

# URBAN PASTOR'S ASSOCIATION

(Temporary Name)

## Membership Agreement

### I. Our Core Commitments.

A. **Our Purpose.** The purpose of *The Urban Pastor's Association* is to glorify God by expanding and advancing God's kingdom among the urban poor through the making of disciples and church planting.

B. **Our Objectives.** *The Urban Pastor's Association* has three objectives:

1. Fellowship—to encourage and exhort each other through: a shared spirituality, regular gatherings, and consistent communication.
2. Resources—to share our resources with one another.
3. Mission—to work together towards a church plant movement among the urban poor.

C. **Our Theological Commitment.** As members of *The Urban Pastor's Association* we commit to defend the "Great Tradition" (the faith "that has been believed, in all places, by all people, at all times") as expressed in the Nicene Creed.

II. **Our Way of Wisdom.** *The Urban Pastor's Association* gathers to join in God's work of making disciples and planting churches among the unchurched urban poor. Our Association has agreed to several "Ways of Wisdom" which are consistent at all levels of the association:

A. The "Five E's" are a summary of the way in which our association is called to make disciples and plant churches:

1. **Endearment.** We are devoted to God and each other because God loved us first and sent His Son for our salvation. Apart from Him we can do nothing (I John 4:19-21; John 3:16; John 15:1-8).
2. **Evangelism.** We sow the seed of the gospel broadly and abundantly (I Corinthians 9:16-23; Acts 1:8; Acts 8:4).
3. **Equipping.** We make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20).
4. **Empowering.** We release disciples to lead the church (Acts 14:23).
5. **Embrace.** We gather as an association to share: fellowship, resources, and mission (I Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:5).

B. Every Association member church will:

1. **Share in Fellowship.** Members will gather around a fellowship meal; Celebrate the Lord's Supper together; and study together the Word of God using the Christian Year and the Revised Common Lectionary.
2. **Share Resources.** Members will pray for one another and share resources with each other.

3. **Share in Mission and Ministry.** Members will:
  - a. Plan, set goals, and implement strategic initiatives towards evangelism, making disciples and church planting.
  - b. Reproduce our church through church planting.
  - c. Financially invest a minimum of 10% of the church's income in new church planting work. Optional to tithe to the UPA.
  - d. \$100 annual membership fee.
  - e. Equip emerging leaders through The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI).

**III. Our Current Strategy.** As a practical demonstration of our Purpose, Objectives, Common Commitments, and Way of Wisdom, we will pursue together the following strategy. These strategic elements can be evaluated and changed as needed by member churches at any level by a majority vote at the appropriate level: *Community Associations, District Associations, Regional Associations, and the National Association* (See attached definitions).

- A. All **Urban Pastor's Associations** will have two possible levels of involvement. **Members** who follow; **Affiliates** who participate. Members and Affiliates must all agree with our purpose, objectives, and common commitments. Affiliates choose to remain in regular communication with the association, request affiliate status, and attend at least one association event annually. Members agree to participate fully in the strategy to which the association has committed itself. Only Members will have voting rights in the association.
- B. Members participate in whatever communication tool is adopted by the Association (Email, Member Directory, Website, Forums, etc) as one way to demonstrate obedience to our Lord's command to "love one another."
- C. Members participate with the *Urban Pastor's Association* on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis.
  1. **Monthly** every Association church sends at least one leader to the Community Association meeting.
  2. **Quarterly**
    - a. The leadership (and spouses) of every member church will gather with all other District Association leaders for fellowship and encouragement (the Gathering).
    - b. The Leader of every Community Association will meet for accountability, strategy coordination, and prayer.
  3. **Annually** all churches/leaders in the Regional Association will gather for worship, celebration, encouragement, the Word and prayer.

Our church, \_\_\_\_\_, will join the association as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Member or Affiliate)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1: Definitions:

**Community Association:** Consist of two to twelve member churches who have embraced the purpose, objectives, and common commitments of the *Urban Pastor's Association* in a local community.

**District Association:** Consist of two to twenty *Community Associations* in adjoining communities.

**Regional Association:** Consists of two to twenty **District Associations** in geographic proximity.

**National Association:** Consists of all **Regional Associations** in the United States.

## Appendix 2: Possible Future of Los Angeles Urban Pastor's Association

- I. Overview. The *Los Angeles Regional Association* would have eight *District Associations* with 96 *Community Associations*.
- A. **BEACH/AIRPORT District Association:** Del Rey, Mar Vista, Playa Vista, Venice, Westchester/LAX,
  - B. **CRESCENTA VALLEY District Association:** La Tuna Canyon, Lakeview Terrace, Shadow Hills, Sunland Tujunga,
  - C. **DOWNTOWN/CENTRAL CITY District Association:** Arlington Heights, Boyle Heights, Cahuega Pass, Chinatown/Historic LA, Central City East, **Downtown LA Community Association**, East Hollywood, Echo Park, Elysian Park, Elysian Valley, Greater Mid-Wilshire, Griffith Park/Los Feliz, Harvard Heights, Hollywood, Koreatown, Mid-City, Mt. Washington, Pico Union, Silver Lake, West Adams, Westlake, Wilshire Center,
  - D. **HARBOR AREA District Association:** Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, San Pedro, Terminal Island, Wilmington,
  - E. **NORTHEAST District Association:** Atwater Village, Cypress Park, Eagle Rock, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, Mt. Washington, University Hills,
  - F. **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY District Association:** Arleta, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Granada Hills, Lake Balboa, Mission Hills, **North Hills Community Association**, North Hollywood, Northridge, Pacoima, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Tarzana, Toluca Lake, Valley Glen, Valley Village, Van Nuys, West Hills, Winnetka, Woodland Hills
  - G. **SOUTH District Association:** Crenshaw, Hyde Park, Jefferson Park, Leimert Park, **South Los Angeles Community Association**, Southeast Los Angeles, **Watts Community Association**
  - H. **WESTSIDE District Association:** Bel Air, Beverly Crest, Beverlywood, Brentwood, Century City, Cheviot Hills, Crestview, Fairfax/Mid-City West, Pacific Palisades, Palms, Rancho Park, Sawtelle, South Carthay, South Robertson, West Los Angeles, Westwood.<sup>1</sup>
- II. The *Los Angeles Regional Association* may also need to include Santa Anna, Riverside, and other communities near Los Angeles County, but not technically in it.

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<sup>1</sup> These districts are based on LA County's geographic divisions. Information on communities downloaded from <http://www.laalmanac.com/cities/ci93.htm> on September 25, 2008. At this site an interactive map also shows you the location of each community and gives statistical information on the community from the census bureau.