



ROCK GROUP APPRENTICE COMMITMENT

***"A Pastor for Every Person and
A Family for Every Friend!"***

THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH ON THE ROCK - Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15-20

Along with other Christians and churches, to glorify and please God by making more and better disciples, fully committed followers, of our Lord Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION - I Timothy 2:4, II Peter 3:9, Joshua 8:7-8

To see all of Oklahoma, the Heartland, the "Home of the Red Man" and Israel saved and transformed. (It's all about building His kingdom to change hearts and lives, through His love and power!)

A KEY METHOD OF ACHIEVING THE VISION - Acts 2:41-47; 5:42; 6:1-8; 20:20

Multiplication of outreaching care groups, which we call Rock Groups. Groups that provide "A Pastor for Every Person and A Family for Every Friend!"

WHAT IS A ROCK GROUP APPRENTICE?

A Rock Group Apprentice is someone who loves God, loves people, and shows potential to become a successful Rock Pastor. According to Scripture, potential leaders must first be "tested" (I Tim 3:10) and then "if there is nothing against them", they can be commissioned as leaders. Before multiplying a new Rock Group and beginning to serve as a Rock Group Pastor (or deacon), an apprentice must meet the following scriptural requirements, especially those pertaining to deacons.

I Timothy 3 ¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵ If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. ⁸ Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. ¹² A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. NIV

Titus 1 ⁷ Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless-- not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. ¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers...¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach...¹³...Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith. NIV

THE BASICS OF APPRENTICESHIP

THE VISION OF CHURCH ON THE ROCK - The purpose and vision of COTR should always be your focus. Everything you do and say as an apprentice, and potential future Rock Pastor, should work to promote that purpose and vision. Remember that a primary way of fulfilling the vision is through the multiplication of evangelistic care groups. This does not mean growing one group larger and larger. It means multiplying many small groups (15 people or less) by raising up and mentoring new leaders. Rock Group success is achieved by multiplying healthy, outreaching new groups, with faithful, able, and tested leaders.

ATTENDANCE - True leadership always involves greater commitment. Therefore, apprentices are expected to attend at least one worship service per week (Sunday or Wednesday), as well as the Rock Group Leadership Luncheons, coaches' huddles, and Nights of Prayer. In addition, apprentices are strongly encouraged to attend HAPN Meetings, and any other COTR corporate meetings. We understand that vacations, business trips, and family events will prevent attending every meeting. However, be sure to let your Rock Group Pastor and Coach know if you will be unable to attend at least one Worship Service in a given week, or one of the monthly meetings. An explanation is generally not necessary, unless your absence begins to affect your responsibilities as an apprentice.

PRIORITIES

#1 Your 1st priority as an apprentice should be to continually grow your relationship with God! This should include frequent prayer and study of the Word. (*Matt 22:37*)

#2 Your 2nd priority as an apprentice should be to continually develop your relationship with your Rock Group Pastor and Rock Group Coach. This is essential to your success as an apprentice and future leader. Your pastor and coach love you and want to help you grow as a leader. God wants for these relationships to be strong. Rock Groups are all about relationships! If these two relationships thrive and prosper, your relationships with group members and your ministry will too.

#3 Set your sights on excelling in the requirements of I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. This is God's pattern for leaders. If you obtain the favor of God in these areas, there will be no limit to what you can accomplish for the Kingdom of God.

PRAYER - Pray for your group members on a regular basis. Rock Group ministry extends far beyond the weekly meetings. It is a daily lifestyle of watching over and loving people. Specifically, pray for spiritual growth, provision, protection, and purity for each family in the group. Of course, this should include praying for your Rock Pastor. Also, pray for each person to be passionate about reaching the lost.

LEAD AN EXEMPLARY LIFE - God has a higher standard for each successive level of leadership. Remember that others are watching your lifestyle and character. It is important that you do not do anything that would cause others to stumble. Walk the walk. Live the gospel that you preach. Perfection is not expected, but integrity is!

GROUP MEETINGS AND GOAL SETTING - Always be prepared to share the vision of the Rock Groups and Church on the Rock. Be enthusiastic about the goals of growing and multiplying the group. Help to create a faith-filled atmosphere of anticipation and excitement among the members.

Pray out loud during ministry time. Pray for the empty chair, making declarations of faith concerning those whom God has called to COTR and your Rock Group.

Remember that Rock Groups are not in competition. They are in cahoots! Make efforts to bless and encourage other Rock Groups, Pastors, and Apprentices.

SHARE THE "WORK" OF THE MINISTRY - Volunteer openly and often to take on responsibilities. Preparing for a position of authority and anointing requires first demonstrating a genuine desire to serve. Help to call visitors, arrange for refreshments, call group members to pray for them, facilitate the directives, and anything else that will assist your pastor and prepare you for a leadership role.

BE HUMBLE, BUT CONFIDENT! - You are in a training period. Be respectful of your Rock Pastor's decisions. Go out of your way to stay in unity! If you cannot be submissive and have a relationship of peace with those in authority, then you are not prepared for leadership. Avoid foolish arguments and offense. Offense is a trap of the enemy. Decide to pattern yourself after the positive leadership traits of your leader, adding these characteristics to your own strengths. Evaluate yourself with humility and be prepared to change. Becoming a leader is all about change!

You have been chosen as an apprentice because you have shown signs of being a servant. Jesus said that the "servant" is greatest in the Kingdom of God. As a true servant, you can do all things through Christ! The blood of Jesus will always be greater than all of your shortcomings. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance. Be persistent, dedicated and faithful, and you will fulfill God's holy calling upon your life. Let patience have its perfect work!

TITHING AND FIRSTFRUITS: LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE COTR teaches and practices the biblical principles of tithing and firstfruits found throughout Scripture. God said in Malachi 3:10 to "bring the **whole tithe** into the **storehouse**" (NKJ). Jesus said in Luke 11:42 "**...You should tithe, yes...**" (NLT) By definition, the whole tithe is 10% of all our increase. The storehouse is the primary place we are fed spiritually,

which should be the local congregation where God has planted us. A tree is fed from the ground in which it has been planted, and that is also the place for it to be fruitful!

Proverbs 3:9 says “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the **first fruits** of all your increase”. (NIV) Firstfruit offerings are 100% of the first part of our harvest to be given at the appointed feasts and at any other times the Lord leads.

Leviticus 23 ²...’The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are **My feasts**...⁵ On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's **Passover**. ⁸ ...you shall **offer an offering...firstfruits of your harvest**...¹⁴...**an offering to your God**; it shall be a **statute forever** throughout your generations in all your dwellings. NKJ

Deuteronomy 16 ¹ Celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God... ¹⁰...**Bring an offering as a special gift to Him, giving to Him just as He has blessed you**. NCV...¹⁴ Rejoice at your festival... ¹⁵...because ADONAI your God will bless you... in all your work, so you are to be full of joy! ¹⁶ “**Three times a year**...appear in the presence of ADONAI your God in the place which he will choose - at the festival of **matzah** (Passover), at the festival of **Shavu'ot** (Pentecost) and at the festival of **Sukkot** (Tabernacles). **They are not to show up before ADONAI empty-handed**, ¹⁷ but **every man is to give what he can, in accordance with the blessing** ADONAI your God has given you. CJB

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus said “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If your treasure is committed to God at COTR, then your heart will be also. All members of Church on the Rock have committed to be faithful in their prayers, attendance, and giving. Therefore, all apprentices, pastors, and coaches are expected to be faithful in the same...“lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (I Cor 9:27). By making this commitment, you affirm your membership commitment to be faithful in tithes and offerings to COTR.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO BE COMMISSIONED AS A ROCK PASTOR

✓ **Attend the COTR “Get Connected” Class.**

Our “Get Connected” class includes vision casting and information that is essential for Rock Pastors to know and understand, and is therefore a requirement prior to being promoted and commissioned as a Rock Pastor. If you have not already attended this class, plan to attend at the next opportunity.

✓ **After at least 3 months of training as an apprentice, “fly solo” in leading the group for 12 or more consecutive gatherings.** During this time, your Rock Pastors will **only observe** and give pointers as **you lead** the group...

- Regularly schedule locations and gathering dates (*Regular, Fellowship, & Outreach*)
- Plan and lead at least 1 outreach to show God’s love toward the lost. Outreach is a key part of our vision for the Rock Groups. Therefore, we only want to reproduce and multiply groups that reach out, not those inwardly focused.
- Regularly invite new people and remind current members of meetings.

- Pray for group members regularly. (Daily is best)
- Contact group members regularly, especially during times of need.
- Prepare for every aspect of the gatherings...Fellowship, Praise & Worship, etc.
- Although Rock Pastors are encouraged to share the responsibility and privilege of facilitating directives, during this time of 12 consecutive gatherings, it is expected that you will facilitate all of the directives.

The main goal of this period of 12 consecutive gatherings is to complete your time of apprenticing and preparation to become a Rock Pastor. Demonstrating that you are able and diligent to fulfill the role of pastoring and leading the group on your own is the final accomplishment toward your commissioning as a Rock Pastor.

After this period of 12 consecutive gatherings, we will decide, as a team, if you are ready to become a Rock Pastor. If for any reason, you are not ready, that's OK! We will seek God about the best way to move forward in His plan for you.

MULTIPLICATION – Multiplication of your Rock Group is not the only measure of success, but it is important. If your group is reaching people for Jesus, and discipling and caring for those who already know the Lord, it will usually grow enough within about a year to make it necessary to multiply. Generally, a group is ready to multiply when the average attendance is over 15 adults in addition to the Rock Pastors.

I understand the above guidelines and I commit to them. I understand that I am making a commitment to God, to the leadership of COTR, and to the people to whom I am called to minister. I understand the responsibilities, and blessings, of future leadership and I will be faithful to the requirements of a Rock Group Apprentice. I understand that I am not committing to the responsibilities of a Rock Pastor at this time, nor is COTR committing to make me a Rock Group Pastor in the future. However, I believe to the best of my current revelation that I am called to the ministry of the Rock Pastor.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME (SPOUSE)

SIGNATURE (SPOUSE)

DATE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE!
WE LOVE YOU AND WE ARE EXCITED TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DESTINY!
MAY HIS BLESSINGS OVERWHELM YOU!