



VINEYARD CHURCH

LAFAYETTE
MEMBERSHIP
PACKET

YOU KEEP THIS PACKET.
2023 Edition



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VINEYARD CHURCH

A WELCOME FROM OUR SENIOR PASTORS

We believe that the Kingdom of God is expressed wherever Jesus rules and reigns. His Presence is central to our faith and Christian life. We believe in the present power of God to heal the sick, to cast out demons, and to enable us to live like Jesus did on the Earth. As a people, we are committed to the Word of God and to the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

“We have a vision of gathering a worshiping army whose greatest desire is to linger in the Presence of God. They have no faith or confidence in themselves, for they are fully aware of their own weaknesses. Instead, they rejoice to be completely dependent on Father God, creator of heaven and earth. They carry within them, wherever they go, the presence and the fragrance of Christ. The desolate, the lost and the hungry are drawn, because their hearts leap within as they sense the presence of God and overwhelming love of Christ that radiates from this ragamuffin army who are the people of the Lafayette Vineyard Church.”

We welcome you to join us on the journey to know Him more and to transform the world as we carry His Presence into it.

- Senior Pastors Dino and Kris



OUR PASTORAL TEAM



Dino and Kris Griffin Co-Senior Pastors

Dino was ordained in the Vineyard in 1988. Dino and Kris have partnered in ministry and co-pastored various churches since 1990. Kris was ordained in the Vineyard in 2008. Dino and Kris continue to carry the DNA of John Wimber’s heart for the Vineyard movement which was to engage the world with mercy, compassion, and miraculous signs and wonders that authenticate the gospel message of Jesus.

They were called to the Lafayette Vineyard in 2007. Dino is gifted in teaching and has the heart of a Father. His emphasis on the Word of God helps guide our mission. Kris has a passion to see people brought into intimacy with God and be transformed by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Dino is gifted in teaching and has the heart of a Father. His emphasis on the Word of God helps guide our mission. Kris has a passion to see people brought into intimacy with God and be transformed by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. They are grateful for each day they get to spend with each other and with their family. They particularly delight to indulge their eight beautiful grandchildren's every wish. Dino likes to study history and Kris loves art and they both are fond of trying new restaurants together.

Dino and Kris Griffin , Senior Pastors
Contact: dino@lafayettevineyard.org
kris@lafayettevineyard.org





Amanda Lamson

Worship Pastor

Amanda grew up in the early days of the Vineyard church movement. During these years she was blessed to experience several prolonged and wide spread waves of God's spirit in revival. She desperately longs to see another Mighty Move of God across the nation.

Manda is a passionate leader of prophetic worship and intercession. She is zealous for both orthodox truth and exploring the mysteries of God. Amanda was ordained in the Vineyard in 2016 and has her degree in Scripture and Theology and is working on her Masters of Divinity. Her greatest desire is to see the manifest Presence of God abide in the church and radically transform the lives of all who come to Him.

Contact: amanda@lafayettevineyard.org



Kevin & Nicole Stewart

Children's Pastors

Kevin and Nicole Stewart joined the Vineyard church movement in 2000 and fell in love with its passionate worship and pursuit of the King. Shortly after, they married and now have 5 children.

Kevin is an encourager by gifting and has boundless energy. He approaches life with childlike wonder and zeal. He is a gifted teacher and has a huge heart for the lost.

Nicole is a truth-bearer and devoted daughter of the King. She thrives in stillness spent with her Daddy and her intimacy with Him overflows in her worship through dance. She is a gifted listener and has a radar for discernment.

Kevin is a talented artist, architect, and loves all things outdoors. Nicole loves rainy days, mocha coffee, and a good book ... preferably enjoyed all at the same time.

Kevin & Nicole Stewart, Children's Pastors

Contact: children@lafayettevineyard.org



WHO WE ARE

As people come in to this fellowship they come from various experiences and backgrounds, therefore they may have different needs depending on the season that they are in. You may at any point experience this fellowship as a family, an army, a school, a hospital, or a ministry of mercy.



A Family
Reconcile People With God & All Creation

Jesus is reconciling humans to God, to each other, and to the entire creation. We seek to partner with Him to break down divisions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, socioeconomic classes and races. We long to be a community of hope that realize the power of the cross to reconcile what has been separated by sin.



An Army
Pursue Mission In The World

The Church exists for the sake of those who are exiled from God. We are called to bring the Gospel of the kingdom to all of creation. Our church aims to be an outpost of the kingdom of God, forcefully advancing His light and life into this dark and broken world.



A School
Make Disciples

Our Pastors primarily function as teachers, leaders, and trainers. We believe that the church is not called to be an audience but an active force in the world therefore it is a high priority for us to train every believer so that they are fully equipped to minister to their neighbor. Everyone should be equipped to cast out demons, heal the sick, and spread the gospel.



A Hospital
Administer Healing

Life in this fallen world will often leave us wounded and broken. As a spiritual hospital, we are equipped to bring Christ's healing to emotional wounds that block people from achieving the fullness of their destiny. We have teams that minister to the whole person: body, soul, and spirit.



A Ministry of Mercy
Engage In Compassionate Ministry

We lean toward the lost and the poor with the compassion of Jesus seeking to confront injustice and bring bread to the hungry both naturally and supernaturally. We have an obligation before God to give of the abundance of mercy that we have received.



OUR PARADIGM

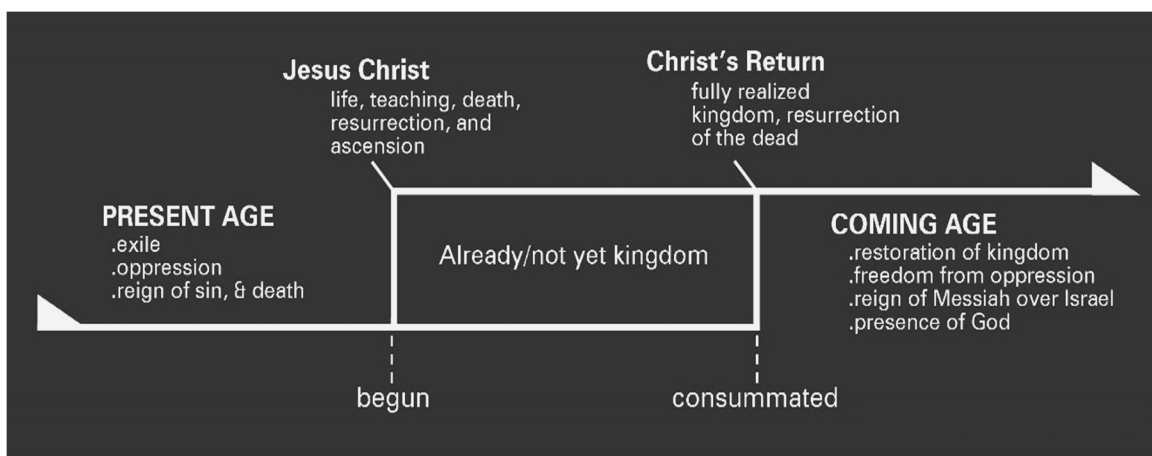
These elements frame our thinking about the Kingdom of God and the world.

Kingdom Theology

The Vineyard's understanding of the Kingdom of God is a fundamental part of who we are. It divides human history into two broad periods of time: the "present evil age" and the "age to come." The "present evil age" started with the fall of man and will last until the Second Coming of Christ. It is marked by sin, sickness, death, disease, war and poverty. The "age to come" is when the Kingdom of God will have full reign, providing eternal life and freedom from sin, sickness, and suffering.

Adam and Eve gave dominion of our world to Satan. According to Ephesians 2:2 and 6:12, Satan is the current ruler of this world. Jesus came to establish a kingdom outpost in enemy occupied territory, so while the advancement of Kingdom of God has already begun and Christ is already ruling from heaven, the full benefits of the Kingdom have not yet been realized and we still suffer the effects of the fall. Until Christ returns physically, we will not experience the fullness of the Kingdom of God. We have an "already but not yet" view. We believe that the Kingdom of God is already here but has not yet been fully consummated. The church has been assigned the responsibility to advance God's kingdom on the earth by saving the lost, healing the sick, casting out demons and destroying the works of the enemy by the authority of Jesus and power of the Spirit.

Hebrew 2: 8 "...When God subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of His control. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to Him."



The Radical Middle

Scripture is full of paradoxical ideas. For example: We are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9) BUT we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). We are made holy by the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 10:10) BUT we are being made holy (Ephesians 10:14). Our commitment to the radical middle ensures that we hold the tension between seemingly contradictory statements in scripture in order to fulfill the whole counsel of scripture and not err on either side.

A Heart for Revival

Revival was seen in Acts 2 when, by a visitation of God's Spirit upon the church, many lives were changed and the church experienced an explosion of growth as many were impacted and impassioned by the Spirit of God. We long to see revival come and all that we do is bent toward that purpose. We believe that as the Spirit of God manifests himself in an outpouring or visitation, that the church will be revived and come into her destiny as the light and hope of the world.

Church Planting

We are at our core a church planting movement. We believe in multiplication. We believe that living things will grow and multiply. Our heart is to be engaged in the expansion of the Kingdom in this way.

“Our literature says that we are a community of churches, but in reality, we are a community of church planters.” -Don Williams

Worship

When we bow our hearts to worship God, He draws near in His manifested presence and allows us to see Him and to taste what it will be like to spend eternity with Him in heaven. When His manifested Presence falls in a place, many people weep, some are struck silent, and some are moved to exalt the Lord. In His presence all of the stuff of the world fades away and we see His beauty and majesty and His all-consuming glory.

As 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

We are transformed as we encounter His glorious Presence in worship.



HOW YOU CONNECT

Unite With Other Believers: Become a Member



Choose to unite with the mission. You will find community in this place as you put your hand to plow and advance God's kingdom with us. If God calls you to join the mission of the Vineyard Church of Lafayette, then you would need to take steps to become a member. The Bible uses many pictures to describe Christians as a community: a household (Eph 2:19), a human body (1 Cor 12:12-31) and a temple made up of "living stones" (1 Peter 2:4-5, Eph 2:21). All of these illustrate and mandate our interconnectedness and our need for each other. This is why we ask members to sign this commitment. These are requirements to become a member of Vineyard church, not to become a Christian.

Our covenant with God and our commitment to one another create our culture and our community. Membership is an outward and formalized sign of the commitment of an individual's heart. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit. God calls people to specific places so they can grow and fulfill God's purpose for their lives. We also believe in keeping a big front door and big back door, knowing that it is God who moves His people to build His Kingdom in the way He sees fit. Our ultimate goal is not to keep people, but to bless each person to be in the place that the Lord has called them to. We hope that you will affirm your commitment to the mission and vision that God has placed on this community by the outward sign of membership!

If you want to be a member you must:

- 1. Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (born again)- ACTS 2:41a**
- 2. Be baptized in water following salvation- ACTS 2:41b**
- 3. Have read the contents of the New Member Packet (link below)**
- 4. Indicate that you are in agreement with our "What We Believe Statement" and "Statement of Core Values" found in this New Member Packet by submitting a Membership Application Form.**

"They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved." Acts 2:47



Mature In Your Faith: Join a Small Group & Attend SSW



We desire to be a people that pursue an authentic Christian life and endeavor to develop mature, reproducible, Spirit-filled Christian disciples that will:

Grow in the Lord, minister to the Lord, and minister with the Lord. – Growing up necessitates a personal devotion to the scriptures, developing a practice of spiritual discipline, and a consistent dedication to prayer. Maturity is proven as one takes personal responsibility to institute these disciplines and through these disciplines we become more Christlike. The mature believer will be moving toward uninhibited worship, devoted prayer, generous giving, and selfless service while proclaiming His words and doing His works in the world (outside the church walls).

This happens best in small group settings where we can connect more intimately with other believers and grow in relationship with the Lord and one another, because we were never meant to walk out our faith alone. We gather to grow!

We also offer a discipleship intensive course called The School of Signs & Wonders. We want every member to have gone through this course at least once. SSW unites believers to go forth into the world performing signs and wonders to lead all men and women to Jesus. This class runs annually. Members are encouraged to join a Growth Group or attend SSW as soon as they complete membership.

“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”
Ephesians 4:13-15

Fulfill the Work God Has Ordained for You to Do: Serve!



Each person was created by God to fulfill a specific purpose and accomplish good works that the Lord Himself has pre-planned. Some have gifts of service, hospitality, leadership, intercession, craftsmanship, etc. For example, those who have the gift of hospitality will love to gather people.



Those who have the gift of service will love to serve others. If each will begin to "do" their call, then a flow of good works will begin to happen. If you enjoy having people at your house- do that! If you love cooking, volunteer to make a hospitality meal. If each one will do his or her part, we can together, accomplish all God has called us to do in Lafayette.

Jesus' goal was to DO the work of the Father. We are all called to be OUTWARDLY focused and to build and expand the Kingdom of God on the earth.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

VINEYARD CHURCH

SMALL GROUPS

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Matthew 18:20

And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. "

Hebrews 10:24-25

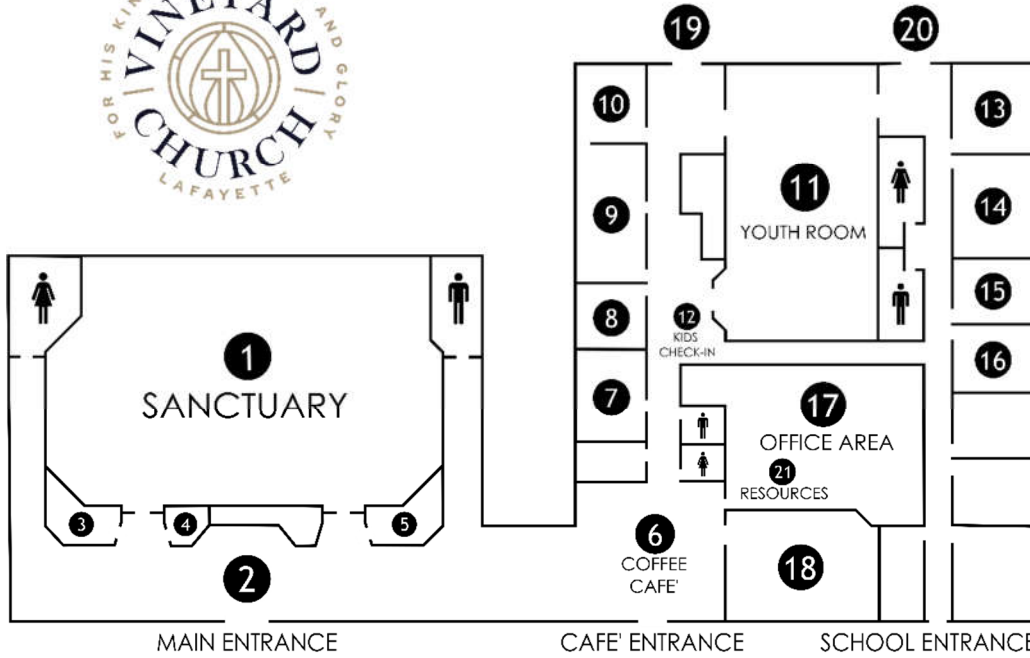
We believe that small groups provide the best atmosphere for Christians to grow and mature. If you want to grow in your relationship with Jesus, you need to have intentional relationships with people who have the same goal. Growth Groups are an ideal place to cultivate this. Groups pursue spiritual growth centered around fellowship and cultivate healthy relationship with other believers. We gather to grow! You'll be encouraged to live out the Truth you discover in the Bible as you encourage others to do the same.

These groups create connections and give a place for people to practice their spiritual gifts. A typical group may include dinner, worship, bible study, topical discussion, prayer, personal ministry, and deep sharing. We were never meant to walk out our faith alone. Scripture speaks clearly about the importance of meeting together!

You will find our "Group Finder" located on our website or in our app! This is where you can learn about what groups are currently available and find one that you can get connected in!



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME



- BUILDING DIRECTORY**
1. Sanctuary
 2. Front Lobby
 3. Family Room
 4. Sick Baby Room
 5. Nursing Mothers
 6. Coffee / Cafe'
 7. Prayer Room
 8. Kid's Church
 9. Meeting Room
 10. Kitchen
 11. Youth Room
 12. Kid's Check-in
 13. 1 Yr Room
 14. 2 Yr Room
 15. 3&4 Yr Room
 16. Infant Room
 17. Office Area
 18. Gathering Room
 19. Big Playground
 20. Small Playground
 21. Resources



VINEYARD CHURCH

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We love our kids here at Vineyard. Our goal is to provide a fun and safe environment for our kids to engage with one another, our paid staff and our incredible volunteers. Every week our kids have an opportunity to learn about the Bible in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We want our children to learn to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit just like the adults, to develop their own relationship with Jesus, and to worship Him with their whole hearts.

They also play together and interact through games and free play. We have found that younger children respond well to seeing the same caregiver week after week, so each of our younger classrooms are staffed with the same paid caregivers each week and some classes rotate parent volunteers alongside our paid caregivers. We do our best to create a safe and loving atmosphere for your child!

- Kevin & Nicole Stewart, Children's Pastors
Contact: children@lafayettevineyard.org



LITTLE KID PLAYGROUND

This playground is exclusively for little ones up to 5 years old.



BIG KID PLAYGROUND

This playground is for older children age 6 and up. We also have a basketball court that our Kids Church kids use.



RELIABILITY

Our electronic check-in system helps to ensure the safety of our children. Parents are required to check their children in and out of their age appropriate classes under the supervision of our Children's Ministry Staff Administrator.



SAFETY

Because safety is our highest priority, background checks are performed on every one of our staff members and volunteers. We also require membership, attendance at the Vineyard for at least one year, and a relationship with one of our staff pastors in order to volunteer in Children's Ministry.



SECURITY

We have security cameras placed throughout the children's ministry wing. Our classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds are monitored. We also employ a police officer during our Sunday morning service.



VINEYARD CHURCH

YOUTH MINISTRY

We exist to Transform the lives of students by Revealing the nature of Christ. To see them Immersed in the love and Presence of God. And to create an atmosphere of Belonging where they are free to Engage in their faith.



We hope to provide a fun and safe place for young people to connect with others and to discover God and move forward into His purposes for their lives. A place where they can feel safe to be themselves while discovering even deeper who God says that they are. We aim to equip each student to grow in their God-given gifting, and to see them passionately pursuing closer communion with Him. The Vineyard youth group is designed for Jr. High (6th–8th grade) and High School Students.

VINEYARD CHURCH

VINEYARD COMMUNITY SYSTEM

Our church uses a full-featured online system for all of our membership related services, called Subsplash CHMS.

With a Subsplash account, you will be able to manage your tithes, volunteer, request appointments, register for events, watch when we go live, and so much more on our mobile app. Our app can be found in any app store! Just search for Lafayette Vineyard.

VINEYARD CHURCH

GIVING

We believe that the admonition to tithe is maintained through-out the Old and New Testaments. Our resources are redeemed and blessed through obedience to God in giving God the first 10% of our income. We have many options to make giving easy including, text to give, giving through our app, giving on our website, in person tithe box located at the back of our sanctuary, or mailing physical checks to our address: 705 Bonin Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508.

We believe that we, as a people, are blessed financially by God so that we can be a resource to grow His kingdom in Lafayette. Thank you for your financial support and helping to fund God's Kingdom purposes through Lafayette Vineyard!

Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

—Jesus, Matthew 23:23

Malachi 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!" "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."



WHAT WE BELIEVE STATEMENT

We believe the Bible is the only infallible and authoritative inspired Word of God.

(1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)

We believe that there is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Ephesians 4:4-6)

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His divine conception and virgin birth, in His perfectly sinless life, in His signs wonders and miracles, in the atoning power of His death on the cross through shedding of His blood, in His bodily resurrection from death, in His ascension into heaven, in His position at the right hand of the Father, and in His glorious personal return to earth in power.

(Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-4 & 1:29; Acts 1:11 & 2:22-24; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4 & 4:15)

We believe that all men and women are lost and face God's judgment, that Jesus Christ is the one and only way of salvation, and that for lost to be saved, repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ will result in regeneration by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 24:46-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Ephesians 1:7 & 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)

We believe in the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within Christians and enables them to live a godly life.

(John 3:5-8; Acts 1:8 & 4:31; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:6-10)

We believe both the lost and saved will experience resurrection; the saved will be resurrected into eternal life and the lost into damnation and eternal punishment.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 20:11-15)

We believe that all true believers are members of the body of Christ, the church, and that the church is spiritually unified in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23)



We believe that all followers of Jesus Christ carry a personal responsibility in the ministry of evangelism and discipleship.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; 1 Peter 3:15)

We believe God's plan for human sexuality is for it to be exclusively expressed within the context of marriage between husband and wife, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. This is the basis of our belief that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female.

(Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9)

We believe that all believers are called to dedicate themselves to prayer, to serving our Lord, and to submitting to His authority over our lives.

(Matthew 9:35-38; 22:37-39 & 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15 & 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10; Colossians 2:6-10; 1 Peter 3:15)

We believe that God calls and gifts leaders within the church as He chooses and that this is not limited by gender, age, ethnicity, economic status, or any other human distinction (1 Cor. 12:11; Gal. 3:28). The role of the church community is to discern God's gifting and calling for leadership and also to discern the maturity and character required for leadership (1 Tim. 3:1-13). In the Jesus following community, leadership centers around serving the body of Christ in humility and self-sacrificial love (Matt. 20:25-28). In the Vineyard, every area of leadership is open to both men and women who have the desire for humble service to the community of believers and whose God-given gifting and calling for leadership has been recognized and affirmed by the church community.

We believe that all human life is sacred from the point of conception to its natural end; and that God calls us to have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellowmen.

(Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10)



STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

These values define and determine our actions.

We are an Authentic people living in Obedience to God and
Honoring one another in a Community of Mercy.

Authenticity

We desire to be authentic with each other and with God, recognizing that we are simply clay vessels being used by Him. We are not interested in putting on a show or performance but instead are determined to be real in our struggles while focused on seeking and experiencing the presence of God and His love that is demonstrated through Jesus Christ.

Obedience

We measure our hearts and activity by the standard of God's Word and historical orthodoxy. We are committed to obedience to God regardless of the cost. We are acutely aware that this life is but a breath and we seek to live with eternity in our hearts. We seek to obey both Logos and Rhema: The Word and the Spirit. "We will obey You God whatever man may say, and whatever comes our way."

Honor

We want to operate in a culture of honor recognizing that each life is sacred before God. We value Kingdom hierarchy while respecting each person's ability to hear God and be subject to the Holy Spirit's authority in their life. We recognize that we are called to hold each other accountable to the standards of the Word of God while leaving space for God to lead and work in the individual.

Community

The New Testament church was birthed in community, but this community's purpose was not simply having friends for friend's sake. This community was born through having a common purpose (the advancement of the Kingdom of God) and facing adversity (persecution) together.

We believe that true community is created when brothers and sisters labor together in bringing in the harvest, standing firm in the trenches, and fighting the battle against darkness on the earth. Through this comradery, victories can be celebrated and defeats commiserated. You will find community in this place as you put your hand to the plow and advance God's kingdom with us.

Mercy

God requires those who have been shown mercy to extend it to others. The impetus behind all of our activities is the mercy of God. We want to demonstrate God's love and His restorative power in the world. We desire to compassionately minister among the marginalized, the lost, the poor and the outcast of society.



VINEYARD CHURCH

OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Lafayette Vineyard is a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors who oversee the finances and building. The Pastoral Staff is responsible for vision, ministry, and day-to-day operations. The paid staff build, train and coach teams to do the work of ministry.

Our Volunteer staff includes leadership team members, growth group leaders, ministry team leaders, and others.

VINEYARD CHURCH

OUR AFFILIATION

We are members of the Association of Vineyard Churches (AVC). Today the Vineyard has 600 churches in the U.S. We are a local autonomous church, connected to the AVC through fellowship and partnering. The AVC does not function as a denomination.

600

VINEYARD CONGREGATIONS IN THE USA

2400+

VINEYARD CHURCHES WORLD-WIDE

300K+

PEOPLE CALL A VINEYARD CHURCH 'HOME' WORLD-WIDE

750

NEW CHURCHES AND SITES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



VINEYARD CHURCH

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Because of the admonition in 1 Corinthians 6:1-7 (below), members and non-members agree to handle any legal claims and disputes with Vineyard Church of Lafayette or any person acting on behalf of the church via biblically based mediation or legally binding arbitration (in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation).

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 "Suppose one of you wants to bring a charge against another believer. Should you take it to ungodly people to be judged? Why not take it to the Lord's people? Or don't you know that the Lord's people will judge the world? Since this is true, aren't you able to judge small cases? Don't you know that we will judge angels? Then we should be able to judge the things of this life even more! So, suppose you disagree with one another in matters like this. Who do you ask to decide which of you is right? Do you ask people who live in a way the church disapproves of? Of course not! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that no one among you is wise enough to judge matters between believers? Instead, one believer goes to court against another. And this happens in front of unbelievers! When you take another believer to court, you have lost the battle already."

