

Ohio Regional Church Network
(Founding Documents as of 2/24/2023)

Introduction

Ohio Regional Network is a network of churches that have agreed to fellowship and minister together according to the vision and strategies set forth in this document. The Pastors and Churches of ORCN are bound together by their commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and their belief that He has called them to walk in relationship with one another. ORCN is not a legal entity and does not hold any legal authority over its member pastors or churches. Although the members are encouraged to seek the counsel of the member churches, Advisors, and pastors on certain matters as stated in this document, the final decisions governing each member church rests with that church's governing board of elders as defined in that church's constitution and by-laws.

MISSION STATEMENT

Developing healthy churches and pastors through a network of healthy relationships and strategic partnerships.

VISION STATEMENTS AND STRATEGIES

The VISION statements represent a commitment to common goals shared by our member churches.

The STRATEGIES listed are ideas in the current moment and are not intended to be exhaustive. Strategies are subject to change as it is deemed that change is beneficial.

Vision Statement #1

A commitment to assist member churches in becoming healthy, mature, and growing communities of faith.

STRATEGIES

- Provide for **strategic vision and coaching** for each of the member churches by *Advisors*, pastors and other gifted leaders.
- **Providing counsel for churches and pastors dealing with transitions, and emergencies** by *Advisors*, pastors and other gifted leaders.
- Each member church will have at least two *Advisors* who are not members of that local church who meet at least annually with the elders and pastors to review the overall health of the church. It is required that at least one of these *Advisors* be a member of ORCN.

Vision Statement #2

A commitment to provide leadership development opportunities for ORCN member churches in order to strengthen and encourage current pastors and leaders, and to raise up and equip new church leaders.

STRATEGIES

- Monthly Lead/Rep Pastor's meetings
- Quarterly Staff Pastor's meetings
- Leadership development events such as retreats and conferences

- Encourage the development of one on one relationships between pastors/leaders for encouragement, ideas, and prayer
- Encourage occasional invitations to minister in each other's churches to broaden the relationships and network awareness in the local churches

Vision Statement #3

A commitment to strategically partner with other member churches for the purpose of congregational development and fulfilling The Great Commission/Commandment.

STRATEGIES

- Planning and developing joint missions/outreach projects.
- Network endorsed events (conferences, retreats, seminars etc.)
- Network endorsed church plants.
- Annual Retreats for Men's ministry/Women's ministry/ Youth Camps/ and others ministries.

ORCN Director and Board

1. The ORCN Board will consist of the Lead/Rep pastor of each ORCN member church. Other pastors may be invited to participate in board meetings but each church only gets one vote on any decision made.
2. The Lead/Rep Pastors of each member church will select one of their current or former ORCN board members in good standing by a unanimous vote of the ORCN board to be the Director. If not unanimous, the matter will be tabled for a month and then a 3/4 majority of the current ORCN Board will be needed to vote in a Director of ORCN for a period of three years.
3. The Director will oversee and direct efforts to fulfill the ORCN vision.
4. The director will recruit and oversee the necessary leadership for an up-to-date website explaining the network and its upcoming activities.
5. The Director will provide leadership for the lead pastors meetings, and regular leadership development meetings.
6. The Director will recruit and oversee the necessary leadership for collaborative projects and ministries associated with the ORCN.
7. Once the ORNC Board approves resources for ministries, projects, conferences, etc., the Director will oversee payments and provide quarterly statements to ORCN board to distribute to elders in each church.
8. The Director will be consulted by the pastor or elders concerning any disciplinary action taken against a Lead/Rep Pastor of a member church.
9. A compensation for the Director will be determined annually by the Board.

Qualifications for Member Churches

1. New churches should be recommended for membership by one of the current member churches.
2. The current Director of the network and a pastor from the church making the recommendation should then meet with the prospective member church and share with them the vision and strategies of the network and make a decision on whether or not to present their request for membership to the other churches via the Lead/Rep Pastors.
3. Each member church will agree with the ORCN Statement of Faith.
4. Each member church will agree to value and esteem women in the church and encourage their ministry in various roles. But in accordance with the New Testament, we reserve the office of elder/pastor/overseer for men alone (1Timothy 3:1, 2:12).
5. The membership of any new church must be approved by a unanimous vote of the ORCN board. If not unanimous, the matter will be tabled for a month and then a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the current ORCN Board will be needed to add any new church.
6. Each member church will support all ORCN sponsored events to the best of their ability.
7. Each member church will regularly support the network with at least 1/2 % of their undesignated income a month.
8. If a member church does not abide by the qualifications and expectations listed above, a process will be developed for investigation and judgment and then a unanimous vote of the other church's ORCN board will be required. If not unanimous, the matter will be tabled for a month and then a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the current ORCN Board will be needed to remove a church.

Advisors

Required

1. Each ORCN member church will select a minimum of two **Advisors** who come from outside the local church leadership that will serve primarily in an advisory capacity to the Lead Pastor and the Board of Elders.
2. Advisors will be sought out and invited by each local church and can come from other ORCN member churches or outside the ORCN. At least one Advisor will be required to be from an ORCN church.
3. Advisors must meet the scriptural elder qualifications as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and be in agreement with the ORCN Statement of Faith.
4. The Advisors will meet with the Lead Pastor and Board of Elders at least once a year for assessment and review of the church.
5. The Advisors will be available for counsel for the church they serve.

Recommended

1. It is recommended that each Advisor have had at least five years of experience in a church or a Para-Church ministry.
2. At the elder board's discretion, extra counsel that are not pastors may be invited to participate with the Advisors in the annual review.
3. It is recommended that the Advisors be appointed by the Lead Pastor and the Board of Elders for a period of three years (renewable).
4. It is recommended that significant decisions made by the local board of elders be shared with the Advisors. (monthly minutes).
5. It is recommended that each elder board create policies for how to add Advisors and remove Advisors.
6. It is recommended that each of the Advisors speak at the church they advise at least once during their three-year term.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE:

1. That the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, are divinely inspired (i.e., inerrant, infallible, entirely trustworthy), and are the final written authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (John 1:1; 1 Peter 1:23, 25; 2 Timothy 3:16; Mark 13:31; Psalm 33:4)
2. That there is one God, who is spoken of in the Bible as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thereby expressing His triune nature. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19)
3. In our Lord Jesus Christ (God manifested in the flesh), His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His death on the cross for our sins, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His personal return in power and glory. (Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 24:5,8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
4. Humanity - God created the first man and woman in His own image and appointed them to rule and care for the earth. They lived in perfect relationship with God and each other. God instituted marriage, which is the life-long union of one man and one woman and the foundation for bearing and raising children in a family.
5. That our salvation from a lost and sinful condition is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who's shed blood provides forgiveness for our sins. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:1-5, 8, 13)
6. In the Holy Spirit, who draws us to Christ, imparts to us a new nature that desires godliness, empowers us to witness, and manifests numerous gifts for the edification of the church and the evangelization of the world. (Acts 1:8; John 14:26; John 16:12-15)
7. That because of the new life we have received in Christ, and as an act of obedience to Him, each believer should be baptized in water. (Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:1-4)
8. That the Church is comprised of all people who are committed to Christ and it is God's intention that we dwell in unity. (1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 4:3-6, 15-16)
9. That there will be a resurrection of all people, both believers in Christ and unbelievers; the believers to everlasting life and the unbelievers to everlasting judgment. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-16; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)
10. That the work of the Church is to extend the kingdom of God throughout the world by preaching the gospel, caring for the sick, ministering to the spiritually oppressed, and establishing the Kingdom of God in every area of life. (Mark 16:15-18; 2 Corinthians

Ratification and changes

The process for ratification and changes to this document will follow these procedures:

1. Each church's elders will review and vote to ratify or approve/disapprove changes
2. The lead/rep of each church will vote to ratify or approve/disapprove changes as a member of the ORCN Board.
3. A unanimous vote of the ORCN board will be required for ratification.
4. To bring about changes to the document, a unanimous vote of the ORCN board will be required. If not unanimous, the matter will be tabled for a month and then a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the current ORCN Board will be needed to bring changes to this document.