

Founders' Intent Statement - Church of the Exiles

Purpose of this Statement

This document is not intended to serve as a legal governing document. Rather, it is a statement of the intentions, hopes, and guiding principles of the founding members of Church of the Exiles. It exists to preserve the heart behind the organization and provide future leaders with an understanding of why it was originally formed.

Why We Are Creating Church of the Exiles

Church of the Exiles was born out of a desire to faithfully steward the ministry relationships, discipleship opportunities, and spiritual community that God has entrusted to us.

We recognize that churches, organizations, leadership structures, and circumstances may change over time. However, the work God accomplishes in people's lives through discipleship, authentic community, worship, service, and the teaching of His Word remains eternally significant.

As we contemplate the future, we are convinced that faithful preparation is wiser than reactive decision-making. Rather than waiting until circumstances force difficult decisions, we desire to prayerfully prepare for opportunities God may provide in the future.

Our desire is not to build a church for its own sake. Our desire is to advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and remain faithful stewards of the people, resources, and opportunities He entrusts to us.

What We Hope to Preserve

We desire to preserve and strengthen a culture marked by:

- Biblical teaching and submission to Scripture.
- Authentic multicultural Christian community.
- Advancing the kingdom of God through evangelism.
- Discipleship producing spiritual growth.
- Intentional worship led by the Holy Spirit.
- Servant leadership.
- Genuine hospitality.
- Meaningful relationships across generations.
- Care for new believers.
- Honoring all people as image-bearers of God
- A commitment to prayer and dependence upon God.

We believe many people long for a place where they can belong, grow, serve, and be known. We desire to cultivate that kind of Christ-centered spiritual family.

What We Hope Church of the Exiles Becomes

We envision Church of the Exiles becoming a Christ-centered church where people encounter the truth of God's Word, experience authentic multicultural community, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and are equipped to serve His Kingdom.

We desire to be a church that welcomes and honors every person as an image-bearer of God, reflects the love and character of Jesus Christ, and joyfully partners with other gospel-centered churches and ministries for the advancement of His Kingdom.

We recognize that God's plans may differ from our expectations. Therefore, we seek to remain open-handed regarding specific outcomes while remaining steadfast in our commitment to Christ, His Word, and His mission.

It is our desire that Church of the Exiles be:

- Grounded in Scripture.
- Dependent upon God through prayer.
- Led by biblically devoted leaders.
- Committed to discipleship and authentic community.
- Focused on advancing the Kingdom of God.

What we hope Church of the Exiles never becomes:

- We do not desire to create a church driven by personal ambition, control, or institutional preservation.
- We do not desire to build a church centered on personalities, individual leaders, or founders.
- We do not desire to measure success primarily through attendance, demographics, budgets, influence, or organizational growth. We believe God calls His Church to faithfully shepherd the people He entrusts to its care. Our desire is not simply to gather larger crowds, but to develop mature disciples who know Christ, love one another, and faithfully follow Him. If God grants significant numerical growth, we desire to prayerfully develop additional leaders and multiply healthy churches so that people continue to be known, shepherded, and discipled well.
- We do not desire to create division, foster bitterness, or define ourselves by conflict with others.

Instead, we desire to be known for faithfulness, humility, integrity, discipleship, generosity, service, and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Commitment of the Founders

As founders, we acknowledge that this ministry belongs to Jesus Christ.

We are not owners but stewards.

We commit ourselves to pursuing God's direction through prayer, Scripture, wise counsel, and mutual accountability.

We commit to leading with humility, serving sacrificially, and remaining open to correction and redirection by God and others.

We recognize that future leaders may be called to carry this mission forward in ways we cannot presently foresee. Therefore, we entrust both the future of this ministry and the people it serves to the faithful care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."

Romans 11:36

Founding Team:

Ben Knight

Nicole Miertschin

Melissa Knight