



SAMPLE MULTI-CHURCH COLLECTIVE COVENANTAL AGREEMENT



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Between _____ Church & _____ Church

NOTE: The following sample covenant agreement relates more to a church collective between a Lead Church and Joining Church whereby the joining church will benefit in specific ministry areas from the leadership and partnership with a Lead Church.

A covenant agreement between 2 or more churches entering a NEW ministry initiative together will use somewhat different language than “Lead Church and Joining Church”. It will be more of an equal partnership in most cases.

Introduction

Recognizing that we are better together and have the ability to build God’s Kingdom in our neighbourhoods in a stronger manner by entering into a Multi-Church Collective, we commit to the following.

As a JOINING Church we understand that our congregation exists in a strategic location. Our leadership and congregation have the heart and will to make a Kingdom difference in our neighbourhood. Beyond that we are willing to embrace a posture of humility and a “whatever it takes” attitude, recognizing that it is not about US but about bringing glory to Jesus and building His Church! Therefore, we are committed to entering this Multi-Church Collective and embracing a spirit of experimentation in order to re-imagine a new and brighter day for our church!

As a LEAD Church we understand that God is calling us to LEAD. He has placed the mantle of influence upon our congregation and is calling us to lead with intentionality and with a posture of humility for the sake of God’s Kingdom. We enter this Multi-Church Collective with a heart to serve a neighbouring congregation and see Gods Kingdom expanded.

Timeframe

NOTE: A defined time frame allows the churches to know clearly the timeline for the agreement. The timeline clarifies both a beginning and an end point. The churches are agreeing to these commitments for the said period of time. The time frame could be renewed and extended if the “church collective” is beneficial. It also gives an opportunity to revise, tweak and shift the agreements if that becomes necessary. The timeframe should, in most cases, not be shorter than 18 months.

Example Agreements for a JOINING CHURCH

The following are examples of how a JOINING Church and a LEAD Church could make necessary agreements. For example, embracing Core Values and Vision and developing new church culture will most likely be of necessity for the Joining Church. Other agreements related to things like youth ministry or small groups will vary depending upon context.

- 1. Ministry Values and Vision:** *As a joining church we commit to embracing the vision and the values of our LEAD Church. We recognize that to embrace that, change will be necessary. For example, if we value a relevant and engaging worship service in an environment that is comfortable for the unchurched, we will make the choices necessary to do that. Or if we say that we value serving our community, then we will act in such a way that gives evidence of that.*
- 2. Weekly Worship Services:** *We covenant together to share in the development of worship services. We will utilize the themes and preaching topics of our Lead Church.*
- 3. Children's ministry:** *We covenant together to strengthen and build a relevant and attractive ministry to children. If we say we value children, then we must act in such a way that gives evidence that we truly do value them. Therefore, we will do the following ...*
- 4. Youth Ministry:** *Similar to children's ministry.*
- 5. Small groups:** *Understanding that growing relationships and deepening community are core values of a New Testament church, we covenant together to begin to develop that. The system of small/home groups that we develop will not be church specific. We will develop a network of small groups that all are welcoming and encourage all to attend, no matter what congregation they are part of.*
- 6. Facility issues:** *Issues surrounding facility, accessibility, and the ability in the current facility to create a welcoming environment and compelling culture are often essential agreements that must be discussed.*
- 7. Governance:** *Recognizing that the current governance and decision-making process is more complex and burdensome than it should be, we covenant together to develop a more efficient and nimble system of governance that accomplishes what is necessary and enables quick responsiveness as a church.*

Example Agreements for a LEAD CHURCH

The Lead Church agreements will flow out of the agreements that are being made by the JOINING CHURCH. These agreements will serve to support the achievement and implementation of those goals.

For example:

1. *If there is agreement to utilize similar themes and preaching topics, how will that be achieved?*
2. *If there is a desire to share the preaching or use video teaching in the schedule how will that be achieved?*
3. *If there is agreement to embrace the Core Values and Vision of the LEAD Church, how will that happen and what will it look like? What needs to shift?*
4. *If there is an agreement to share in children's and/or youth ministry, what steps will be taken and what will the Lead Church do to make that a reality?*
5. *If governance needs to change, where do we begin to create a more responsive and nimble system of governance?*

JOINING CHURCH SIGNATURES:

LEAD CHURCH SIGNATURES:

DATE:
