**MW School of Leadership Program Overview**

The MW School of Leadership is a 6 month program to prepare a small group of high potential individuals to lead with increased scope within the Mountain West Church family of ministries. The church will cover the costs of the training and other activities during the program. More importantly, group members will be mentored and challenged by their instructor through activities that have been designed to develop character, encourage spiritual formation, and foster accountability and community.

The first year will focus on the academics of sound biblical leadership principles. During the second year, participants will transition to more practical applications, putting their leadership skills into practice. Graduates of the program will be given the opportunity to serve as lay leaders, exercising oversight over various programs and initiatives, based on individual proficiency and organizational needs. Graduates could also be called upon to help instructors mentor subsequent cohorts through the MW School of Leadership.

The five goals of the MW School of Leadership:

To promote spiritual growth of each participant

To instill sound biblical leadership principles and hone participants to their full potential To foster community and accountability within the group

To prepare graduates to apply their leadership abilities in a ministry role

To strengthen Mountain West ministries with a trained and effective lay leadership team

The monthly group meeting is at the core of the MW School of Leadership. During each of these meetings, participants will eat together in a relaxed setting, building fellowship. The instructor will teach leadership lessons and principles and go over the material covered in the preceding homework assignment. The instructor will also facilitate discussion and interactive activities to draw each participant to engage fully with the material. Each meeting will end with communion and a time for corporate prayer.

Between monthly meetings, the participants will be assigned homework. These assignments will typically involve reading a portion of a book, but may also include listening to audio or video selections, preparing a presentation, etc. The instructor will also partner the participants for the purpose of supporting one another in prayer and to maintain accountability. (Note: participation in the MW School of Leadership will not be gender-based. However, participants will be paired based on gender to promote safety for discussing gender-specific prayer requests and struggles.)

The purpose of assigning prayer partners is to help keep participants motivated and accountable between sessions. Prayer partners will check in with one another at least once a week to share prayer requests and discuss progress on the assignment. Prayer partners will be rotated every four to six months to broaden the sense of community between all members of the group over the course of the program.

Fellowship events: The participants' spouses will be invited to attend the first meeting and approximately every six months thereafter. These meetings will be informal events to give the spouses a glimpse of what the group has been doing. Games and fun activities should be the primary focus, but time could also be allotted to share some of the things participants have learned, and for spouses to share any differences in behaviors and attitudes they have noticed. These events will also provide the instructor an opportunity to orient the participants' families toward the next six months in the program. Ideally, the relationships that are planted between couples and spouses at these events will grow over the course of the MW School of Leadership, just as the participants grow in fellowship.

Service Projects: Separate from the monthly meetings, the group will work as a team on Serve Days, raising visibility of the program within the church. Also, the group may feel led to work together on other projects with the instructor's approval to further the ministry of Mountain West Church. These all-hands volunteer events provide an important avenue to increase fellowship and strengthen relationships as the participants rely on each other.

One-On-One Meetings: The instructor will conduct one-on-one meetings with each participant early on and toward the end of each year. These meetings allow the instructor to accomplish several items: evaluate proficiency and feelings of each participant, develop a closer relationship with each participant, assess personal goals of each participant to determine effective placement in ministry, and provide personal encouragement and motivation. Placement in year two for hands-on opportunities will be driven largely by demonstrated proficiency and progress during year one.

Commitment: This is a significant investment. Participants and their spouses must be committed before beginning the program. Preparation through homework and participation during the monthly meetings are fundamental to achieving the program goals. Individual absences (or lack of preparation) will limit the group's progress and can be a cause for removal by the instructor.

Participant Qualifications:

Applicants to the MW School of Leadership will be selected by instructors, on the following basis: spiritual maturity, membership, and activity within Mountain West Church.