

WESTLANE CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Westlane's purpose for existence is to glorify God. We are a multi-racial, multi-cultural community committed to making disciples. **Time, Talents, and Treasures** are three areas of our personal lives that help us as a body of believers to win and nourish the world when we commit them to Him. To that end, Westlane has embraced the following purposes for our ministry as we endeavor to support the total program of Christ in these areas.

Worship – Loving God (e.g. Attending worship service, having daily devotions)

Fellowship – Loving Each Other (e.g. Visiting the sick, encouraging one another, socializing)

Discipleship – Becoming Like Christ (e.g. Participating in Bible Study groups, praying, reading the Bible)

Ministry – Serving the Body (e.g. Teaching, leading in worship, greeting, caring for the facility)

Mission – Reaching the Lost (e.g. Sharing your faith, inviting others to church, praying for missionaries)

TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES

A. USE OF TIME

If we have been giving our lives to God for His use, then we certainly need to use our time wisely. This means we should be spending our time in the following activities:

Bible Study--"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17.

Prayer--"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2.

Church Attendance--"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as it is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:24-25.

Discipleship--"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20.

Total commitment includes time. Time given to the details of the activities in a Christian's life. Time given to Bible Study, prayer, assembling together, winning the lost. It all takes time. How much time do you have for Him? Great demands from a great God.

B. USE OF TALENTS

"It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28.

Just as Jesus set the example for us by being a servant, so we should also seek ways to serve God by serving others. Consider:

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." I Corinthians 12:7.

Or,

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christians may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12.

Brothers and sisters, God intends for your talent to be used where you are a part of His body, right here at WCC.

C. USE OF TREASURES

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." II Corinthians 9:6-8.

There is a direct correlation in a generous giving church monetarily and a successful soul winning enterprise. We can't buy souls, but we can give ourselves first (II Corinthians 8:5) and then God gives the increase. Acts 2:47b.

We have two general areas of concentration for financial commitment:

1. **Missions**--\$9,900 was promised to worldwide evangelism. Westlawn Youth Network in Chicago, Illinois and Team Expansion in Louisville, Kentucky are the worldwide evangelism efforts currently supported.
2. **Home front**--Our general budget reflects what we perceive as necessary to operate program here, to win souls at Westlane Christian Church, its community, and the neighborhood of its members.

BELIEFS WE BUILD ON

We Believe...

- The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God.
- There is one God eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- In the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to earth in power and glory.
- The forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in Heaven by being born again according to Acts 2:38.
- Immersion is the only valid form of water baptism as explained and illustrated in the New Testament.
- In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling equips and empowers Christians to live holy and productive lives.
- The church is the body of Christ on earth commissioned to carry out His work until His second coming.
- Being an active member of a local church body is essential to living a fulfilling Christ-centered lifestyle.