

# THE LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP PROFILE

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## INTRODUCTION

Dear Friend,

Thank you for taking the time to explore Liberty Fellowship. I have been a member of this family of ministers and ministries for over 20 years. I can honestly say Liberty has greatly exceeded my expectations for a ministerial network.

Liberty Fellowship is blessed to provide seasoned and caring oversight for ministers and churches. We embrace an innovative and creative vision for the future. It is our conviction that Liberty Fellowship has a mandate to equip and inspire Spirit-filled churches and ministers to reach today's communities.

We are committed to loving and supporting our members through the vicissitudes and challenges of ministry. Our passion is equipping men and women of God to leave a divine imprint on today's world.

*"The Liberty Profile"* will tell you more about Liberty Fellowship. We welcome this opportunity for you to become better acquainted with us.

Blessings,



Danny Tice  
Executive Director

## WHO IS LIBERTY

There is presently a greater sense of need than ever for ministers and church leaders to be vitally and meaningfully connected with others of similar heart and vision. Liberty is a family network of ministerial leaders, churches and ministries. We embrace the value of developing and maintaining meaningful relational connections of fellowship and accountability while fulfilling our respective God-given, Kingdom-advancing mandates.

Liberty Fellowship was birthed in 1974 for the purpose of providing practical and spiritual apostolic oversight for ministers and ministries. Founding Apostle, Ken Sumrall, and the original Presbytery continued pursuing this vision, honoring the value of relational connection enhanced through regular fellowship and voluntary accountability. This affiliation was initially established among ministers being trained and commissioned through Liberty Church and Liberty Bible College in Pensacola, Florida. Through the years, others leaders and churches who embrace this value have chosen to identify with the Liberty family of churches and ministers.

## THE LIBERTY MISSION

Liberty Fellowship exists for the purpose of equipping and supporting Spirit-filled ministers to reach today's communities by planting and establishing balanced Spirit-filled churches. Liberty Fellowship is dedicated to producing leaders with character and integrity that are committed to liberate people and change the world through the power of the Gospel.

## THE LIBERTY PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Liberty Fellowship is led by the Presbytery Council. An apostolically gifted leader directs this council of seasoned leaders, each member contributing their unique apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching gift complement to the strength of the team. These presbyters provide wisdom, spiritual direction, collective oversight and care for the ministers, churches and ministries of Liberty Fellowship. The Presbytery Council members work closely together to clarify vision and discern practical directives, providing spiritual leadership enabling Liberty to fulfill its God-ordained purpose as a fellowship.

**Executive Director** - This Council is led by the Executive Director, who is responsible to initiate appropriate apostolic vision for the Fellowship. The philosophy of Liberty Fellowship regarding decision-making is to empower the Executive Director to formulate vision in the context of the Presbytery, continually operating in a consensus leadership format.

**Administrative Director** - The Administrative Director and the Executive Director work closely together to promote excellence and integrity in the practical outworkings of fulfilling the Liberty vision. The Administrative Director carries primary

responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day organizational affairs of the Fellowship.

**Pastoral Care Director** - The pastoral care component of Liberty is vital to the ultimate success of the Fellowship. The Pastoral Care Director oversees those district and regional overseers called to provide loving, supportive care and spiritual direction for the member leaders and ministers of Liberty Fellowship. This Director is also responsible to oversee the conflict resolution process and discern appropriate mediation initiatives in times of crisis within the churches or ministries of Liberty.

**Outreach Director** - The Outreach Director is responsible for the evangelistic and church expansion aspect of Liberty Fellowship. This Director provides primary leadership and oversight for the Church-planting Council. This group works with prospective church planters, presenting these candidates to the Presbytery for endorsement and launching. The Outreach Director oversees those assigned to provide mentoring and counsel for pastors of existing church plants.

**Missions Director** - In the interest of being actively involved to help fulfill the Great Commission, Liberty Fellowship welcomes the opportunity to serve those called to missions involvement in other nations. The Missions Director serves as a pastor and personal representative to missionaries on behalf of Liberty Fellowship.

## **PASTORAL CARE AND CREDENTIALING OF LIBERTY LEADERS**

The Overseer Team is made up of district and regional leaders who assist the Presbytery in ministering at the local level to practical and day-to-day needs of the pastors, leaders, churches and ministries of Liberty Fellowship. Trans-local oversight through pastoral care and credentialing for church leaders flows out of the following beliefs and convictions:

Oversight is best fulfilled in the context of ongoing and growing relationships.

Spiritual authority is healthiest when there is a dynamic interaction between positional authority and relational authority.

Pastoral care primarily involves providing:

- **Nurture** - personal encouragement and support for the leader and family
- **Counsel** - guidance for present ministry situations and future ministry direction
- **Prayer** - intercessory partnering to address the challenging dimensions of life
- **Accountability** - an atmosphere of safety for ongoing self evaluation
- **Resourcing** - identifying helps available to address practical needs
- **Ministry** - caring involvement in times of crisis, change, and challenge
- **Restoration** - providing unconditional love and biblically-based restorative healing for spiritual leaders who have fallen into sin or harmful life patterns

Credentialing primarily involves providing:

- **Certification** – endorsement of one’s call and qualification to minister
- **Accountability** – oversight and protection for the minister and their ministry

- **Legal entitlement** – authorization for sacerdotal ministry (weddings, funerals, baptisms)
- **Final authority** – to confirm the minister’s qualifications and for dealing with impasses in problematic situations

It is generally desirable to have credentialing and oversight vested in one source:

- The leader and ministry may be resourced, receive inspiration and glean from a wide spectrum of other ministries
- Less communication and negotiation is necessary when the leader has a clear line of accountability to only one “influential and responsible party”
- There is less “space” for intrusion from spiritual powers to pit one influence against the other or to take advantage of situations where it becomes unclear as to who is responsible for a certain aspect of the leader’s life

## **CREDENTIAL AND RELATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Ordination** - We believe that ministers of the Gospel are divinely called of the Lord. Ordination is granted to those ministerial leaders who have a proven call of God upon their life. This credentialing is a confirmation by man of what the Lord has already clearly affirmed. Generally, the ordained leader:

- Has been trained and has completed formal courses of biblical study
- Is experienced and proven in practical aspects of ministry and leadership
- Is fulfilling a present assignment of spiritual leadership responsibility
- Is effectively modeling the life of Christ in a way that motivates others to follow.

Ordination, as each of the other credentials, is evaluated and renewed annually.

**Provisional Ordination** - Provisional Ordination affirms the call of God upon the minister, valid specifically under the oversight of the Liberty Fellowship pastor or missionary leader where the minister presently serves. If relocating to fulfill a new assignment under another leader, the Provisional Ordination is automatically terminated.

**Licensing** - A ministerial license is issued to those who sense a call to ministry and who are beginning to be mentored and released into an active ministerial role. This affiliation provides opportunity for the minister to gain needed experience, pursue a course of biblical study, and develop peer relationships with other church leaders. As the call of God is confirmed through active, fruitful service, the licensed minister is eligible to apply for ordination.

**Associate Membership** - At times, ministers who have had a ministerial affiliation with Liberty Fellowship move on to another leadership assignment that requires credentialing and ministerial accountability with another fellowship network or denomination. Because of valuing their relational connection with Liberty, Associate Membership will allow the minister to maintain this relationship while receiving oversight and credentialing elsewhere.

**Transfer of Ordination** - Ministers previously ordained by a creditable ordination board, having already served a number of years as a proven minister of the Gospel, are eligible to apply for a Transfer of Ordination, subject to approval by the Presbytery.

## **OVERSIGHT OF LIBERTY CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES**

We believe that the governing of local churches in accordance with the New Testament necessitates a structure that balances local church autonomy with the trans-local apostolic pattern reflected in the Book of Acts. Even as pastors and other spiritual leaders are strengthened and safeguarded through the ministry of trans-local oversight, congregations also have the opportunity to enjoy these same benefits. Just as each church is an extension of the home with a calling to watch over people, parents, and families, even so the Presbytery embraces this calling to watch over the Liberty family of churches and ministries. In a practical sense, oversight of Liberty congregations and ministries is carried out through:

**Friendship Relationships** – A meaningful friendship connection established between the congregation and the Liberty overseer provides the necessary relational foundation for ministering and receiving general counsel and spiritual guidance.

**Consulting Resources** – Healthy churches and ministries recognize the need for periodic evaluation and welcome guidance from those they know. Liberty is continually developing effective methods and tools to assess and advise the local church. We will work with congregations to effectively identify and eliminate hindrances to health and growth. Liberty is committed to helping churches fulfill their divine purpose within the metron of influence to which they are called.

**Peacemaking Mediation** – There are times in the life of a congregation where differences will emerge between leaders and the congregation, or within the leadership team itself. Conflicts can arise that are not able to be quickly or effectively resolved through the use of resources within the congregation. Because of a pre-existing relational connection with the leaders and the congregation, Liberty is able to provide objective perspective and counsel to identify and deal with the root issues. Trans-local overseers are uniquely graced by the Lord to assist congregations in conflict, helping them attain the worthy goals of genuine forgiveness and reconciliation.

**Transitional Leadership** – In the event of a disability, death, disqualification or resignation of the pastoral leader, congregations experience the same trauma and challenges as a family when the parental leader is removed. At these crucial times of pastoral transition, Liberty is able to come alongside the congregation to provide leadership stability, ministering encouragement and providing seasoned counsel. Leadership is also exercised by the Fellowship in directing the discernment process for determining future pastoral leadership for the church.

## OUR VALUES STATEMENT

**Christ-Centered Witness** – We believe that knowing Christ and making Him known is the highest calling and privilege given to man. As spiritual leaders, we pursue the primary value of loving God. All ministry with eternal relevance flows out of a vital, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Personal Integrity** – We embrace the value and priority God gives to heart issues. Giftings and talents are essential for fruitful ministry, but must function from a foundation of godly character. Effective leaders manifest a genuine heart of sacrificial love and compassionate servanthood in the context of spirit-empowered ministry.

**Relationship Based Affiliation** – Pursuing meaningful relational connections is essential for all spiritual leaders. Security and stability are experienced in the context of trusting relationships. Relational trust is the foundation upon which genuine authority and accountability can be most effectively exercised. We value the richness of fellowship that pursues a complementary blending of diverse giftings, perspectives and cultures.

**Ministerial Excellence** - Ministry that reflects unusual excellence honors God. We believe in exercising good stewardship, utilizing everything entrusted to us to the best of our ability. As we exercise and model ministerial excellence for the glory of God, people we touch are inspired to do the same.

**Biblical Relevance** - We value the timelessness of God's Word. The Bible is relevant for addressing the challenges of our post-modern culture. Biblical truth is to be creatively communicated in a contemporary way, making the Word attractive and applicable to this generation.

**Leadership Resourcing** - Churches and ministries led by healthy, adequately equipped leaders are the most revealing expression of God's love for the world. We value the priority of providing an environment where leaders are mentored and resourced in practical ways. We are committed to using all our available resources to help spiritual leaders identify and fulfill their destiny.

**Apostolic Advancement** – We value the corporate anointing of five-fold gift ministers working together to pursue Kingdom expansion. As the five-fold ministry gifts honor one another in discernment and decision-making, the impact of their corporate anointing is apostolic. We embrace the strategies of teamwork, church-planting, networking, and world missions as crucial in helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

## **THESE THINGS WE BELIEVE**

### **INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the entire Bible to be divinely inspired and authoritative, the essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind.

### **THE ETERNAL GOD**

We believe in the one true and living God and that His eternal being is triune, one God in three Persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **GOD THE FATHER**

We believe that God the Father is eternal, holy, transcendent and glorious in power and that His redeeming love is revealed throughout the Bible.

### **THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the living God and that He is fully God and fully man, the eternal Savior sent to redeem sinners from the just wrath of God by the efficacy of His atoning blood.

### **THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION**

We believe that Jesus rose bodily from the dead on the third day after his atoning death, that he ascended into heaven in glorious authority to reign and that the ascended Lord is Head of the Church, the Shepherd and Overseer of the souls of the redeemed.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit to be the Third Person of the Triune God who convicts men of sin and regenerates the believer through repentance and that the baptism with the Holy Spirit, distinct from the new birth, is the Father's promise to His children to be received by faith.

### **SALVATION**

We believe that man, created in the image of God, experienced utter spiritual ruin in the sin of Adam and that salvation from sin's curse comes solely through faith in the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that all believers should live in the high calling of God, a calling to live separate from the sinful activities and corruption in the world while actively being witnesses of the Lord's grace and truth in the world.

### **THE CHURCH**

We believe the local church is an organized, visible expression of the Body of Christ, worshipping together in reverence for God and in obedience to His Word in order to equip the saints and reach the lost by declaring the good news and demonstrating the Kingdom purpose of Jesus Christ in the earth.

## **SPIRITUAL CARE AND DISCIPLINE**

We believe that pastoral care for God's people includes the authority to prayerfully and patiently discipline any member who departs from the faith and that the goal of such discipline is always redemptive, in the hope that godly sorrow may produce repentance and restoration to a faithful walk with God.

## **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

We believe that the New Testament pattern for church government is a structure that balances local church autonomy with the apostolic oversight that is reflected in the Book of Acts, the Epistles generally and, in particular, the principles of Ephesians 4:11-16. Thus we believe that the New Testament Church is apostolic in nature and is governed by delegated spiritual authorities.

## **ORDINANCES OF THE NEW COVENANT**

We believe that two ordinances are revealed in Scripture as essential for the spiritual life and discipleship of a congregation - Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## **DIVINE HEALING**

We believe that among other means for healing, God has ordained the prayer of faith, anointing with oil in the name of the Lord, expectant intercessory prayer, gifts of healing, individual prayer and sovereign manifestations of the Holy Spirit in order to provide spiritual, emotional and physical healing to His people.

## **ETERNAL DESTINIES**

We believe that the Lord God Almighty created man as an eternal being with an immortal soul that will exist eternally after natural death either in heaven or in hell.

## **PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and men and that the redeemed have access to the Father through faith in His blood in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

We believe in the visible, personal and bodily return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the consummation of His Kingdom, the blessed hope of all who love His appearing.

*\* A more detailed Statement of Faith, including scripture references, is available upon request or on our Web site.*

## I. FINALLY . . .

We trust *The Liberty Profile*” has been helpful in providing a brief description of who we are. If you or your church is interested in contacting us, you may:

- Visit us at our Web site for more information
- Download application forms at our Web site
- Contact the Liberty Fellowship office
- Contact a member of the Presbytery Council



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