

SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY

**Organizational Communication, Conflict Resolution, and Negotiation
LDR 5323-92**

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**Assignment 2:
Personal/Professional Ethos, Vision and Mission Statements, and Core Values**

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Introduction

When I was sixteen years old, I made a decision to commit my life to Christ. Having heard a friend make claims about the teachings of Jesus, which differed greatly from my training and upbringing in a Roman Catholic household, I decided to read the Bible for myself. After nine months of personal reading and study of the Scriptures, I became convinced that the life that I was living fell short of God's standard, and that I needed to commit my life to Christ and be born again so that I could receive eternal life.

This decision presented a central turning point that changed the entire direction and focus of my life. I now had a new realization that my life belonged to God and that I had an obligation to live in keeping with his will, plan, and purpose for me. As I was finishing my undergraduate degree at a secular university, our campus Intervarsity worker challenged me to consider answering the call to full-time ministry. After praying and seeking counsel from the elders of my church, I received confirmation that the call to ministry was part of that divine plan and purpose. I worked for several years as a Christian school teacher in order to provide a transition to ministry while I received my training and preparation.

These two things—my commitment to Christ and my call to ministry—provide context for this leadership ethos and serve as foundational elements that shape the mission statements, vision statements, and core values presented herein. As for the format of these items, various authors differ as to exactly how to write personal mission and vision statements, as well as what should be included in them. For example, Rushfeldt (2005) and Barna (1992) recommend one method, which gives a mission statement followed by a vision statement that serves to summarize strategy as well. On the other hand, Peterkin (2003) seems to suggest a different method. Since no universal standard format exists for writing vision and mission statements, the

paper will include elements from the various sources listed in order to accomplish the overall objective of the assignment, in keeping with the general goal articulated by Christensen (2010).

Mission Statements

Personal Mission Statement

To fulfill God's plan by building an intimate relationship with God in order to demonstrate responsible stewardship of all that God has entrusted to me so that I can provide effective leadership for my family that I may leave a legacy of faith to the generations that follow.

Professional Mission Statement

To pursue God's calling on my life as an ordained minister so that I will faithfully serve the congregation that God has placed under my care. This calling extends to ministry as called by God and my peers as presbyter in order to serve and lead the pastors and churches of our section.

Vision Statement

Personal Vision Statement

To fulfill God's plan by building an intimate relationship with God in order to demonstrate responsible stewardship of all that God has entrusted to me so that I can provide effective leadership for my family that I may leave a legacy of faith to the generations that follow. This entails serving as a godly example for my wife and children so that they can see by my life what it means to live for Christ and serve as a pattern for them as they establish households of their own (Ephesians 5:25-33; 6:4; Colossians 3:19, 21). It also includes maintaining a lifestyle and upholding a Scriptural standard of behavior in our household so that we may continue to experience the peace and favor of God in our home (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). This extends to seeking God's will for our household and leading our family to remain

committed to finding and doing the will of God. We also endeavor to trust God to supply all of our needs, as his word has promised (Psalm 37:25; Philippians 4:19). This is in keeping with our family's commitment to live with God as the head of our home, and to worship and serve him as the central components of our family's heritage (Joshua 24:15).

Professional Vision Statements

Vision Statement as Pastor

To pursue God's calling on my life as an ordained minister so that I will faithfully serve the congregation that God has placed under my care. I fulfill this calling by inspiring our congregation to pursue God's vision for our ministry, by influencing them with faithful, servant leadership, instructing them with sound, Scriptural teaching and preaching, and interceding for our people and our ministry with fervent prayer.

Bethel Assembly of God exists as a worship community, a family of faith that places priority on the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). God positioned us as an agent of reconciliation in this community to present a Spirit-filled gospel witness, endeavoring to serve our community as a means of building relational bridge that will give us a forum to reconcile people to God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). This welcomes people into the family of faith, a home where the church disciples, nurtures and equips people to become productive members of God's household and ambassadors who bring others into the family.

Vision Statement as Presbyter

To minister as called by God and my peers as presbyter in order to serve and lead the pastors and churches of our section. I answer this call by serving as a resource to meet the various needs of our pastors and churches (Ephesians 4:12), by providing support and

encouragement to those who need help (Hebrews 12:12-13), by challenging them to minister the gospel with demonstrations of the Spirit's power (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Mark 16:15-20), and by serving them in love and humility so that they will succeed in fulfilling their divine callings (1 Peter 5:1-3).

The Northeast Section exists to provide fellowship and accountability for the pastors and churches in Essex and Hudson counties in the New Jersey District of the Assemblies of God. We provide encouragement by seeking to engage each minister, embrace each culture in this incredibly diverse area of the country, and equip each church by providing resources that facilitate growth and health.

Core Values

All of the aforementioned statements have at their heart certain core values which function as guiding principles professionally as well as personally. While the believer is instructed to embrace the whole counsel of God's word (Acts 20:27) and all of the principles embodied therein, I have noticed specific core values that have emerged in my life and ministry that provide direction and help to prioritize matters in decision making.

Priority of God's Word

The Holy Scriptures serve as the source of wisdom and guidance in my life and ministry (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As mentioned before, personal Bible reading served as my gateway into Christianity, and it has remained the final authority in all matters personal and professional. Furthermore, it provides the foundational teaching on ethics and serves as a guide for navigating relationships and for directing behavior and attitudes (Galatians 5:22-23). It is also a primary means by which I learn about God as well as learn from God. For this reason, the Holy Scriptures have a central place of priority in my life.

Intimate Relationship with God

Because I have come to know God as my heavenly Father through a personal relationship with Jesus, I highly value building that relationship. Not only is personal fellowship with God a source of immense personal joy and satisfaction (Psalm 16:11), it also serves as a lifeline in navigating the challenges of life in this world. Since the Bible promises that we will spend eternity with God (John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17), this lifetime serves as a beginning to a relationship that will reach into eternity, even though we can never entirely know God in this life. Still, seeking God and spending intimate time with him provides opportunity to receive revelation into various facets of his divine character.

Empowered by the Spirit

As a Spirit-filled believer, I fully embrace and support our fellowship's position on our Pentecostal Distinctive. Since the fullness of the Spirit is promised to all believers (Acts 2:38-39; Luke 11:13) I value pursuing God's anointing and empowerment in my personal life and in ministry. The Holy Spirit is the primary source of power that I seek, as I learn to rely less on my own resources and those of this world (Zechariah 4:6; John 3:37-39; Romans 8:26-27; Jude 20).

Pursuing Healthy Relationships

The Bible makes having healthy, redemptive relationships a priority in the life of the believer. Therefore, we have a responsibility before God to keep our relationship in good repair (Matthew 18:15-17). Furthermore, we should always conduct ourselves with all people in keeping with the standard of purity taught in God's word. All of our relationships serve as a conduit through which the love of God can flow, therefore all issues of the heart should be dealt with so as to keep a free flow of the love of God to and from one another (Matthew 5:23-24; Mark 11:25).

Service to God and Others

The Bible calls us to follow the example of Christ in showing love one to another (John 3:34-35). Likewise, we are to follow his example of humble service in our interactions with the people that God places in our lives (Philippians 2:5; John 13:14-17). In God's kingdom, Jesus made it clear that the way up is down (Matthew 23:11). That's why I view myself as the servant of all people in my personal, as well as my professional life.

Embrace Personal Responsibility

Because the Bible teaches the importance of taking personal responsibility for all actions and decisions (Hebrews 4:13), I endeavor to live a life that avoids making excuses and does not abdicate the responsibilities that falls to me in my personal as well as professional life. This is a value that I believe in very strongly because I believe that it is important to set an example for others in taking responsibility rather than shifting blame to others. Furthermore, embracing responsibility is the route to personal empowerment, for a person can only control those things for which he or she is willing to claim responsibility (Covey, 1989, p. 69). Acting as a victim in life and its circumstances means that I lack the power to act. Therefore, I prefer to take responsibility and accept the burdens that it brings that I may experience the blessing of empowerment and exercise my God-given capacity to make choices.

Commitment to Continued Growth

I view myself as a student for life. Therefore, I approach my personal and professional capacities as a lifelong learner. Furthermore, the Scriptures urge the believe to pursue spiritual growth and development in the pursuit of a Christlike character (2 Peter 3:18). For this reason, I commit myself to grow and develop in every area of life—spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and personally (Luke 2:52).

Stewardship of Life's Resources

Since all of life is a gift from God, and all of our resources are bestowed on us by God, I have the responsibility to manage those resources responsibly (Matthew 25:21). In this way, all of life is a stewardship for which I will have to give an account to God someday. For this reason, I look to him for direction, guidance, and wisdom so that I can use those resources wisely to advance God's, kingdom, to serve the people in my life, and to live as a responsible individual before God.

Conclusion

These elements combined form the leadership ethos that governs my life, both personally and professionally. They provide the basis for my decision making and the way I conduct myself in the various roles and responsibilities that I hold. Together, they provide the framework that supports the central, fundamental elements that lay at the center of my life—my commitment to Christ and my calling.

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