

# The Evangelical Covenant Church 101





Covenant: “In it together”



# The Evangelical Covenant Church is:

- Evangelical, but not exclusive
  - Biblical, but not doctrinaire
  - Traditional, but not rigid
  - Congregational, but not independent
- 



# Covenant Affirmations





# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
- 



# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
  - The necessity of the new birth
- 



# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
- The necessity of the new birth
- a commitment to the whole mission of the Church



# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
- The necessity of the new birth
- a commitment to the whole mission of the Church
- the Church as a fellowship of believers



# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
- The necessity of the new birth
- a commitment to the whole mission of the Church
- the Church as a fellowship of believers
- a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit



# Covenant Affirmations

- The centrality of the word of God
- The necessity of the new birth
- a commitment to the whole mission of the Church
- the Church as a fellowship of believers
- a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit
- the reality of freedom in Christ



# Covenant Distinctives



Women in leadership





# Covenant Distinctives

- Women in leadership
  - Baptism
- 



# Covenant Distinctives

- Women in leadership
  - Baptism
  - Ethnic Diversity
- 



# Covenant Distinctives

- Women in leadership
  - Baptism
  - Ethnic Diversity
  - Ministerial Health
- 



# Covenant Distinctives

- Women in leadership
  - Baptism
  - Ethnic Diversity
  - Ministerial Health
  - Human Sexuality
- 



# Covenant Distinctives

- Women in leadership
  - Baptism
  - Ethnic Diversity
  - Ministerial Health
  - Human Sexuality
  - Social Justice
- 



# Three Strand Strong

- Local Church
  - Regional Conference
  - Denomination
- 



# Four-Stage Launch Process

*Your first 12 months of planning!*

- Purpose of Four-Stage Launch:
  - • Build **missional momentum and effectiveness**
  - • While having **“permission” to focus and pace yourselves** accordingly
- 



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Overview of Four-Stage Launch:*

- **Timing & Benchmarks:** Each stage 3-4 months\* with clear healthy, missional benchmarks
- **1. Stage 1 | Launch Team Development:**
- **2. Stage 2 | Preview Worship/Ministry Development:**
- **3. Stage 3 | Soft Launch/“Full” Weekly Worship:**
- **4. Stage 4 | Hard Launch/“Grand Opening”:**



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Cautions and Common Mistakes:*

- **don't** assume “regular attenders” = Launch Team
- don't make the “hard asks”
- don't revisit foundational principles



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: ***Launch Team Development***

➤ What is a Launch Team?





# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: **Launch Team Development**

➤ What is a Launch Team?

The ones who show up and get it done!





# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- The Launch Team IS:
- Highly committed hard workers and leaders who will pray, sweat, laugh, cry, grow, and bleed together for the church planting mission to which God has called them
- As the Pastor, you can rely on this growing team
- As the Launch Team, you can rely on each other



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: **Launch Team Development**

Purpose of the Launch Team:

- build, assist, provide, become, create, protect
- Invite Others
- Evangelism
- Develop Key Ministries



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: ***Launch Team Development***

- ▶ Where will these people come from?
- 



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- Where will these people come from?
- • **Pray, Pray & Pray** (Ask the Lord of the harvest...)
- • **Work, Work, & Work** (Faithful with the little things...)
- • **Support Churches** (Parent, Partner, & Mission Friends)
- • **Strategic Networks** (para-church, non-profits, professional organizations, and more)
- • **Find Opportunities:** tap into, partner, and network with existing churches & organizations
- • **Create Opportunities:** organize and execute well targeted gathering events (vision desserts, open house, picnics/bbqs, service projects, etc.)



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- ▶ **Team Mix- Roughly “1/3rd” Each:\***
- ▶ **Committed Christians** (mature in faith, not *too* much baggage :)
- ▶ **De-churched Christians** (been away from church for awhile, ready to come back)
- ▶ **New Christians & Seekers** (brand-new to faith and/or spiritually interested)



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- ▶ **Team Mix- Roughly “1/3rd” Each:\***
- ▶ **Committed Christians** (mature in faith, not *too* much baggage :)
- ▶ **De-churched Christians** (been away from church for awhile, ready to come back)
- ▶ **New Christians & Seekers** (brand-new to faith and/or spiritually interested)
- ▶ **Representative of your target & context** (e.g. multi-ethnic, 18-30 yr-olds, etc.)
- ▶ **Balanced Gifting** (e.g. musical, kids, hospitality, tech, admin, etc.)



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- Training Best Practices
- **Teach the Vision** - “T-Shirt Test” / Tagline (succinctly communicate its essence)
- **Key Ministries Teams** – break the group into your 5 or 6 teams
- **Pray and Practice** - reduces fear, builds skills, increases success



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: ***Launch Team Development***

- ▶ **Cautions:** Launch Team Landmines
- 



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: **Launch Team Development**

- **Cautions:** Launch Team Landmines
- **“tasks not titles”** - proven faithfulness and effectiveness
- **“process not promises”** - clear leadership development path (*not* promises of jobs/staffing/positions)
- **faithfulness and fruitfulness** need to be demonstrated



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- ▶ **Cautions:** Launch Team Landmines
- ▶ **Three “Highly” people** to watch for and respond accordingly:



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## *Stage 1: **Launch Team Development***

- **Cautions:** Launch Team Landmines
- **Three “Highly” people** to watch for and respond accordingly:
  - **Highly Controlling**
  - **Highly Needy**
  - **Highly Missional**



# Four-Stage Launch Process

## Stage 1: **Launch Team Development**

### ➤ **Launch Team Audit:**

- **Evaluate:** What is the current make-up of your Launch Team?
- What would God have you do to build a stronger Launch Team?
- **Strategize:** Create initial strategy for reaching 50-75 people
- often a 3:1 ratio *or more*, so probably need to connect with 150 people *at least*
- Put real names and real networks on the list (as much as possible) FRANC list