

## A Relational Theology of Service and Leadership

### **PREACH:**

At StreetLight Community Church, service and leadership are fundamentally relational, mirroring the experience of God's *ruach* (breath) as love within our community. This divine love is then shared with others, extending that experience of God's presence. Our leaders follow the example of Jesus by emphasizing empowerment, fostering trust, and nurturing deep, authentic relationships. We intentionally move away from relying on positional authority or inflexible systems to guide our work. This commitment to relationships fosters mutual service, aligns our shared values, and promotes spiritual growth toward maturity.

### **POSSESS:**

- **God as Source of Relationship:** Leadership reflects God's relational nature, making the church a community mirroring divine interaction.
- **Servant Leadership:** Leaders emulate Jesus by serving, empowering others, prioritizing them over self with humility and love.
  - **Co-laboring:** Ministry is inherently collaborative, designed for partnership, not isolation, setting a precedent for collegial, Spirit-filled church leadership. (Mark 6:7, John 8:17, Luke 10:1)
- **Love as Foundation:** Unconditional love is the driving mindset for all church actions, focusing on mutual care.
- **Community as Body:** The church is one valued, essential body; leadership fosters connection, healthy dynamics, and the unique contribution of each member.

### **PRACTICE:**

- **Empowerment:** Leaders cultivate growth environments, enabling members to develop gifts and encouraging them to make decisions.
- **Trust & Character:** Strong relationships are built through consistent character, humility, and openness, creating security and fostering accountability.
- **Vision & Hope:** Leadership inspires action for justice and the common good through a shared, faith-rooted vision and a commitment to communication.
- **Missional Focus:** The Great Commission reflects an ongoing relationship with Christ, extended to others through love and service.
- **Mutual Service:** Service is reciprocal among all members, recognizing Christ in each other, and believing the best of one another.