

# 2022 STUDY GUIDE AND SERMON TOPICS



Compiled By;

Dr. Bruce McClure, PhD. Senior Minister

Prince George's Church of Christ

7800 Central Avenue

Landover, Maryland

[pgcoc@pg-coc.org](mailto:pgcoc@pg-coc.org)

301.333.5150



# THE CHURCH AS INTENDED BY HEAVEN

FOUR STEPS TOWARD HEAVEN

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# 2022 LESSON GOAL

- Each quarter, is a study of one of four components of being in Christ: membership, discipleship, servanthip and leadership will be taught. The basic study about membership into the over 2000 years old organization, known as, the Church, or the body of Christ; will be reviewed in order to assure that no member will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and be told to depart from His presence; because they were never known by Christ as a “member” of His Body. Within a family or organization that is respected, successful and adds a quality of life to those it serves, there must be training that leads to competent adherents. In the church this is known as making disciples or discipleship. This will be studied in much detail because whenever discipling is incorrect, the expectation for undisciplined individuals to become effective servants is impossible. The final quarter will be dedicated to the analysis of how Jesus molded disciples into spiritual leadership; which required caring and nurturing the members of God’s Church.

# ORGANIZATIONAL INTENT

- The majority of organizations are clear that having no established intent is a promise of failure. The definition of “organizational Intent” means the organization has a purpose (Vision) which it endeavors to accomplish. The organizational intent statement is provided to give a perspective of means that leads and helps the organization accomplish its vision over time. “Strategic Intent” on the other hand provides an overarching idea (Mission) of what an organization desires to attain in the future. In the world of business, it is believed Kongo Gumi, which was established in 578 AD, is the oldest continually operating company in the world. Kongo Gumi is located in Osaka, Japan and was founded as a construction company founded by an immigrant, who was commissioned by Prince Shotoku to construct the Shitenno-ji Buddhist temple according to the World Atlas. The world’s two longest lasting Organizations are: Family and the Church. Genesis 4:1-2 Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!” Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. Acts 2:41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day---about 3,000 in all. The precision utilized by God in laying out the vision for family and church far exceeds any business or manmade policy and procedure manual known to the world.

# ORGANIZATIONAL INTENT STRUCTURE HIERARCHY

- Source of Vision - Christ
- Origin of Mission - Christ
- Table of Definitions - Christ
- Model Source - Christ
- Goals and Objectives - Christ



# ROLE OF STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS (ADAPTED FROM BUSINESS JARGON)

- Vision – The blueprint that lays out the positional footprint of the construction and completion of the entire structure inclusive of every component required for the vision to become reality.
- Mission – Specifies the business and the specific goals and methodology required to ascertain the goals as outlined. The details of capabilities, activities and focus of the organization's purpose for existing are included.
- Table of Definitions – Defines the work to be done, the individuals who are to be targeted and the resources required to successfully meet all objectives.
- Model Source – The strategy should center on effective and efficient operations to ensure financial resources, and on how to handle those opposed to the organization both internally and externally.
- Goals and Objectives – The crucial bases by which the structure is measured, and goals accomplished, are the reason for the organization's existence. It is the goals and objectives that direct purpose and accomplishments while vision, mission definitions and model, lays out the philosophy of the organization.

# BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO STRUCTURAL INTENT

- Jeremiah 31:31 – 33 The day is coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife, says the Lord. “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the Lord. I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (NLT)

# BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO STRUCTURAL INTENT

- Isaiah 2:1-4 This is the vision that Isaiah, son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all, the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." for the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

# BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO STRUCTURAL INTENT

- Daniel 2:44-45 “During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true and its meaning is certain.”

# BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO STRUCTURAL INTENT

- Micah 4:1-5 In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise! Though the nations around us follow their idols, we will follow the Lord our God forever and ever.

# THE FOUNDATION WAS FROM GOD AND CHRIST – NO CONSULTATION WITH MANKIND

- 1 Corinthians 3:11-16 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have---Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials---gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

# THE CHURCH IS THE PILLAR AND FOUNDATION OF TRUTH

- 1 Timothy 3:14-16 I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.

# THE CHURCH OVERVIEW

- 2 TIMOTHY 2:19 – 25 But God’s truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: “The LORD knows those who are his,” and “All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil.” <sup>20</sup> In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. <sup>21</sup> If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. <sup>22</sup> Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. <sup>23</sup> Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. <sup>24</sup> A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. <sup>25</sup> Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth.



# FOUR PHASES OF CHURCH MATURITY

MEMBERSHIP

DISCIPLESHIP

SERVANTSHIP

LEADERSHIP

# BRIEF DEFINITION OF PHASES

MEMBERSHIP – THE FACT THAT ONE BELONGS TO THE GROUP

DISCIPLESHIP – ONE WHO IS A PUPIL EMBRACING THE DOCTRINE OF ANOTHER

SERVANTSHIP – THE CONDITION OF BEING A SERVANT SERVING (samurai) = to serve someone and look up to them, specifically their master or one more noble than self

LEADERSHIP – THE ACTION OF MOLDING, INFLUENCING, INSPIRING OTHERS TO BECOME THEIR BEST SELF

# MEMBERSHIP FIRST QUARTER STUDY

- Neighborhood's commonly have homeowner associations that serve the specific community that is described within the associations charter. Without debate residences living in a designated community being overseen by the association would not likely attempt calling the homeowner's association in another jurisdiction, identifying self as a member of the other jurisdiction's association. In the Washington, DC metroplex exists an uncountable number of institutions of higher learning that each in its own rights, are providing students with opportunities to receive varying credentials in the academic world. Without debate students with identification documents from one specific institution would not be so foolish to claim enrollment in another institution of which one is not enrolled. When shopping at Whole Foods, Harris Teeter, Wegman, Giant or Safeway, when the clerk requests if the shopper has a membership card, the customer is careful to search their wallet or purse to present the card specific to the store in which shopping is presently happening.
- Likewise, membership in the family of God is not without covenants, identification and credentials specific to the organization one holds membership. The discussion of membership is not designed to challenge intent, purpose or the heart of the designee, but simply study what membership inside the church as established over 2000 years ago in Jerusalem was like in terms of headship, admission, participation and family interactions.

# 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER LESSONS

## MEMBERSHIP

1 Corinthians 6:15 -17  
Membership Is In  
Christ

John 3:1-7  
Membership Requires  
Being Born Again

Isaiah 62:1-4/Acts  
11:24-26 Membership  
Comes With A New  
Name

Acts 20:7-12  
Membership Worships  
With Members

1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
All Members Are Of  
The Body Christ

Genesis 19:32-34  
Membership Requires  
Family Fidelity

Ephesians 4:25;5:30  
Like It Or Not We Are  
Members Of Each  
Other

Galatians 3:23-29  
Membership In Christ  
Requires Surrender Of  
Fleshly Memberships

Joshua 6:23-25  
Membership In Family  
Requires Supporting  
Each Other

James 4:1 Failure To  
Surrender Fleshly  
Membership Leads To  
Conflict

Ruth 2:1 Members  
Have Varying Degree's  
of Wealth

1 Timothy 5:16 Female  
Membership Requires  
Family Love

2 Timothy 4:19  
Membership Must  
Respect Family  
Relationships

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# DISCIPLESHIP

## SECOND QUARTER STUDY

- In an article published by Oregon State Universities Human Resources, orientation is crucial because it lays the foundation for each incoming person's total career. Orientation was found to be imperative for portraying the very best first impression. Where there was little or no orientation, an incoming person oftentimes felt uncomfortable, and tasks took much longer to complete; which stymied the individual's full potential. The task involves making clear why a person is onboard; major objectives and performance clarity; boundaries pertaining to rules; regulations, and policy are stated, key personnel are introduced, Coaching and counseling provided, and measures of progress are clearly stated.
- Orientation Supports:
  - - equipping incomers with concise and accurate data that increases comfortability
  - - assists incomers by enhancing confidence and expediting tasking
  - - assures a congruent productive team
  - - improves retention of individuals
  - - promotes open channel of dialogue between managers and workers
- In the world of Christianity, Orientation is equated to Discipleship. In the life of Christ as the head of Human Resources, He also understood the critical importance of "Orientation".
- Acts 4:13 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. (NIV)

# 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER LESSONS

## DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 4:18-22  
Discipleship - A Very  
High Calling

Matthew 4:25  
Discipleship - Required  
By Every Member

Matthew 12:46-50 Not  
Everyone Is Ready For  
Discipleship

John 6:66-71  
Discipleship Training  
Requires Spiritual  
Mental Conditioning

Luke 18:18-23  
Discipleship Requires  
Listening And Proper  
Responses

Matthew 7:21-29  
Discipleship Requires  
Endurance In All  
Seasons

Matthew 9:18-26  
Sharing The  
Disciplinarian Is  
Indictive Of Great  
Students

[https://www.pg-  
coc.org](https://www.pg-coc.org)  
Mark 6:7-13 Good  
Disciples Are Groomed  
Over Time

John 7:1-12  
Discipleship May Bring  
Out The Worse In  
Families

Luke 19:1-10  
Discipleship Requires  
Mental Preparation

Luke 11:1-8  
Discipleship Requires  
Asking For Help

Mark 15:43/John 19:38  
Discipleship Is Filled  
With Risk

Matthew 10:34-42  
Discipleship Might Split  
Family Loyalty

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# SERVANTSHIP THIRD QUARTER STUDY

- A visit to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier illustrates the difference between Membership, Discipleship and Servantship quite vividly. First, each person participating in the ceremony must be an active member of the United States Military. In the winter, the guard changes once every hour and in the summer once every half hour. Second, the specific discipline required beyond being active military, requires soldiers must be members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Infantry Regiment in the U.S. Army. Unless meeting the criteria set forth by the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment orientation, the person does not qualify to serve as a member of the Old Guard. Once basic qualifications into the training (discipleship) i.e. Superb physical condition, unblemished military record, male height between 5'10" and 6'4", females 5'8" and 6'2" with proportionate weight and build, commitment of two years living in barracks beneath the tomb, memorizing the seven-page guard-change ceremony and reciting it verbatim just to earn a "walk" which is mid phase of training before earning the privilege of wearing the silver Tomb Guard Identification Badge which is temporary and only good for nine months. Only about 600 Tomb Guards have earned the badge since the late 1950's. Finally, an exam consisting of 100 questions is given from 300 items memorized during training (discipleship) and the temporary badge holder must pass with a score of 95% or more before being admitted into the rank of official Tomb Guard Service.
- Matthew 12:18-21 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.
- Matthew 10:24 "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER LESSONS

## SERVANTSHIP

John 10:10-17  
Servantship Model Is  
Christ

Mark 1:16-20  
Fisherman Serve As  
Suppliers

Luke 9:57-62  
Servantship Requires  
24/7 Service

Isaiah 6:8-13  
Servantship Accepts  
God's Results of  
Service

Matthew 8:23-27  
Servants React To  
The Response Of  
Their Master

John 7:12-17  
Servants Must Know  
The Doctrine of God

Matthew 13:27-30  
Servants Must Learn  
The Art Of Patience

Mark 13:32-37  
Servants Are  
Authorized By The  
Master To Serve

Luke 18:10-14  
Humility and  
Servantship are  
synonymous

Matthew 6:18-24  
Servants Treasure  
Serving One Master

Matthew 10:24-26  
Servants Must Be  
Ready For Name  
Calling

Matthew 24:45-51  
Servants Are  
Expected To Always  
Serve

Luke 14:16-24  
Servants Must Not  
Take Rejection of The  
Master Personally

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Matthew 20:26 Not so with you, Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

What is the definition of Leadership? The real answer is, "there is no one perfect formula for defining a perfect leader or leadership style" according to a finding from The University of Arizona's Eller College of Management, April 29, 2021. The definition for good and great leadership varies depending upon who is speaking.

- Bill Gates once said, "As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others."

- Warren Bennis an American scholar said, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

- Aristotle believed, "He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader."

Summarily, leadership is defined as one with a strong strategic vision and goal who knows how to motivate and mobilize people around that goal and knows when to listen and follow others who bring their own skills and qualities to the table.

Leadership requires the following qualities for positive impact upon those being impacted:

1. Empathy

2. Confidence

3. Creativity

4. Accountability

5. Transparency

6. Delegation

7. Compassion

8. Humility

9. Passion

10. Vision

11. Integrity

# LEADERSHIP

## FOURTH QUARTER STUDY

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# 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER LESSONS

## LEADERSHIP

Matthew 20:20-28  
The Path To  
Leadership

Luke 9:46-48  
Leadership Requires  
A Childlike Spirit

Matthew 27:57-60  
Leadership Requires  
Courage

John 13:1-17  
Leadership Model Is  
Christ

1 Timothy 3:1-16  
Leadership Is  
Expected To Be  
Examples

John 21:18-22  
Leadership Must  
Learn How To Be  
Lead

Philippians 2:1-13  
Leadership Must  
Pour Everything  
Into Leading

Matthew 8:18-22  
Leadership Don't  
Get An "Off Season"

2 Corinthians 12:11-15  
Leadership Leads  
Family....Like It Or  
Not

Hebrews 5:1-9  
Leadership Is  
Earned

Mark 5:1-20  
Leadership Must  
Not Be Afraid Of  
Evil

1 Timothy 4:1-16  
Leadership Models  
Sound Doctrine

John 13:1  
Leadership Must  
Love People From  
Beginning To End

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