

Church Leader, I've made a few observations from my first 60 days at Leadership Network.

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



## How Long Is it Permissible to Call Yourself the New Guy?

*By Ron Edmondson, CEO*

Asking for a friend.

Actually, that friend is me. I'm coming up on 60 days into a new role as your servant leader of Leadership Network. In the next couple weeks, I will host our board of trustees in our Dallas offices for my first official board meeting. I'm supposed to give a report; telling them what I've learned so far. I suspect they'll want a few answers of where I see us going in the future. And, rightly so. That's why I'm here.

But, I'm still learning more than I'm making decisions. I'm still meeting people, getting to know the staff and the rich history of this ministry. I'm hearing dozens of stories of impact Leadership Network has had on the greater Church. I heard a pastor say just this week, "We wouldn't be the church we are without Leadership Network!" That church has planted dozens of churches and many of those churches have planted dozens of others. Wow!

The humbled side of me is still overcome by "the overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God!" What did I do to deserve this opportunity? As I frequently told the church I pastored, "It's all grace!"

I have made some observations, however.

Just as the established church I pastored couldn't keep doing things the same way neither can we. I know that to remain relevant, and to continue to have equal impact in the future, there are cultural issues and areas of ministry we must help churches address. We need to bring new research and innovation, technology and Big Data understandings to the Church. We need to get fresher, younger, ideas from a diversity of people. We need to connect with and assist the next generation of church leader - and have impact on not just large churches. From Mega to Micro - churches of all sizes need some of what we have to offer.

Obviously, we can't do it all. We need to partner with like-minded ministries to expand our work. (More to come, but we've started great conversations with our friends at Exponential.) Last week our office hosted The Initiative Network as they trained Christian mentors for Millennials entering the workforce. I believe, as Kingdom leaders, we are better together.

Some of this has been who we've been as an organization or was already a work in progress when I arrived. My hope is to fuel all of this even more.

More than anything I've gone from a sense of overwhelm (still have some of that) to a sense of excitement. I'm going to be happily sharing with our board my belief that the future is bright for Leadership Network.

Let me know how we can assist you or your church. If we don't have the answer we likely know someone who does.

## 2018 Alignment Conference - You Are Here: Building Your Church for Community Impact

*Sponsored by the Aspen Group*

Your church building is one of the most powerful billboards you have for communicating your presence and purpose to your community. Are you leveraging this asset to its fullest potential? Are you communicating that you're a church both in and for the community?

This year's Alignment Conference is a one-day learning experience for senior pastors, executive pastors, and key ministry leaders that will focus on "Building Your Church for Community Impact." We'll help you evaluate whether or not you're maximizing your built space for the good of your community, and leave you with practical ways to create ministry space for community impact.

This year's main stage will feature some of the church's most trusted voices on culture, leadership, ministry, and facilities, including:

- David Kinnaman, president of [Barna](#)
- Dave Ferguson, lead and founding pastor of [Community Christian Church](#) in Chicagoland, author, and founder of [Exponential](#) and [NewThing Network](#) for church planters
- Julie Bullock, senior generosity strategist for [Generis](#)
- Evan McBroom, founder of [Fishhook](#)
- Mark Jobe, lead and founding pastor of [New Life Community Church](#) in Chicago

To learn more about the conference schedule, breakout sessions and opportunities to connect with other ministry peers, **click or tap on the banner below.**



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*Opportunities and resources for you and your team*

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#### **Who Should Attend**

The Summit is for church leaders, marketers, and data strategist who are interested in hearing from experts and want to gain confidence with data and digital technologies to better reach community.

#### **When & Where To Join**

The Summit kicks off on October 15 at 12PM EST. It will be held as a live webinar. Receive more details and ongoing updates when you register.

#### **What Experts Will Cover**

Hear how to use data to tailor your sermon series, bring in new members from the community, increase giving, choose church plant locations and more!

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