

# Philosophy of MINISTRY

Open Bible Churches

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This Philosophy of Ministry is a concise guide for ministry fruitfulness, including summations of my ministry experience to date that will help all of us to thrust forward. We must remain open to revisions and modifications from time to time to ensure the most effective ministry as the overall leadership team in OBC continuously seeks the heart of God together.

## Aspects of this Philosophy Of Ministry

1. Personal
2. Leadership
3. Investment / Financial Health
4. Purpose / Mission / Vision
5. Help Lead to a Culture Change within OBC
6. Holy Spirit Distinctive
7. Events, Programs, & Idea Exchange

### Personal

- A leader can only be strong corporately if they are strong personally. Accordingly, the next President must have personal accountability and upward mentors. One important way this should happen is through a balanced relationship between the President and the new Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and other mentors seasoned in similar positions because accountability is not a preference but a MUST!
- Family- A strong leader cannot win the world while losing their family. He MUST consistently lead his family into a deeper relationship with the Lord while keeping the family unified and intimate.

### Leadership

Below are imperative leadership attributes needed in the next servant leader of OBC acting as President. I feel my calling and experience have proven that God has uniquely gifted me with these qualities.

- **#1 Apostolic Leader with administrative gifts**
  - An Apostolic Leader is a Christlike servant leader who is innovative and empowers others, ready to face challenges head-on, even if it means doing it in a new way. Cutting new ground comes naturally to an apostolic leader.
  - This kind of leadership can only happen effectively and orderly with good administration, but administration should never be the primary function.
- **#2 Visionary Leader with management gifts.**
  - True Visionary Leaders, when faced with new and innovative ideas, challenges, or mandates from God, have as their first thought, how can we accomplish this together? Where a manager's first thought is how can we manage this? Management is essential and has its place but not at the expense of visionary leadership.
- **#3 Unifying Leader with problem-solving gifts.**
  - People matter most! It is easy for organizations to look to their leaders as merely problem solvers because we all know there will be problems to solve; however, that can cripple an organization. Every good leader has to understand how to solve problems as they come, but when solving problems becomes the primary function, things can easily get off track. The starting point needs to be in unifying people for the cause of vision/mission and then together solve problems as they arise. To be a unifying leader, one must be highly relational, which is more of a gifting than a function.
- **#4 A Genuine Pastor's Pastor with collaboration gifts.**
  - OBC is an association of Churches and Pastors; therefore, the President needs to have the heart and passion of a pastor with core values of accessibility and collaboration to lead pastors effectively.

OBC needs to consistently prioritize our resources to help advance the mission. The OBC President along with the ELT, board, and key leaders must identify the most important areas of investment for vision to be accomplished!

### **Making Disciples**

Healthy things REPRODUCE. Systematic discipleship must be an important area of investment for OBC.

### **Developing Leaders**

This is mission critical; therefore, OBC needs to make kingdom investments in viable means to identify, raise up, and deploy new and young leaders. The President, along with the ELT, Board, and Team, must tackle this with urgency.

### **Planting Churches**

Again, healthy things reproduce! If Planting Churches is our national vision, we must find ways to help facilitate and resource it!

### **Missions**

Missions has always been a strong value of OBC. We need to continue to champion missions by embracing new and innovative ways to promote, highlight, and support.

### **Financial Sustainability**

The long term financial health of OBC is vital. The OBC President along with the ELT, Board, and Staff must keep a close eye on our financial health and make changes and adjustments when and where necessary.

## **Purpose / Mission/ Vision**

- OBC Vision must have the heart of God for OBC and the buy-in of the movement. "Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it."
- Purpose guides you, mission drives you, vision is what you aspire to, impact is what matters.
- If we want the people our organization cares most about to connect with our vision to make an impact, we need to be clear about why, what, and how we do what we do in a manner that's meaningful to them.
- The President must work collaboratively with the ELT and other key leaders to identify the mandate by seeking God together, continuously assessing the work, making adjustments when and where necessary, and work to build teams to make the vision a reality.

## **Help Lead to a Culture Change within OBC**

- OBC national needs to work hard to shift the cultural perception to one of resourcing and support. WE are here to listen and help you accomplish the vision God has placed in your heart! We exist for the local church, pastors, and ministers, and not the other way around.
- OBC often functions like many different independent churches and even regions that just fellowship on occasion. The majority of people that attend our churches do not realize who or what OBC is all about. We must work hard to instill a sense of belonging and ownership! This must be a top priority led by our next President. Again, this can not be done alone, but as a team!

## **Holy Spirit Distinctive**

- Many church organizations are losing their Holy Spirit distinctive. If you look at the last century, it was "Holy Spirit" driven churches that changed the world! FACT- The church has grown more since the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Azusa than the 1900 years before combined! We cannot lose that POWER! This is beyond emotionalism; it is Spirit Empowered living and leadership!
- Where are our prophets, our apostles, and our evangelists? We need to recognize and embrace the 5 fold ministry offices again! We can honor our past but must press forward in faith to our future!

## **National Events, Programs, & Idea Exchange**

- Ensure all national events and programs truthfully meet the regions, churches, and ministers' needs and resource them instead of requiring more from them!
- Work together to make all events attractive and relevant for all of the OBC family. We need to make our events a place everyone wants to come and be a part of because we desire all of the family to gather so we can build relationships, network, exchange ideas, and support one another!

***Open Bible Family, we truly are Better Together***

*- Pastor Josh*