

Leadership Covenant

Preamble

University Ministries at North Park University exists to join God in raising up a generation of Jesus' disciples who will join God's story by loving God wholeheartedly, introducing others to Jesus, walking alongside those who are eager to grow in Christ, and working with the Holy Spirit to advance Jesus' Kingdom on campus, in the city, in our country, and in the world. In order to accomplish our mission, we are joining God as He raises up the next generation of Kingdom leaders.

Spiritual leadership is a high calling in the life of a follower of Jesus, which is why we don't enter into it lightly. Paul tells his apprentice Timothy: "Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task (1 Tim. 3:1)." This year, by accepting a role of leadership in University Ministries, you are stepping into this noble task with Jesus and with one another.

In Jesus, we encounter a leadership revolution. His leadership was radically abiding in the Father, anointed by the Holy Spirit, and characterized by humility, self-sacrifice, spiritual authority, and holiness (set apart for God's purposes and glory) (John 15; Luke 4:21-22, 14-21; John 13:1-17; Phil. 2:5-11). Likewise, spiritual leaders who walk in the way of Jesus are accountable to God, to one another, and to the communities they lead. Spiritual leaders commit themselves to leading in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to becoming more and more like Jesus each day, and to conducting themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel. (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 1:27).

God's Kingdom does not advance primarily through programs and events, but through people and relationships. The commitment, character, conduct, and community of spiritual leaders all impact the people we lead and the reputation of our Lord Jesus (Ezek. 34; Eph. 3:10). Therefore, we are forging a covenant* relationship among the University Ministries leadership community including staff and student leaders that we may 'offer ourselves together as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is our true and proper worship' (Romans 12:1-21) as we prayerfully seek God's Kingdom to come in its fullness here at North Park.

* To covenant means to agree, to be of one mind, to come together with common commitments and expectations. For our community to be in a covenant relationship with one another under the Lordship of Christ assumes our primary covenant relationship with God in Christ and flows from it.

Covenant

In view of God's mercy, grace, power and love, we each, staff and student leaders of University Ministries at North Park University, commit to:

- Having and cultivating an ongoing personal and communal relationship with Jesus by spending time regularly in solitude with God, in His Word and in prayer; by worshiping and praying in community regularly; and by meeting regularly with my ministry team and/or staff.
- Yielding to the Lordship of Jesus Christ over every area of our lives which expresses itself in obedience to Christ in character and conduct, in mission, and in ministry.
- Receiving and extending the grace and love of God in Christ as mediated through the Holy Spirit and through one another.
- Serving and leading as spiritual leaders in the form of Christ and through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit and fulfilling our leadership responsibilities with joy, humility, teachability, and faithfulness, pointing those whom God has entrusted into our care to Jesus and seeking their good for His glory.
- Seeking the formation and expression of Christ in both our character and conduct, to making choices of character and conduct that are godly, consistent with God's Word, above reproach, and will lead our community into the vision of the body of Christ living in God's Kingdom now. We specifically commit to the character and conduct becoming of Jesus followers as described in 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, Ephesians 4:1-5:20, and Philippians 2:1-16. In our context at North Park, we commit to serving one another, those we lead, and the broader NPU community by committing to the following:
 - Practicing academic and financial integrity.
 - Refraining from gossip and slander and unresolved conflict. In contrast, we will believe the best of others and where there is conflict, tension, or sin, we will address it swiftly, humbly, and biblically as those committed to pursuing reconciliation and restoration (Matthew 18:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2).
 - Abstaining from underage drinking, excessive drinking and drunkenness, illegal substance use and substance abuse, and self-medicating (Ephesians 5:15-20).
 - Pursuing sexual purity (spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally).
 - Pursuing health, healing, and wholeness in and through Christ in all areas of our lives, including areas of trauma, abuse, grief, dysfunction, and mental health.
 - Offering every part of our bodies to God instruments of righteousness, as those who have been brought from death to life, as an expression of love of God, love of others, and love of ourselves as God loves us (Romans 6:13).
- To maintaining integrity of commitment, character, conduct and community and when integrity is compromised through weakness in one of these and other areas that are contrary to a life of following Christ, serving as a spiritual leader, and remaining faithful to this covenant, then we commit to confession, repentance, and submission to staff leadership and subsequent consequences.