



## Lead Your Church to Make a *Lasting* Difference

You see the needs in your community and believe your church can make a lasting difference. Ready Church helps you develop the leaders, systems, partnerships, and ministry opportunities needed to move the church beyond the building to care for its community.

As a **Ready Church**, *YOU* carry the presence and power of **JESUS** beyond the building to see lives transformed for generations.

## What is the Ready Church Model?

The Ready Church is a biblical and practical model for building a healthy local church that is prepared to worship God, develop people, serve its community, and care for those who are vulnerable.

- Discover** | What is true now?
- Build** | What must be developed?
- Mobilize** | Who will be activated?

# What is the Ready Church Philosophy of Ministry?

The Ready Church is built upon the conviction that the local church is central for worship, discipleship, fellowship, missions, generosity, and compassionate care.

The church is more than a building, an event, or a weekly service. The church is the Body of Christ. A people redeemed by Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, formed by the Word of God, and sent into the world to continue the ministry of Jesus.

**The gathering of the church is essential.** When believers gather, they worship together, pray together, receive biblical teaching, practice generosity, experience fellowship, exercise spiritual gifts, encourage one another, and prepare for ministry. However, the work of the church does not end when the gathering concludes.

## The Church Gathered and the Church Sent

**THE CHURCH GATHERED** is where people are equipped—repaired and prepared—for the work of the Gospel.

**THE CHURCH SENT** is where those same people carry the presence and power of Jesus beyond the building and into their community. Ready Church helps connect the two.

## The activity of the church should mirror the activity of the believer:

- A church that worships develops people who worship.
- A church that prays develops people who pray.
- A church that teaches Scripture develops people who live by Scripture.
- A church that practices generosity develops generous people.
- A church that values fellowship develops people who live in biblical community.
- A church that serves develops people who recognize and respond to the needs around them.
- A church that cares for vulnerable people develops believers who carry the compassion of Jesus into their community.

# What are the Priorities of the Ready Church?

## **The House of God**

In the New Testament, the House of God is not limited to a physical building. God's people are the Church, believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and together they form a spiritual house in which God dwells. At the same time, the regular gathering of God's people remains central to the life of the believer. Prioritizing the House of God means intentionally making room for God's presence, God's Word, God's people, and God's purposes.

## **Leading in Worship**

Worship is the response of God's people to who God is and what He has done. Corporate worship helps the church turn its attention toward God, declare His goodness, and surrender every part of life to Him.

## **Life of Surrender**

Following Jesus requires surrender. The church teaches believers to offer their lives, time, abilities, finances, and ambitions to God as acts of worship.

## **Power of Prayer**

Prayer is not simply one ministry of the church; it is foundational to every ministry of the church. Through prayer, believers seek God's presence, receive direction, intercede for others, and believe for the miraculous through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Teaching of the Word**

Scripture is the final authority for the faith, doctrine, and practice of the church. The Ready Church is committed to faithful biblical teaching, including expository preaching that helps people understand and apply the meaning of Scripture.

## **Fellowship With God and His People**

The Christian life is not intended to be lived alone. The church creates opportunities for people to develop meaningful relationships, carry one another's burdens, celebrate together, and grow through biblical community.

## **Identity in Christ**

The church helps people understand who God is and who they are in Christ. Healthy ministry leads people away from identities rooted in performance, failure, trauma, culture, or comparison and toward an identity grounded in Jesus.

## **The Gathering of God's People**

Gathering together is a priority because believers need corporate worship, biblical teaching, prayer, communion, encouragement, accountability, and fellowship. The gathering strengthens believers so they can faithfully represent Jesus throughout the week.

## **Cheerful Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

Giving is an act of worship, obedience, trust, and participation in God's mission. The church teaches and practices biblical stewardship while maintaining responsible and transparent financial systems.

## **Caring for Vulnerable People**

The House of God must be a place of compassion, provision, and protection for people experiencing vulnerability. The Ready Church intentionally cares for the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and the impoverished. This care is not treated as an occasional project or a secondary ministry. It is part of the church's identity and a visible expression of the heart of God.

# 12 Core Commitments of the Ready Church

Every ministry, system, position, and decision within the Ready Church should support the following commitments.

## 1. We Will Seek the Presence of God

We will remain dependent upon the Holy Spirit and make prayer and worship foundational to the life of the church.

## 2. We Will Teach the Word of God

We will proclaim Scripture faithfully and help people understand how biblical truth shapes everyday life.

## 3. We Will Develop Healthy Disciples

We will help people grow in their relationship with Jesus, discover their identity in Christ, and develop spiritual practices that produce maturity.

## 4. We Will Build Strong Families

We will equip marriages, parents, children, students, and caregivers with biblical truth, meaningful relationships, and practical support.

## 5. We Will Develop Leaders

We will identify, train, empower, and support people who are called to serve. Leadership development will be intentional, relational, and ongoing.

## 6. We Will Practice Healthy Stewardship

We will steward people, finances, facilities, technology, and ministry opportunities with integrity, accountability, and excellence.

## 7. We Will Create Safe Ministry Environments

We will establish appropriate screening, training, supervision, safety practices, and accountability for everyone entrusted with ministry responsibility.

## **8. We Will Care for People**

We will create systems through which people can receive prayer, encouragement, visitation, practical assistance, and compassionate support during difficult seasons.

## **9. We Will Serve Our Community**

Under the leadership of the Community Outreach Pastor, we will learn the needs and resources of our community, mobilize people to respond, and develop sustainable partnerships that produce lasting impact.

## **10. We Will Care for the Vulnerable**

We will intentionally respond to the needs of the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and the impoverished as an expression of God's compassion and the Church's biblical responsibility.

## **11. We Will Participate in God's Mission**

We will support local and global missions through prayer, giving, sending, partnerships, and personal participation.

## **12. We Will Prepare People for Ministry**

We believe every believer has a place in the Body of Christ. We will help people discover their gifts, develop their abilities, and serve with purpose.

# **The Ready Church Framework**

A Ready Church is spiritually grounded, organizationally healthy, active in missions, and prepared to care for its congregation and community.

Readiness is not determined by church size, attendance, staffing, budget, or facilities. It is demonstrated by a church's faithfulness to God, clarity of leadership, development of people, stewardship of resources, and ability to respond when ministry opportunities and needs arise.

A **Ready Church** does not measure health only by what happens during a worship service. It also considers ***how people are being formed*** through the ministry of the church.

## 1. Spiritually Grounded

A Ready Church prioritizes:

- The Presence of God
- Leading in Worship
- Power of Prayer
- Life of Surrender
- Teaching of the Word
- Fellowship With God and His People
- Identity in Christ
- Cheerful Generosity
- Gathering of God's people
- Caring for the Vulnerable

The church gathered, equips the church sent. What believers practice together should shape how they live throughout the week.

## 2. Led With Clarity

A Ready Church establishes clear leadership, authority, and accountability. Its leadership structure includes:

- Lead Pastor
- Executive Team
- Support Staff
- Directors and Coordinators
- Volunteer Team Leaders
- Deacon Board

Every essential ministry function has an identified leader, and every leader knows whom they supervise, whom they report to, and what responsibilities they have been entrusted to fulfill.

### **3. Prepared for Ministry**

A Ready Church thoughtfully prepares its services and ministries while remaining responsive to the Holy Spirit.

Its ministry operations include:

- Sunday worship
- Midweek ministry
- Expository preaching
- Prayer and altar ministry
- Kids and student ministry
- Spanish-language ministry
- Worship and production
- Relevant Resources
- Leadership Development
- Member care
- Communications
- Welcome and hospitality
- Facilities and safety

Each ministry has a clear purpose, trained leaders, appropriate systems, and established safety practices.

### **4. Developing People**

A Ready Church does not simply fill positions. It equips people for ministry.

The Volunteer Funnel:

1. Recruitment
2. Application
3. Screening and background check
4. Church-wide training
5. Ministry-specific training
6. Supervised experience
7. Placement on a rotation
8. Ongoing care and development
9. Leadership opportunities

Leaders receive ongoing development through The Lasting Leader, Trauma Informed Training, annual policy and safety training, coaching, and the yearly Staff and Leadership Excursion.

## **5. Serving the Community**

Under the leadership of the Community Outreach Pastor, the Ready Church follows the Discover | Build | Mobilize | model.

- The widow
- The orphan
- The immigrant
- The impoverished

### **| 1 | Discover: Assess your church within and beyond the walls.**

Discover how your church equips people when gathered by examining its leadership, ministries, systems, resources, strengths, and gaps. Then uncover how your church serves when sent by identifying its current community impact, local needs, available resources, ministry partners, and opportunities for greater engagement.

### **| 2 | Build: Develop the people, partnerships, and systems.**

Build leadership teams, volunteer pathways, community partnerships, ministry structures, safety practices, and the resources needed to serve effectively.

### **| 3 | Mobilize: Activate the church beyond the building.**

Equip people to use their gifts, experiences, and relationships to meet real needs, care for vulnerable people, strengthen families, and serve their neighbors.

This care includes community distributions, Convoy of Hope partnerships, foster-care ministry, circle of support, benevolence, community partnerships, and practical support.

## 6. Participating in God's Mission

A Ready Church participates in local and global missions through:

- Praying for Missionaries
- Giving to Local and Global Missions
- Going on Missions Trips
- Sending Missionaries
- Welcoming Missionaries to Speak

Missions are part of the church's ongoing discipleship and identity.

## 7. Practicing Faithful Stewardship

A Ready Church organizes its financial priorities around three purposes:

### | 1 | Sustain Worship

The Operational Budget supports the regular ministries, facilities, systems, and activities of the church.

### | 2 | Supply for Those Who Serve

The Pastoral and Support Staff Budget provides appropriate compensation, training, and support for those entrusted with ministry leadership.

### | 3 | Care for the Vulnerable

Additional Offerings support community outreach, vulnerable people, missionaries, missions projects, disaster response, and strategic ministry opportunities.

Ten percent of general giving, along with special offerings and designated contributions, is allocated to Kingdom Builders.

Financial decisions are supported by:

- An approved annual budget
- Clear spending authority
- Separation of financial duties
- Consistent reporting
- Secure contribution procedures
- Responsible reserves
- Deacon Board oversight / Appropriate financial review

## 8. Using Proven Systems

A Ready Church uses technology to support ministry, communication, accountability, and continuity.

Primary systems may include:

- Planning Center
- Church Center App
- ProPresenter
- Asana/Basecamp
- Canva

Each system has an identified purpose, approved users, secure access, a primary administrator, and backup leadership.

## 9. Planning and Evaluating

A Ready Church maintains an annual planning process that coordinates:

- Ministry goals
- Church calendar
- Staffing
- Volunteer needs
- Leadership development
- Budget
- Communications
- Facilities
- Safety
- Community outreach
- Missions

Ministries and events are evaluated according to their spiritual impact, participation, leadership development, stewardship, safety, and alignment with the church's mission.

# The Final Measure

A Ready Church knows:

- Who leads
- How decisions are made
- How people are developed
- How volunteers are screened and trained
- How children and vulnerable people are protected
- How members receive care
- How community needs are addressed
- How missions is supported
- How finances are managed
- How emergencies are handled
- How ministry continues during change

A Ready Church is not a perfect church. It is a faithful, healthy, prepared, and continually growing church. Ready to encounter God, equip His people, care for the vulnerable, and carry the hope of Jesus into its community and the world.

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