***Equipping Biblical Counselors***

**Appendix 5.1**

**A Formal Congregational Vote**

**Congregational Vote**

Our church leadership is recommending the formal establishment of the LEAD (Life Encouragers And Disciplers) Biblical Counseling Ministry.

The mission of LEAD is to equip biblical counselors, one-another ministers, and small group leaders to speak the truth in love to people struggling with suffering and battling sin, in order to promote Christ-like maturity in the body of Christ. LEAD exists to assist our church to become an equipping center (Ephesians 4:11-14), a fully functioning family (Matthew 22:34-40), a Christ-centered community (Hebrews 3:7-16; 10:19-25), a healthy body (Ephesians 4:15-16), and a teaching hospital for soul physicians bringing Christ’s healing to hurting and hardened hearts (Matthew 23:23-26).

We will seek to fulfill our LEAD mission through envisioning, enlisting, equipping, and empowering a congregation of biblical counselors, one-another ministers, and small group leaders. We will comprehensively equip soul care-givers and spiritual directors in biblical content, Christlike character, counseling competence, and Christian community so they can sustain, heal, reconcile, and guide individuals, couples, and families in our congregation and community to know Christ, grow in Christ, and become Christ-like disciple-makers.

The initial budget for the next fiscal year is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. For the launch budget see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [reference the appropriate document]. We have consulted the appropriate outside counsel to establish best practice protocol regarding legal and ethical issues. For a summary of these policies and procedures see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [reference the appropriate document].

While our church constitution does *not* require a vote in order to establish a new ministry, our church leadership and the LEAD leadership team desires to take this extra step so as to assure that our congregation is onboard and excited about this new ministry focus.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I vote in favor of the launch of the LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do not vote in favor of the launch of the LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry.

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 Name

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