



THE LITTLE CHURCH WORLD

FORM OF GOVERNANCE

Key Statements Guiding the Little Church World

God connects ministries, not for the benefit of individuals, but for His Kingdom work.

(The Affiliation Principle)

James 3:1 (NIV): Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

(The Education Principle)

Christ the Head of the Church

The Little Church World (TLC World), as a body of believers, affirms that Christ is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23).

Structure

TLC World is an affiliation of bodies of believers and seekers, both local and international (churches and fellowships) united in sharing the theological position as expressed in the TLC World statement of faith. Direction, guidance, coordination and support for the affiliated bodies is provided by the overall TLC World organisation.

Leadership

TLC World believes that Christ's leadership of the Church overall is exercised by church and fellowship leaders and places great emphasis on developing leaders who are able to exercise the quality of leadership consistent with this God given role.

All leaders, who are associated with TLC World, are required to demonstrate a commitment to the TLC World statement of faith, undertake a specific church leadership programme developed by TLC World and obtain fundamental theological training offered by TLC World's approved educational partner, the Christian Leaders Institute unless they can demonstrate that they have received formal theological training at an equivalent standard. The TLC World support, including the leadership training, is offered free of charge although donations are welcome. The Christian Leadership Institute education is offered on a similar basis.

Bi-Vocational Ministry and Support

In addition to the leadership training, TLC World provides an extensive array of support for TLC World affiliated Leaders which includes, dedicated space in The TLC World website, weekly worship videos, sermons, transcripts and discussion questions, and a prayer room. The service resources

provided are designed to be comprehensive so that, if needed, a full service can be conducted using TLC World support resources.

TLC World therefore provides extensive support, but this is not of a financial nature because the central aim of TLC World is to support bi-vocational ministries, meaning leaders affiliated to TLC World will generally have full or part-time employment to meet their personal and family needs whilst performing their church leadership roles.

Growth and Development

It is recognized that from small beginnings, TLC World affiliates may grow in size. For example, it may be that what started as a small fellowship group becomes a larger house group and then becomes too large to be confined to the home. However, TLC World supports the small group notion that enables every member of the group to receive love and care as individuals from the group. Given this, TLC World leaders are encouraged to be mentoring others in the group with a view to providing leaders for additional groups that derive from the original group.

This may take the form of appointing local elders whose role it is to support the leader through prayer, administration and advice. These elders may decide to lead one or more of the additional groups or start up a completely new group. As new TLC World leaders they will then be required to adhere to the TLC World statement of faith and will receive the leadership and theological training and online support discussed above in the leadership section.

Finances

The TLC World statement of faith makes it clear that TLC World can find no biblical basis in the new covenant for the strict adherence to the notion of the tithe. Nevertheless, offerings are encouraged consistent with 2 Corinthians 9:7: *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* The TLC position on tithing and offerings is articulated in the following link. <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-4-why-you-should-not-tithe-selected-scriptures>.

TLC World recognises that giving in line with 2 Corinthians 9:7 may, in some circumstances, result in a change in the bi-vocational nature of the leadership such that the leader of a particular church or fellowship may be partially or fully supported by offerings should the church grow beyond what is manageable on a part-time basis. This is in line with 1 Corinthians 9:14: ... *the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.* However, also adhered to, is the notion that churches or groups should not become so large as to lose sight of the need to care for individuals.

At the organizational level, the TLC World overall organisation also welcomes cheerful giving from its affiliates to enable the extensive support it provides to be maintained and continually enhanced.