

Summitview's Leadership Prerequisites

Why do we have such requirements for leadership?

1. The Lord charges us to be careful. (James 3:1, 1 Timothy 3)
2. The pastor is responsible to the Lord for the sheep, so he must make sure they are receiving proper care. (1 Peter 5:2-3)
3. The enemy will attack the leader wherever he/she is vulnerable. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
4. The leaders model the ministry, values, and ultimately the Kingdom to the church. Who we are and what we do is far more important than what we say. (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)
5. Prerequisites and requirements separate those truly called and qualified from those seeking to have needs met through position.

PREREQUISITES

1. Ownership of the Summitview vision for small groups.

"Instead speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." - Ephesians 4:15-16

Concepts of multiplication, discipleship, and the importance of relationship in building up one another are concepts that the leader must have a personal grasp of and vision to foster. Our Small Groups are the heart and soul of our church vision; without their successful implementation we will accomplish nothing in winning the lost and building believers.

2. A person who serves others for Jesus sake.

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." - 2 Cor. 4:5

A leader must be serving not for personal gain, but to have God's purposes accomplished. While no one can be completely spiritually minded all the time, a leader must understand that his or her value does not come from "succeeding" as a leader. Leadership is not a way to have personal needs met.

3. Loyalty to the Leadership of Summitview Community Church

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." - Hebrews 13:17

It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and God blesses unity. A leader must understand that. We believe that God is almost always more pleased when men agree together on what may be less than the best, rather than when factions divide around their understanding of "God's Will". Sheep will follow their shepherds - when leaders understand God's perspective of unity the church will always be united. A team leader accepts the responsibility to support and give his loyalty to his fellow leaders and those who are over him.

4. Accountability to other leaders.

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." - Ephesians 5:21

Jesus Himself was a person of power because He was under authority. All spiritual leaders have delegated responsibility and authority - they are accountable to the ones who delegated such to them. Leaders must have a teachable spirit and have the ability to take correction. The true test of character in any leader is their ability to receive instruction and reproof. Any leader must be receptive to the sometimes-radical requirements of being a student in the Kingdom.

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5. A consistent and meaningful devotional life.

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." - Psalm 1:2

Ultimately we are all servants of Christ, and it is what He teaches us that we have to pass on to others. Therefore a leader must have a relationship with God that is more than knowledge accumulated over time. He must be a person who keeps his mind renewed regularly, and who demonstrates his faith in God's goodness through application and obedience. A leader should have a consistent habit of reading God's word, regular times of prayer, and one who faithfully honors God through his tithes.

6. The opportunity and desire to take spiritual responsibility for others.

"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." - Romans 15:1, 2

Leading a Small Group is much different than being on one. The time requirements are much greater and the responsibility to others is much greater. Shepherding "those entrusted to your care" must be one of the greatest interests and priorities of your life. In a marriage both partners must desire and be able to give themselves to this responsibility.

7. A willingness to faithfully disciple one other person to lead.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." - 2Timothy 2:2

This requires developing a relationship above and beyond those with other team members. It also requires being accountable for this relationship to the leader over you.

8. Subscribe to each article in the belief statement of the church.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." -Romans 15:5

A leader reproduces his life and convictions, and a leader of a Small Group is expected to reproduce the convictions of SVCC in all major doctrinal areas. Therefore a leader must be fully committed to each stated doctrine of Summitview Community Church.

Character, not gifting...

A leader should also have personal character that is growing in those areas described in Timothy, Titus, and Galatians 5:16. These qualities include:

- ◆ Being above reproach
- ◆ Self-controlled
- ◆ Hospitable
- ◆ Not violent but gentle
- ◆ Not contentious
- ◆ Temperate
- ◆ Respected
- ◆ Not addicted to wine (or bound by any habit)
- ◆ Free from the love of money
- ◆ Home life in order

Note: Teaching skills and abilities are not required of our group leaders. We feel that this responsibility is related directly to the pastors of the church.