relationships that may exist in every family. There are Partners and Friends. The following section defines each of these roles.

Global Leadership Team

The Global Leadership Team serves as the overseers for the entire Mannahouse Global Movement. This team is comprised of key selected leaders within the broader Movement family that are empowered to oversee, lead, coordinate, and implement the Mannahouse Global Movement vision.

This team may include leaders from any local church within the Global Movement. In addition, these leaders are not all Lead Pastors but must have a passion for church planting and an apostolic grace on their lives.

Families Lead Team

The Families Lead Team is a global community of Family Leaders who are committed to partnering together to build a movement of nation-impacting churches that multiply. This vision is led by a group of Apostolic Leaders who have been appointed by the Global Leadership Team to help establish vision, direction, policy, and strategy for all of the Families of Churches.

Families of Churches

A Family of Churches is a group of like-minded churches who are connected apostolically and are in partnership to build healthy churches that plant multiplying churches. There is no limit to the number of Families of Churches that can be built in the Mannahouse Global Movement, as we are building a movement of Families of Churches, not just one Family of churches.

There are two general types of Families of Churches that exist: national and international. The primary reason for this distinction is that many international Families vary widely in the model and church planting practices. While at the national level, all national Families follow a similar model of building their local churches and running their individual Family of Churches.

The common denominator for every national and international Family of Churches is found in our mutual commitment to abide by our “Vision and Purpose Statement” where every Family of Churches agrees to embrace our shared values, distinctions, strategies, objectives, financial model, creed, and ethics. The following definitions bring clarity to the different types of relationships.

National Families of Churches

Each National Family of Churches is built on the national model and is overseen by a “Family Leader.” A Family Leader is a Lead Pastor [or former] who has planted 3 or more churches and has begun their own Family of Churches and is committed to building the same model of local churches and Family of Churches.

National Family Members

A Family Member is a Lead Pastor who is connected through a Family Leader and their church which is a part of the Mannahouse Global Movement. This Family Member leads a local church [or former] that has been planted or adopted by the Family Leader and their own Family of Churches. The Family Members are welcome to be a part of any annual Global Movement Gatherings and will receive certain privileges and benefits as defined by the “Global Family Relationship Grid.” All apostolic input and care come from their own Family Leader and not from Mannahouse or Global Family Leadership Team unless agreed upon by all parties.

International Families of Churches

Each International Family of Churches is built on an international framework which can span over one or multiple countries. There is no exclusivity to any one country or family. It is overseen by a “Family Leader.” A Family Leader is A Lead Pastor [or former] who has planted 3 or more churches and has begun their own Family of Churches of local churches and is committed to having developed a proven, successful multiplying church planting model that is impacting their part of the world. Their model may vary greatly from the National Family of Churches due to the extreme cultural differences in their part of the world.

International Family Members

An International Family Affiliate is a Lead Pastor who is connected through an International Family Leader and their church which is a part of Mannahouse Global Movement. This Family Member leads a local church that has been planted or adopted by a Family Leader and their own Family of Churches. The Family Members are welcome to be a part of any annual Global Movement Gatherings and will receive certain privileges and benefits as defined by the “Global Family Relationship Grid.” All apostolic input and care come from their Family Leader and not from Mannahouse or Global Family Leadership Team unless agreed upon by all parties.

Family of Churches Function

The goal of each Family of Churches (National and International) is to build a thriving Family of Churches that embrace the “Vision and Purpose Statement” of the Mannahouse Global Movement. These groups will develop relationships, share resources, and collaborate within their own Family of Churches, while still partaking in the major Mannahouse Global Movement Family Gathering and Intensive Summit annually.

Global Hubs

A Global Hub is a church in a key nation that has; developed a strong Apostolic-minded church, become a key Portland Bible College Affiliate, developed a resource engine for their nation, and developed a multiplying church planting movement.

The Global Leadership Team and the Family Lead Team work together to identify and develop these key Global Hubs and partner with that country in planting multiplying churches.

These Global Hubs are a key focus of Mannahouse Global Movement ministry trips, STORM Teams, and special funding. The goal for all Families of Churches, Mannahouse Resources, and Portland Bible College is to assist in making these Global Hubs thrive.

Partners

These leaders are a special group of friends and family who have a relationship and history with the a Family Leader and their churches who desire to relate but not engage in active, strategic partnership with global vision. We encourage every Partner to contribute a minimum of \$500 [U.S. or equivalent in other nations] annually to the Family of Churches where they are connected, which is used to cover costs of Global Gatherings and events. Every Partner understands there is no access to Mannahouse Church Plant Legacy Funds or Crisis Funds.

Friends

Friends of Mannahouse Global Movement consists of other Apostolic Leaders, Movements, or church leaders that are not a part of our Global Movement but share the same passion to plant thriving churches globally.

This group of Friends may gather occasionally with the purpose of building relationships, sharing best practices, collaborating on specific initiatives, developing a culture of accountability, and helping develop a healthy framework for apostolic ministry globally. There is no oversight, financial obligations, or commitment to engage in any program or team.

Relationship Definitions and Grid

The Mannahouse Global Movement consists of a wide variety of relationships. Every person is a part of the Global Movement but relates in different ways. Each specific group is defined on the “Global Family Relationship Grid” which is available upon request.

Although every relationship is highly valued, every tier of relationship carries certain benefits and privileges. The higher the commitment, the greater the privileges that are offered. It is the desire of the Mannahouse Global Movement to freely help all, but limited resources prevent this desire from taking place. Therefore, a grid has been developed to bring clarity and to ensure that those who are heavily invested receive the greatest level of benefits.



Resources and Collaboration

Resources and Collaboration

Introduction

Since our conception in 1951, there has been a call for us to develop equipping resources (Manna) for the greater body of Christ. This calling has been expressed through cassette tapes, teaching materials, Bible colleges, Christian schools, worship music, and publishing. Heaven will tell the stories of the countless lives that have been blessed because of these efforts.

In recent years, there has been a few significant shifts regarding how we distribute our resources to the world. Our goal is to accomplish the following objectives:

1 Offer All Resources on One Central Platform

To make it easy for anyone to find desired resources quickly.

2 Spread Seed to the Nations at Little or No Charge

Although there are some items that are proprietary and require modest charges such as Bible College Courses and Books, most other items are being posted and available to the world at no charge for those who have signed up to Mannahouse Resource website.

3 Increase the Pool of Contributors from the Global Movement

We recognize there are many great resources that deserve further exposure and believe our resource site can be a primary tool to distribute these Global Movement resources to the world.

4 Specific Landing Page and Sort Features for Families and Other Organizations

We have developed the ability for any Family of Churches or non-profit organizations to build their own custom-made landing page to service their own relationships. For a nominal set up fee and monthly charge, any family can both access all materials as well as post their own materials within the Mannahouse Resource framework.

It is with this vision, that Family Leaders should continually discern how to best partner together and utilize this robust resource strategy to best serve their own Family of Churches. The following section gives a summary of available resources.

Mannahouse Resources

Mannahouse Resources is a department of Mannahouse Global Movement and is primarily focused on offering key resources to every Family of Churches and the greater body of Christ. Special discounts on items for sale are extended to the Global Movement. Most resources are free once an individual signs up for site usage. Custom site development is available for any Family of Churches.

There has been significant effort in reformatting PBC courses and materials to best fit the needs of the local church. Traditionally, the primary means of receiving any education from PBC was to attend the main campus in Portland, Oregon. In recent years we have developed strategies to take our college materials to the local church globally in a variety of ways. We believe this one area of resources is a significant key in building healthy churches and leaders in toxic times. This should be a passion of every Family Leader to ensure their entire family is Biblically literate and well trained in the Word of God.

“One of the greatest breakdowns of church planting movements over the centuries is the erosion of sound doctrine. One of the earmarks of a successful church planting movement is the fervent passion to indoctrinate every church planter and their leaders in a proper biblical foundation in these toxic times.”

PBC has developed Online programs, Affiliate programs, Extension Campus programs, and Subscription programs (www.pbcaccess.com) to serve all Families of Churches. Continual new additions will be added as it is our commitment to develop key tools to ensure the local church is properly training its leaders in Biblical truths. In addition, special licensing agreements can be discussed to best fit your specific needs upon request.

S.T.O.Rz.M. Teams

The acronym S.T.O.R.M. simply stands for “Short Term Out-Reach Mission” Team. As a Global Movement, we all embrace that one of our primary purposes is to extend the kingdom to all nations. Every local church and missionary in the Mannahouse Global Movement should be passionate about building the church locally and globally. A true Acts 1:8 mission foundation should be at the core of every Family Leader and their Family of Churches.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 NKJV

One of the greatest challenges we have in today’s culture is keeping a vision for the world in the hearts of every believer. One of the greatest strategies of getting the world into the heart of every believer is to get every believer into the world!

We also recognize there are certain countries that are in the hearts of some of our more established Church Families. We continually assess and qualify key nations with the goal of adding more nations to our larger Mannahouse Global Movement.

An annual STORM Team strategy is developed to serve each Family of Churches. The Central Support Teams work to promote these exciting trips to the entire Global Movement. The Mission Lead Team defines key trips for the year. This team develops an annual rollout with promotional materials that is sent to every Family Leader and their Family of Churches. Each Family of Churches and their churches should consider having a local missions person that works with the Missions Lead Team to make these trips accessible to every local church.

One key component of these trips is to target churches both nationally and internationally that are a part of our Global Movement. These include new church plant launches, mission efforts, Global Hubs, and any local church requesting a STORM team to assist them in special outreach opportunities.

Accelerate – Leadership Training Intensives

Since its conception, the goal of Accelerate is to produce a robust equipping event that is very different from a conference. There are many world-class conferences that gather thousands of leaders, many of which are difficult to match in quality. However, there are few, if any events, that are focused on comprehensively equipping leaders in specific areas of ministry.

The goal of Accelerate is to identify key ministry areas and provide a two-day intensive where all Families of Churches can bring their leaders to be equipped in a specific ministry area. Each year key areas are identified, and equipping tracks are developed for Accelerate. These teaching teams are comprised of the most experienced and anointed leaders in our Global Movement, not just from Mannahouse.

Our hope is that every Family of Churches will make this an annual priority in their schedule.

More info: [Accelerate.online](https://www.accelerateonline.com)

Other

We recognize that these four key resources are only the beginning of what God might have for us as a Movement. As we establish a true equipping culture in all our churches using these key resources, we should be prayerfully considering other equipping resources that may help to strengthen and multiply our local churches.



Finances

Finances

Introduction

There are two primary resources that help with vision fulfillment: people and finance. The world is filled with great dreams and ideas, but unless there are the people who will lead and the finances to fund them, vision remains a fantasy.

The Global Leadership Team recognizes that the vision to reach the world is both a priority and a passion. Over the past decades, much of our Global Movement vision has been confined within the Mannahouse Elders and Leadership team. However, in recent years, our vision has redirected our global vision to the broader family due to our renewed passion to partner with our entire Global Family and other key organizations to rapidly spread the Good News to a world in need of Jesus.

We recognize creating a compelling vision to attract financial resources from other churches and organizations is a real challenge, to say the least. Each local church and organization are filled with unique vision items, building issues, payroll, and operational challenges. Unfortunately, many local churches have not built the proper financial missional framework that would allow them to contribute to global causes beyond their own internal needs.

One of the key priorities of all Family Leaders and their churches is to plant local churches that build with a global-reaching mindset. Each local church is strongly encouraged to build an annual budget with a commitment to designate 10% of all general tithes to 'over-the-wall' giving. Out of the 10% designated for outreach, church planting, and missions, a minimum of 2% **should be committed to the Family of Churches of which they are a part.** The remaining 8% of their outreach budget should be dispersed toward local and global vision passions of their own local church.

Our passion to embrace this financial culture and model will greatly determine our ability to multiply our church planting efforts and reach the world in the way God desires.

Mannahouse Global Movement Operational Costs

The Mannahouse Eldership has the conviction that reaching the world is a primary vision of their local church. This has compelled them to generously subsidize payroll, facilities, and administrative costs for the Mannahouse Global Movement. They are committed to leading the Global Movement by modeling their deep commitment and generosity toward this Global Movement Vision.

These generous contributions help us to understand that “ALL other financial contributions that come from any Family of Churches **do not come TO benefit Mannahouse** but are dispersed **THROUGH Mannahouse to benefit the Movement**” for the growth and expansion of every Family of Churches.

Individual Church Shared Contributions

Every church that is a part of the Mannahouse Global Movement understands the importance of participating in Shared Contributions. Our financial model encourages every local church to give **2% of their general tithes or an annual maximum amount of \$10,000 to their own Family of Churches Fund**. Even though there is a maximum amount established any local church does have the freedom to contribute more to their Family of Churches fund as they feel led.

Family of Churches Shared Contributions

Every Lead Family Church will continue to contribute 2% of their own general tithes or an annual maximum amount of \$10,000 to their first line of counsel/sending church family fund.

Every church within a Family will also contribute 2% of the general tithes or an annual maximum amount of \$10,000 to their Family of Churches Fund.

Each Family of Church fund is committed to steward its own funds based upon the following agreed-upon guidelines. It is up to the Family Leader and their team to oversee, distribute and properly manage these funds with proven means of accountability and utmost integrity. Here is how these Church Family Funds should be dispersed:

Family Shared Contributions – 50%

- 40% is designated for Family events, gifts, and resources
- 10% is designated for Family crisis costs

Mannahouse Global Movement Shared Contributions – 50%

- 30% is designated for Mannahouse Church Plant Legacy Fund
- 20% is designated for Global Movement events, resources, discounts, Family Lead Team Meetings

A financial example may help to bring further clarity. This model below assumes there are five churches in a Church Family. Each church grosses \$250,000 in annual tithes. Their shared contribution of 2% to their Family of Churches would be \$5,000 annually. The total of all five churches would gross \$25,000 for their Family of Churches Fund. The totals and distribution would be:

Family events, gifts, and resources	40%	\$10,000
Family crisis and costs	10%	\$2,500
Mannahouse Church Plant Legacy Fund	30%	\$7,500
Global Movement Gatherings, Events, Resources, Discounts	20%	<u>\$5,000</u>
TOTAL		\$25,000

There are two exceptions that apply to our Shared Contributions funding model:

A Family Leader who is no longer the Lead Pastor of a local church

If a Family Leader has transitioned out of the Lead Pastor role of their own local church. It is then up to the new Lead Pastor and their Elders to determine if they will continue to participate in the Mannahouse Global Movement and in a designated Family of Churches. This decision will dictate their desire to continue with their shared contributions.

Partners

These leaders are a special group of friends and family who have longstanding relationship and history with the Mannahouse who desire to relate but not engage in active, strategic partnership with global vision. They are asked to contribute a minimum of \$500 annually which is used to cover costs of all Global Gatherings and events. They understand that there is no access to Mannahouse Church Plant Legacy Fund or Crisis Funds.

Annual Disbursement of Funds

Each Family Leader will be responsible to encourage their own churches to be faithful in giving their Shared Contributions. All giving records are to be managed by the Family Leader church. An annual report and a check is to be sent to Mannahouse Global Central Offices at the end of the calendar year using the following form:

Family of Churches Annual Financial Report

Family Leader Name: _____

Family Lead Church: _____

Church Name	Pastor	Annual Shared Contributions
	Total Shared Contributions	\$
	50% of Shared Contributions to Global Movement	\$

A total of 50% of annual Shared contributions are to be designated to the Mannahouse Global Movement which serves as a direct benefit of every local church and Family of Churches. Based upon their total shared contributions, 30% of these funds are distributed to the Global Mannahouse Church Plant Legacy Fund and 20% of these funds are allocated to their participation in Global Gatherings, events, and resources.

All reports and funds are to be submitted to Mannahouse Global Movement offices no later than December 31st.



Meetings and Communication

Meetings and Communication

Introduction

Your role as a Family Leader is critical to those whom you lead and those who lead you. Developing an ongoing communication plan for you and your church pastors will be a very important step. Here are some recommendations to keep yourself, your team and churches healthy and engaged:

Family Meetings and Communication

Ongoing Texting

Create a text thread or WhatsApp thread that connect your entire Family of Churches Pastors together. Send encouragements, prayers, updates, and general thoughts often.

Monthly Emails

Consider creating a monthly communication email that shares thoughts, ideas, updates, training, events to keep your Family of Churches informed.

Individual Communication and Coaching

Build a strategy where you care, coach, and develop your Family Pastors individually to help them to remain healthy and multiply themselves and their churches. Maximize the Mannahouse Resources to help in your coaching journey. It is highly recommended to include spouses in your conversations.

Family Meetings and Events

We strongly encourage every Family of Churches to host a minimum of one annual event where you can gather your pastors and their leaders for a time of relationship and equipping. We suggest this event takes place in the Fall, to leave room for our annual Mannahouse Global Gathering to gather in the Spring. Access your Family Funds that are designated for these events to make your event worth attending.

You might also consider inviting your pastors and leaders to any special events or meetings that you host at your church.

Shared Resources

If your church has additional resources that would benefit your Family of Churches find a way to communicate and distribute these resources regularly. You may also consider submitting to the Mannahouse Resource Team and ask them to consider posting on www.mannahouserresource.com so the entire Global Movement could access them for their use. Furthermore, you can also work with the Resource Team to develop your own Resource landing page for a nominal set up cost and monthly fee.

Global Movement Meetings and Communication

Monthly Emails

Mannahouse Global Movement Central offices sends a monthly email to you and your all of your Family of Churches. This is a way for you and your entire Family of Churches to stay closely connected with all that is happening with the entire Global Movement. Be sure to take the time to read and prayerfully discern how the information and opportunities can benefit you and your Family of Churches.

Free Access to Global Movement Leaders

All Family Leaders will have access to contact and develop relationships with the Mannahouse Global Movement Senior Leaders. One of the primary roles of this central team is to work closely with Family Leaders to make sure they have all they need to develop a healthy, multiplying Family of Churches. Calls, texts and emails to any person on the Global Movement Team is highly encouraged.

Ongoing Coaching

Developing an Apostolic ministry requires more than time and experience. Apostolic coaching is critical in dealing with the complex issues you may face. The Mannahouse Global Movement Team is there to coach you at any time there is a need. In some cases, a trip to the central office, or a trip to bring them to you should be considered.

Annual Global Gathering

Mannahouse Global Movement Team works hard to provide an annual gathering that brings the entire Global Family together. This is a key opportunity for you and your churches to connect with other leaders, churches, and old friends. The goal of this gathering is to create a space where everyone is refreshed and encouraged. The Annual Global Gathering is planned strategically around the time of The Summit which allows teams to enjoy the benefit of both the Global Gathering and world-class equipping for their teams. It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED that all Family Leaders help to get all the church pastors and leaders to these to very important events.

Annual Family Leader Gathering

In addition to the Global Movement Gathering is a special time for just the Family Leaders to meet with the key Mannahouse Global Movement Team. This is a time to discuss the unique challenges you may face as well as offer some fresh insights and resources that will strengthen you personally as well as equip you to be a better Family Leader.



Addendum

Additional Resources

The Apostolic Movement*

Unfortunately, the term, “Apostle” is used widely throughout the body of Christ and in many instances, it is used improperly. There is a critical need to redefine the terms and function based upon Biblical premise. God is establishing his order for the church on the earth in a new way. The early church was birthed by the power of the Holy Spirit and led by apostolic men and women who were related to and appointed by Jesus. These apostolic figures parented local church leaders through relational connections.

Apostolic History in the Church

For nearly a century the apostolic movement consisted of Jewish leaders headquartered first in Jerusalem and then in major cities like Antioch, Ephesus, and Rome. Their rigorous discipleship and oral tradition stewarded the words of Jesus the Messiah until the New Testament was compiled and the canon was completed.

The next wave of leadership was spiritual parents in key churches who were relationally connected to local church leaders as bishops. These early church shepherds – following the teachings of Peter, Paul, James & John – invested themselves into local leaders offering them the encouragement, direction, support, and the resources they needed to grow their churches. Through their relational connection, they were received as being appointed by the Lord for their service as his gift to the church (Ephesians 4:11).

Over time the relational structure of the church was replaced with a formalized structure. For generations in the western church, the Roman Catholic Church system served this function. In the east, the Orthodox Church did the same.

Then came the early reformers within the church followed by the Reformation in Europe and the birth of the Protestant denominations. Corporate church councils connected to local churches through regional leaders and serving local pastors. At the same time, the church splintered into numerous denominations.

While clearly much fruit has been produced by these systems, many denominations have experienced a natural life cycle where they have peaked and suffered decline. Many have run their course and failed to conquer the enemy of all human systems: increasing scale. As they grew and expanded, the effective execution of their core mission was smothered by church bureaucracy, tradition, leadership gaps, internal politics, and even – on occasion – corruption.

*This section was taken from Gateway Apostolic Network Document, October 10, 2018

In the last century these factors caused many leaders to start churches outside of existing denominations with structures that give local congregations the autonomy and freedom to grow into new expressions of church life. This resulted in the rise of many independent churches and some church movements formed around the new independent expression.

Now, while independent churches are free from denominational system struggles, they face other spiritual and organizational challenges. Cut off from the vital resources provided by historic denominations and their seminaries, these non-denominational churches must forge their own way leaving many local church leaders isolated.

The Modern Apostolic Movement

The modern apostolic movement looks to provide relational connection and resources for both the non-denominational churches in this generation, as well as, connecting denominational churches underserved by their institutional structure. While it does not rise to the level of the Apostles who walked with Jesus and in his departure laid the foundation for the Church, the Apostles of today are a gift from Jesus to the church and its leaders. Their function is to serve the church while freeing it from the controlling limitations of old denominational systems. This current apostolic movement simultaneously values the authority of the local church while seeking to provide key resources necessary to promote health and growth in the church and its members.

Messianic congregations have recognized this same need. A new generation of messianic leaders sees the importance of a functioning apostolic ministry among believers in Israel and the diaspora.

Churches working together in an apostolic network get the best of both worlds. Senior pastors are free to hear God and execute their specific mission in unity with their local elders while having broad access to peer relationships, resources, fatherly guidance, and accountability. In addition, they have a relational resource to call upon when embroiled in conflict within the church leadership or confronted with moral failure. This allows Pastors to focus on enculturation the Gospel into their specific faith community as they manage their own local distinctions in their context. An apostolic network allows these pastors to execute local vision with broad-based, Kingdom support.

Doctrinal issues aside, unpacking the purpose of prior apostolic systems reveals four key apostolic elements that denominational leaders sought to provide the local pastor: relational connection, structure, resources, blessing, and sending.

Relational Connection

Relationship is a broad term. In the context of apostolic relationships, the proper stewardship of spiritual authority is a key part of healthy Families of Churches. The father or parent metaphor is often – and very accurately – used. A good spiritual leader should reflect God’s love, support, and unqualified acceptance.

As a loving representative of God, they provide a shoulder to cry on, a steady hand in trying times, a hand of friendship, an ear and voice of counsel, and sage advice as needed. Also, they are there to give a deserved “well done!” and a needed “knock it off!” that provides encouragement and guidance. Their strength is a deep well that refreshes any leader – feeding confidence, faith, and boldness into their leadership. In our generation, other relational constructs accurately depicting the role of the apostolic relationship include coach, consultant, and big brother.

The key to the apostolic relationship and influence in every case is the healthy expression of the apostolic relationship. Healthy relationships are fostered by honesty, trust, and regular interaction. They are open-handed and servant-based. They are formed by an intentional, mutual investment by both parties.

Structure

Human systems function based on intelligent structure and design. Without it, chaos ensues. Many of the Apostle Paul’s writings provided the local church with a blueprint for local churches that help implement that necessary structure. Good apostolic systems provide local churches with systems, processes, and structures needed to effectively run their ministry. Churches need both the power of God’s presence and the structural form that provides order to its ministry expression. Church growth is often limited, not by the lack of the move of God in its midst, but by the lack of structure to effectively steward the move.

Resources

The local church leader is called upon to lead and grow their church. But often their vision is shaped by the reality of limited resources – limited time, limited talent, and limited finances. These limits shape decision making, regulate growth rates and impact the development of strategies for the work. An apostolic network seeks to help the local leader maximize these resources and provide additional expertise when necessary.

Blessing & Sending

Apostles “send” individuals and teams with the blessing of God. The concept of spiritual first line of counsel and blessing is often negated in the modern church; yet, the biblical pattern of blessing and sending clearly was a function of the Apostles. Acts 13:3 (NLT): “So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.” Further, the author of Hebrews encourages us to not neglect the “laying on of hands.” (Hebrews 6:2)

Historical Definition of “Apostle”

The word “apostle” was in secular use in the Greek world before Jesus made it a biblical term referring to the twelve disciples. (Luke 6:13) It was originally used for seafaring expeditions where Apostles were sent out to represent and do business for another person, group, or entity.

It was later used in a broader sense for legal representatives of governments and others who were sent out to act on behalf of another. When Jesus designated the original twelve disciples as "Apostles" he was using a culturally common concept. The twelve disciples were to be sent out by Jesus to represent Him wherever they went and to act on behalf of his interests and those of the Kingdom of God.

The Hebrew word "shaliach" had the same meaning as "apostle". A shaliach was "sent out" as an agent of a governor or a merchant. For example, the Sanhedrin would send a shaliach into the nations to collect the temple tax from Jews abroad. This agent would be "commissioned" to act as the legal representative of the Temple authorities.

The Nature of Apostles

Apostles are first and foremost stewards. Everything an Apostle possesses related to their mission on behalf of Christ is given to him by God and is for which they are accountable to God.

Apostles are sent specifically to grow, guide, guard, and govern the Church. Beginning with the original twelve Apostles and then extending to the Ephesians 4 role of Apostle – the church has always been designed to function under apostolic authority and governance.

Apostles grow churches by providing informed insight and subject-matter expertise. They guide by being a source of wise counsel. They guard through intercession and leadership accountability. They govern by speaking into the senior leaders and elder boards through a relationally based apostolic connection.

Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Apostles are servants of the Church appointed by Christ. The list of appointments in Ephesians 4 – apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher – is often interpreted as a list of gifts similar to Paul's listings found in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12.

The latter passages translate the Greek word *charismata* as gift. The text in Ephesians 4 is quite different. Ephesians 4 uses *dídōmi* meaning to "give, grant, appoint, to assign a person to a task as a particular benefit to others." Christ appoints individuals to these roles as a gift to the CHURCH, not to the individual believer. The appointment is for the purpose of equipping the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11–15 (NKJV)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head –Christ...

The noun “Apostle” refers to a specific person operating in the Ephesians 4 role. The adjective “apostolic” refers to the activity of an Apostle as well as those who are a part of their mission. For example, the Gateway Network is an apostolic mission of Gateway Church and all who serve in it are serving an apostolic function. But they are not all appointed to the role of being an Apostle.

The early church began with the role of the Apostle guiding it and, in that state, it exploded with dynamic and healthy growth. However, by the fourth-century apostolic authority was replaced by a government-imposed ecclesiastical structure that killed it. Apostolic relationship with the local church was replaced by institutional allegiance and non-relational hierarchy.

In differing forms – the church at large has suffered for centuries because of non-biblical, non-apostolic governance. But in the past forty years, God has been awakening the church to the need for apostolic governance.

Identifying the Apostolic Calling

The apostolic calling is identified not imparted. While some aspects of its expression may be taught, the fundamental identity of an Apostle is evident in the natural expression of personality, gifts, and ministry expression of their life. Some of the key indicators that the apostolic gift is functioning include:

1. A clear relational base with other pastors and community leaders.
2. A passion for evangelism expressed through efforts such as church planting, congregation growth, and generational multiplication that influences a local community for the Kingdom of God.
3. A regional scope of vision that is larger than a single congregation or community of believers.
4. A burden for healthy structure, systems, and order expressed through leadership.
5. The fruit of growing organizations that are reproducing and multiplying.
6. Character that is based on fathering, generosity, and a servant's heart.
7. A leadership style grounded in love, looking to give not receive, and free from ambition or control.

When the apostolic role is functioning as it should, local churches grow in a healthy and sustainable manner, local church pastors feel loved, equipped, and cared for, and the church at large grows dynamically and becomes a relevant and redeeming force around the world.

The Apostolic Function

The apostolic function exists to provide the local church – and more specifically the Senior Pastor – with nine key benefits:

1 Evangelism

Advancing the Kingdom of God by making disciples, planting churches, and increasing congregational impact in a community. In the broad sense, evangelism is expressed through the manifestation of God's work in a local community resulting in the multiplication of the local church.

2 Fathering/Coaching

The apostolic function is expressed as leaders in a formal, or at least clearly defined, oversight relationship that engages with senior pastors. The father/coach provides encouragement, guidance, and – when necessary – correction as well as being a resource.

3 Governmental Backstop

The apostolic relationship provides local churches with a predefined, “go-to” expert in times of financial crisis, the moral failure of senior leadership, or doctrinal heresy. For this function to be effective, a relational connection between the Apostolic leader and the local congregation is critical.

4 Vision Clarity

Confirming, clarifying, and defining the scope of ministry while setting the church in order. The apostolic influence is often expressed through activities such as the ordination of the senior pastor, providing an annual church assessment, confirming gifts in the pastor, helping form and shape church government, and assisting in the elder selection process. The apostolic role works with the senior pastor ensuring their vision is in alignment with Kingdom DNA and helping him identify the traditions or cultural inconsistencies which are anti-Kingdom.

5 Order

Addressing issues of discipline, accusation, or unresolved disagreement when the church or the pastor is out of order. It is the role of the Apostle to give counsel and assistance to the pastor and through him to the broader leadership of the Church. Issues of order that may be addressed through apostolic input include legal challenges or concerns, rebellious factions in the church, crisis support, or emergency situations.

6. Equipping

Providing insight for consideration into major issues of vision implementation, the apostolic function contributes wisdom, subject matter expertise, and resources. Sharing from their wisdom and experience, apostolic leaders give advice on how to navigate important decisions. Apostolic influence is there to provide a relational first line of counsel for major changes of direction, providing wisdom for implementation, managing crisis, and sharing advice on financial issues such as debt and financing along with assistance in navigating key leadership transitions.

7. Accountability

The apostolic function speaks into the spiritual, emotional, and physical health and well-being of the Senior Pastor. The apostolic role provides a healthy backstop for the senior pastor and the governance team of the church. By giving advice, input, and guidance on issues that relate to pace of life, marriage, relationships, friends, compensation, and the work/life balance. The apostolic leader seeks through relational input to keep the pastor, their team, and the church healthy. Additionally, the apostolic influence may be formally engaged in times of leadership crisis. Apostles should be formally empowered to invoke discipline, define appropriate restoration paths, and monitor the restoration progress.

8. Blessing & Sending

The apostolic function confirms giftings, callings, and the timing of God. Through the Laying on of Hands, the Apostle sends individuals and teams into their God-given mission with his blessings and the associated resources of Heaven.

9. Kingdom Ambassador

Cultural Impact

All expressions of the apostolic function are conducted through relational connections. The apostolic role is not that of a dogmatic, dominant, controlling overseer, but rather, is one of a loving parent who is genuinely concerned and actively involved in developing the fundamental health of the church and Senior Pastor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

What does 'first line of counsel' mean?

What role does the Apostolic play in the first line of counsel a local church?

How does an Apostolic Leader relate to a Lead Pastor and the Elders of a local Church?

How does the Apostolic office function in conjunction with other Five-Fold ministries?

What does the Bible say about woman Apostles?

