

# NEXT STEPS 4

## **Connect To Community**

*Joining Linked UP Church Dream Teams and Small Groups*

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## DEVELOPING YOUR LEADERSHIP

*“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

Leadership is influence. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is about influencing others in a worthwhile cause. It is not dependent on titles or positions. It is dependent on people discovering their gifts and passions and then using them to make a difference in the lives of others.

### What stands in the way?

*“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ And God said, ‘I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.’” Exodus 3:11–12*

1. “Who am I?”      Insecurity
2. “What if they?”      Fear
3. “I have never.”      Inadequacy
4. “Use someone else.”      ....Reluctance

*“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9*

### Qualities of a Leader

*“It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.” Daniel 6:1–3*

1. We love God

*“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13*

Develop your                   **closeness with God**                  .

Develop your                   **character**                  .

Develop your                   **calling**                  .

2. We   **love people**   .

*“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’”* Mark 10:42–45

Be a                   **servant**                  .

Be a                   **team player**                  .

Be                   **real**                  .

3. We pursue                   **excellence**                  .

*“People were overwhelmed with amazement. ‘He has done everything well,’ they said.”* Mark 7:37

Do                   **things well**                  .

Do them                   **before you’re asked**                  .

Do                   **more than expected**                  .

4. We choose   **joy**  .

*“...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”* 2 Corinthians 6:10

Be                   **enjoyable**                  .

Be                   **positive**                  .

Be                   **loyal**                  .

## LEADERSHIP HONOR CODE

As an essential part of the Linked UP Church Leadership family, you have a responsibility to develop and exhibit mature Christian behavior. This is a fundamental expectation of those participating in a servant-leader position here at Linked UP Church.

While serving the Body of Christ as a servant-leader at Linked UP Church, you pledge to:

### **LOVE GOD (Psalm 24:3-4; Matthew 22:37)**

- Commit yourself to spending time with the Lord daily in worship, Word, and prayer.
- Be passionate about the presence of God and live a life that reflects the love of Christ. ○ Refrain from such things as:
  - ✦ profanity
  - ✦ smoking or chewing tobacco
  - ✦ gambling
  - ✦ indulging in much wine or other alcoholic beverages
  - ✦ dishonest gain
  - ✦ illegal drugs
  - ✦ pornography
  - ✦ sexual immorality
  - ✦ all behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble.
- **LOVE PEOPLE (Philippians 1:1-4)** ○ Have a genuine love for people: those we serve and those we serve with
  - Commit to growing relationally with your Dream Team (Heart > Gift/Ability)
- **PURSUE EXCELLENCE (Philippians 3:12-16)**
  - Continually develop the talents and gifts that God has given you
  - Welcome and embrace constructive feedback
- **CHOOSE JOY (Romans 15:13; Philippians 2:5-7a)**
  - Let the joy of the Lord be your overflow to others ○ Endeavor to have the mind of Christ
  - Approach life with an attitude of humility and an atmosphere of fun

By providing an example in speech and action, we encourage others to grow in Christ and become servant-leaders themselves. This is a way of life measured by the heart and commitment of each leader in the Linked UP Church family. Serving and leading others by example is a privilege (Numbers 18:7), not an imposition or restriction.

## **ABUSE POLICY**

I understand that Linked UP Church is a safe place for children and vulnerable adults and that we comply with all Federal and State laws regarding reporting suspected child abuse. As a member of the Dream Team, I understand that suspected abuse is to be reported to the staff member who oversees the area in which I serve. I also understand the four types of abuse defined below:

- Physical: a physical act directed at a child or vulnerable adult that causes injury.
- Sexual: contact or interactions between a child and an adult, or another child, when the child is being used for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person. This includes exploitation through photographs, videos, or other communication methods.
- Emotional: acts or omissions by the parent or other caregivers that have caused, or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders.
- Neglect: failure to provide for the child or vulnerable adult's basic needs. This includes adequate adult supervision, medical attention, housing, food, and clothing. Most cases of physical neglect involve inadequate adult supervision that has caused harm to the child or vulnerable adult or places them in danger of such harm.

I understand it is not my responsibility to investigate and in no instance will I confront a parent or caregiver if abuse is suspected. As a member of the Dream Team, I agree to comply with this policy and report any suspected abuse to the staff person who oversees the area in which I serve.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF A DREAM TEAM MEMBER

*The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesusfaith.*  
1 Timothy 3:8-13 (MSG)

1. Be sincere, worthy of respect, and of good reputation
2. Tithe regularly to Linked UP Church
3. Have a genuine desire to serve and minister to other people
4. Able to lead motivate, and teach other people
5. Able to create positive group dynamics and resolve conflict within the group.

## CONNECTING THROUGH DREAM TEAMS OR CONNECT GROUPS

All of us were created by God to make a difference in the life of another person. God has a place for you where your unique abilities and passions can touch the lives of others. At Linked UP, through our Dream Teams and Connect Groups, you will belong to a community where that happens.

### OUR VISION FOR YOU

#### 1. I have a family to live a life of faith with.

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:3-6*

#### 2. I have friends who partner with me.

*Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:1-4* **3. I have a spiritual foundation on which to grow.**

*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14*

#### 4. I have a fulfilling place to make a difference.

*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:8-9, 13*



## **JOINING LINKED UP CHURCH DREAM TEAM**

1. Fill out the Dream Team Leadership Application and Honor Code.
2. Observe the Dream Team you would like to serve in.
3. Follow up with a ministry leader for your next steps.

## **HOW DO I GET CONNECTED WITH A CONNECT GROUP**

### **1. Find a Group**

- Find a group by contacting the church office, visiting our website ([www.linkedupchurch.com](http://www.linkedupchurch.com)) or emailing [connectgroups@linkedupchurch.com](mailto:connectgroups@linkedupchurch.com).
- Contact the leader.
- If you desire to lead a group, attend Connect Group Leader Orientation and get equipped to lead a group that you are passionate about.

### **2. Commit for a Semester at a Time**

New groups start two semesters each year: Spring (February – May) and Fall (September – December). Most groups are open to new members throughout the semester.

### **3. Experience a Life Change**

You'll never fully experience what Linked UP Church has to offer until you connect in a connect group! Connect groups were vital to the first century church's growth, and they are just as vital now.

Life is not meant to be lived alone. In fact, God hates loneliness. You were created to experience life with other people, and that's why at Linked UP Church, we encourage you to get into a connect group.

A connect group is a group of three or more people who gather weekly, biweekly, or monthly during Spring and Fall Semesters in a home, workplace, or online. In a group you'll hang out, study the Word, and pray together.

Groups come in all shapes and sizes – Married Couples, Singles (Ages 35-59), Men, Women, College, Prayer, Workplace, Young Adults, Forever Young (Ages 60 & Older) – the list goes on. No matter where you are in life, there's a group for you.

Ready to dive in? Find a group that fits you or start one of your own.

## Dream Teams

(Most Common for Extroverted Personalities)

Bookstore	Our team maintains the bookstore and assists guests with their purchases.
Congregational Care	Our team ministers to Linked UP members in their time of need.
Creative Praise	Our team brings their creativity to minister during special services and productions. We consist of Screenwriters, Actors, Directors, Acting Coaches, Make Up Artists, Hairstylists, and Wardrobe Stylists.
Connected Praise (Dance Ministry)	Our team ministers through dance during praise and worship, special services, church productions, and special events.  <b>Requirements: Dance Audition, Age 18+</b>
Greeters	Our friendly team loves people and makes them feel at home here at Linked Up. We welcome guests with a smile, encouragement, and a personal touch. We are positioned on the outside entrance and in the hallways of the Church.
Hospitality	Our energetic team connects with guests by offering a warm welcome, answering questions, escorting guests, and assisting with the First Time Visitors Reception.

<p>Linked UP Kids</p>	<p>Our team creates an environment where children are consistently exposed to the real love of Jesus. We intentionally invest in the lives of our children through worship, videos, skits, games, and more.</p> <p><b>Requirements: Background Check</b></p>
<p>Linked UP Worship (Band, Choir, Worship Team)</p>	<p>Our dynamic team prepares the way for our guests to encounter the presence of the living God through vocals, instruments, or audio engineering.</p> <p><b>Requirements: Band &amp; Worship Team Audition</b></p>
<p>Little LinkLand</p>	<p>Our team leads children into a real relationship with Jesus through Bible stories, worship, prayer, hands on activities, and personal interactions.</p> <p><b>Requirements: Background Check</b></p>
<p>Ministry Room</p>	<p>Our team ministers to individuals who respond to the altar call invitations of Salvation, Rededication, Membership, Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Prayer guiding respondents to a better understanding of how their lives can be improved through the knowledge of God's Word and a better relationship with Him.</p>
<p>Next Steps (Education Team)</p>	<p>Our team is the official host of our Connect 4 Next Steps, greeting guests and providing material and assistance throughout our four classes.</p>
<p>Parking Team</p>	<p>Our fun team is truly the first impression for those coming to Linked UP Church. We welcome people on and off the property and insure a safe and efficient parking experience.</p>

<p><b>Connect Group Leadership</b></p>	<p>We believe that real life change takes place in the context of relationships. As a connect group leader, you have the greatest opportunity to connect with others, fulfill your passions, develop your gifts, and live out the Great Commission.</p>
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<p><b>The Plug (Youth Ministry)</b></p>	<p>Join the team that is PLUGing the next generation into God. This life giving community has an awesome worship experience, relevant Connect Group culture, and a deeply impactful sense of belonging.</p> <p><b>Requirements: Background Check</b></p>
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<p><b>Ushers/Hostess</b></p>	<p>Our team welcomes guests and prepares the tools that allow guests to participate in worship during our services. Connection cards, offering envelopes and message notes are joyfully assembled and recycled each week.</p>
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## Dream Teams

(Most Common for Introverted Personalities)

<p><b>Altar Guild</b></p>	<p>Our team serves behind the scenes to prepare both the elements and the environment for Communion and assists water baptism candidates for Water Baptism.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dream Team Serve (Culinary)</b></p>	<p>Our team faithfully serves our very own Dream Team members by providing refreshments, prayer and encouragement during services and special events.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Events</b></p>	<p>Our team creatively plans and hosts national conferences, Linked UP conferences, and Churchwide events.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Excellence</b></p>	<p>Our team works diligently behind the scenes to maintain excellence in every area of the church.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Responders (Medical Guild)</b></p>	<p>Our unit of health care providers serve to triage basic medical attention to our guests in the event of an accident or emergency at Linked UP Church.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Logistics</b></p>	<p>Our team facilitates the Linked UP experience at our portable campuses by setting up before services and taking down after services.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prayer Team</b></p>	<p>Our team provides prayer covering for services, teams, and ministries at Linked UP.</p>

<p>Media Team</p>	<p>Our team is a fast-paced and hands-on area of visual ministry, comprised of several components such as Photography, Videography, Live Production, Video Editing, Graphic Design and more!</p>
<p>Social Media Team</p>	<p>Our team connects with our community by creating a creative and interactive online experience. This team is curates content to keep both member and nonmembers engaged with all that is happening at Linked UP .</p>
<p>Sound Team</p>	<p>Our sound team provides care for the greatest technical audio needs for ministries at Linked UP Church. If there is a service or a gathering, chances are audio support will be needed for the ministry event.</p>
<p>Security (MOD)</p>	<p>Our team is the invisible yet invaluable Ministry of Defense.</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>Our team exists to support the technology needs of all parts of the ministry. From volunteer and children’s church check-in to the maintenance of the Linked UP corporate network, technology volunteers are there to provide support.</p>

## LINKED UP CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and agreeing with the values and ideas presented in Step 2, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Linked UP Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### 1. I will protect the unity of my church:

**By acting in love toward other members.**

**By refusing to gossip.**

**By following the leaders.**

*“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” Romans 14:19*

*“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.” Romans 15:5*

*“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.” 1 Peter 1:22*

*“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29*

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17*

### 2. I will share the responsibility of my church:

**By praying for its growth.**

**By inviting others to attend.**

**By warmly welcoming those who visit.**

*“To the church...we give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2*

*“Then the master said to the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Luke 14:23*

*“So reach out and welcome one another to God’s glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!” Romans 15:7 (MSG)*

### **3. I will serve the ministry of my church:**

**By discovering my gifts and talents.**

**By being equipped to serve by my pastors.**

**By developing a servant's heart.**

*"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10*

*"And He (God) Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12*

*"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... (who) made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:4-5, 7*

### **4. I will support the testimony of my church:**

**By attending church and connect groups faithfully.**

**By living a godly life.**

**By giving regularly.**

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42*

*"(Let us) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25*

*"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." Philippians 1:27*

*"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come." 1 Corinthians 16:2*

*"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord." Leviticus 27:30*