



# Leaders Covenant

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This covenant is simply to help the leaders within the Edge understand what we promise to each other and how we endeavor to support, encourage, resource, and pray for each other. This is not meant to be a binding, or a restrictive, or a cumbersome document, but rather a simple guideline towards proper understanding of expectations. There are values, concepts, and commitments that we must agree to, which unite and identify us as being in the same movement together.

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## AGREEMENT:

✓ *We agree on a common mission*

**Our Purpose:** To Live is Christ (Phil. 1:21). Jesus is Alpha & Omega, and the centre of everything (Rev 1:8). He is our Way, our Truth, and our Life (John 14:6). There is no other name by which people can be saved (Acts 4:12), or experience full life (John 10:10). Everything is from Him, through Him, and for Him (Rom 11:36). He gives us purpose. We know Him through hearing His voice, understanding the Scriptures, and living as He lived. Therefore, we will imitate His life and obey his commands to love God, love people, and make disciples by giving life (Matt 28:18-20).

**Our Mission:** To follow Jesus into people's lives so they can see, hear, know, and follow Him.

**Love God** - We will love God by enjoying our relationship with Him in prayer, worship, and everyday life (John 15:9-11). We will listen to Him, and know His Word to us, written and spoken. The Holy Spirit will help us understand and believe what He has revealed (John 16:13). We will love God by believing and acting in obedience to whatever the Lord reveals (John 14:21). We will respond with confession and repentance when we have not listened, and disobeyed. (Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9).

**Love People** - Whether children, prophets or prostitutes, Jesus changed lives, because He loved them (Luke 7:36-50). Jesus always noticed the people around Him and watched for people in need (Mark 10:46-51). He often loved people by engaging and serving them, whether or not they deserved it (Mark 10:45). He built a strong community, and welcomed anyone into it (Luke 7:37-47). This was His Gospel (John 1:12-13) Jesus offered people healing – physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually - because He loved them (Matt 9:35-36, 14:14).



**Give Life** - Jesus showed us how to engage in the lives of people of peace, and invite them into our lives, where they can hear and see Him (Luke 10:1-9). Through relationship, we involve them in our ambition to love God and love people, and model the life of a disciple (John 13:15, 1 John 2:6). In our time with them we affirm their identity, empower their strengths, and unite them in community (Mark 4:33-34), so they can go out and do the same (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 17:25-28). This is what it means to **make disciples** - into the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

Our Culture: We are a Family, a Body, a Network, a Movement, built on Trust, Simplicity, and Empowerment through the Spirit of Jesus.

We believe the best place for these priorities to be lived out is within the context of relationships and community. The most common expression and form of community in The Edge, but not the only one, is the “**Home Church**” (HC). We believe HCs are one of the best ways to do life and mission together as Jesus has defined it. **The Edge is essentially a large family of small groups of people passionate about imitating Jesus.** This is what we want to be, and all we want to do.

✓ *We agree on a common view of leadership*

- *Leadership is servanthood.* Leaders serve the people in their community with humility. Leadership is a privilege, not a right. The Lord identifies leaders for His purpose – they don’t raise themselves up or operate alone. Jesus can call anyone to lead at any time, and we will affirm, validate, and release them to lead.
- *Leadership empowers people.* The leader should become aware of the gifting the Lord has given him/her to be as effective as possible in their role. They also should be aware of the strengths and giftings in the people of their House Church (HC) in order to equip and move the body of Christ towards maturity and fullness (Eph 4:11-13).
- *Leadership grows out of discipleship.* Leaders are first disciples of Jesus and disciple-makers. Leaders are to be known as people of integrity, respected, self-controlled, hospitable, encouraging, empowering, mature, and faithful husbands/wives, fathers/mothers (if applicable). (1 Timothy 3:1-13)
- *Leadership reproduces itself.* Through listening and inspiring others to hear the voice of God in their lives, leaders will recognize individuals who are growing and assuming responsibility. It is the intention of all Edge leadership to invest directly into at least one co-leader - teaching and equipping them to become a fully functional leader in that capacity.



- *Leadership is accountable.* Since the culture of the Edge is not a top-down organization, but rather an extended family and network, the leaders within the Edge agree to submit to each other in a “peer-accountability” relationship. This will be built on trust and grace within the context of relationship, as opposed to reports and measurements.

✓ *We Agree to Share Resources*

- When effective resources are discovered (books, media, teaching material, etc), leaders will make that known to others in the network. The Edge will coordinate retreats, missional activities, special projects, website updates, and the reimbursement of funds for expenses as a resource to leaders within the Edge.
- We invite leaders and HCs to regularly contribute to the funding of the Edge in order to maximize our involvement in this movement of Jesus. In this way, the HCs support each other as well as the starting of new HCs. However, the appeal for funds is minimal, trusting the Lord to speak to people. Financial reporting of network donations is provided in the “Around The Edge” newsletter each month.

✓ *We Agree to Get Together*

- Due to the strength of the Edge network being a foundation built on relationships, Edge leaders commit to engaging and interacting with each other and building relationships whenever possible. It is expected that HC leaders within the Edge will cooperate and welcome the efforts of the network to connect and collaborate, developing a strong network together.
- The primary opportunity for connection is with other HCs near them, and with the Hub Leaders who coordinates these connections. The Hub Leaders are there to serve the HCs and build them up in any way that would be helpful.
- The Annual Edge Leaders Retreat planned by the network Lead Team (LT) is a highlight each year. Much effort is given to make this opportunity of valuable benefit to the HC leaders. Each HC is encouraged to send a representative from their HC so that proper support, prayer, and encouragement can be spread throughout the movement.
- Another opportunity for connection is an Edge Retreat planned in the Vancouver area. The purpose of this retreat is the same as above. Other retreats and workshops will be coordinated by the Lead Team throughout the year in various locations.

May the Lord empower us to be the kind of body that glorifies Him (Eph 4:13-16). One that is built up, unified, mature, stable, joined together, and grows in love as each part does its work.



## PROCESS:

### Entrance Into Covenant

We believe that the Lord will connect The Edge network with like-minded individuals and groups who will join us in this movement of Jesus. First contact is usually made through the website or a personal connection with someone in The Edge. When this takes place, the Edge Lead Team (volunteers appointed to serve the broader network) will coordinate the following steps through the Hub leaders (volunteers appointed to serve a small hub of HCs):

#### For Established groups

- The Hub Leaders will coordinate meetings and conversations to build relationships and gauge the intentions and needs of the group interested in joining The Edge network (Other people from the Edge who may know the group should also be consulted).
- Once the Hub Leaders have shared the 'Edge Leaders Covenant' document, and are confident of the group's agreement with the mission, values, and culture outlined in this document, they will make a recommendation to the Lead Team (LT).
- Upon LT agreement, the Hub Leaders will extend an invitation to the group to become a Home Church (HC) within the Edge network, with the HC core leaders serving as "Elders".
- A time of dedication and prayer will be planned to share vision and blessing with the whole HC. From this time forward, the covenant is active.

#### Established Groups Process



#### For New Individual Leaders

- The Hub Leaders should be informed of interest very soon in the process.
- If the potential leaders are already part of an Edge HC, it is understood they will be given the opportunity to explore their leadership within that setting first. If not, they will be asked to join one if possible, or be mentored by an Edge leader.
- Once the Hub Leaders have shared the 'Edge Leaders Covenant' document, and are confident of the potential leader's agreement with the mission, values, and culture outlined in this document, they will make a recommendation to the Lead Team (LT).



- Upon LT agreement, the Hub Leaders will extend an invitation to serve as HC Leaders and Elders within the Edge network.
- A time of dedication and prayer will be planned within connected HCs. From this time forward, the covenant is active, whether or not they actually have a HC to lead.

## New Leaders Process



### First Step: Reconciliation

- At times those desiring to join our network have left their previous church family with frustration and even anger. When this is the case, we would ask those interested in our network to first pray, then consider going back to the previous church leadership and resolve any conflicts.
- Leaders joining the Edge should seek forgiveness, and even blessing from their previous churches when possible. Our desire is to start a new, fresh page with everyone.

**Romans 12:18 NKJV** - *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

## Exit From Covenant

- It should be understood that this covenant is completely based on relationship and is not permanently binding. Any leader or house church can choose at any time NOT to be part of the Edge Home Church network, and The Edge reserves the right to disassociate with a house church when necessary. Of course, both parties should provide the opportunity to adequately discuss the reasons before such a decision is made. After which, a written note from the Hub Leaders to the Lead Team to explain the decision would be appropriate.

### The Edge Lead Team:

We are a group of volunteers who are invested in hearing from Jesus regarding His movement among us and how He is leading us, and then empowering people to follow Him.

Please feel free to contact any of us at any time. Contact [info@theedgehc.com](mailto:info@theedgehc.com) for email addresses or phone numbers.