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11 March 2024

A PERSONAL LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

1. I recognise that my role as the Lead Elder of Christ Central Church places me in a position of responsibility, and subsequently, authority. I have written this brief statement, in acknowledgement of this, and to briefly outline my leadership philosophy.

2. Our church vision is *"to see lives and communities in, around, and beyond Portsmouth, transformed by the gospel, enjoying God and glorifying Him in all things."* That's my vision for every member of the church, that we all would be transformed by the Word of God and the power of His Spirit and be released and equipped to live lives that glorify Him.

3. The church belongs to Jesus, it is His, and one day we will be with Him in glory. My responsibility is to steward this incredible community entrusted to my care. I do not do this in isolation but as a part of a team of Elders, who as *'shepherds'* are responsible for guarding and governing the Doctrine, Discipline and Direction of the church following Scripture.

4. As Elders, we serve Christ, by serving you, so that you can serve the body of the church. We use our leadership skills to build you up in the gospel and to work for your maturity:

- Ephesians 4:12 *'to equip the saints [every believer] for the work of ministry [service], to build up the body of Christ.'*
- Colossians 1:28 *'We proclaim Him [Jesus Christ], warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.'*

5. My leadership philosophy is informed by Scripture and developed through experience including my upbringing, my former career as an Officer in the Royal Navy, and my time in various church leadership roles. If I were to choose three words that inform and I hope, typify, my approach to leadership, they would be **Service, Honour, and Integrity.**

- **Service.** In the military, I sought to serve Queen Elizabeth and submitted to the authority of the government as they deployed me around the world. This was my duty. As your Lead Elder, I seek to serve King Jesus and submit to the authority of the Word of God, following wherever obedience takes me. This is my delight.

- I left the military, not because of an ambition to *lead* (I had the rank and many opportunities to do that!) but because of a desire to *serve* the purposes of God. Full-time church ministry isn't for everyone, and when I was asked if I would join the church, I saw how my skillset, experience and character would be of benefit to seeing the church strengthened and supported.
- I endeavour to follow Jesus' example of servant leadership. Mostly, this will mean coming alongside people, supporting, and encouraging them in their gift to go out in front of me. Sometimes, this means I need to go on ahead when the path is unknown or dangerous so that others can follow me. I will never ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't be willing to do or go where I wouldn't be willing to go.
- **Honour.** Romans 12:10 exhorts us to '*Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honouring one another.*' I want my leadership to be known for taking the lead in honouring you. We are created equal, by God, in His image, to exercise rule and dominion over creation. I am not to rule and dominate over you. We are to honour one another. No matter who are, what you've done, what you think about yourself or not, I honour you as one known and loved by God.
- **Integrity.** In the military I had to sign off on the safety of aircraft after repairs before they flew again, ensuring they were airworthy. Integrity was vital. I needed to trust my team, and the pilots needed to trust me. I will always lead with my heart on my sleeve, I am an open book, and occasionally you may not like what you see, so challenge me, I'm only human, my sense of humour particularly needs sanctification!

6. I hope the Adam you see lead on a Sunday morning or in a group setting, is the same Adam on a Monday morning, or at home with my family. That means you'll see me when I'm weak, and that means I won't always be able to be what you may want of me. However, I hope you'll always trust my desire to serve and honour you. I am not the answer you need, Jesus is, and I hope I can lead you to Him.

7. I am painfully aware of the abuses of church leadership presented in the media and want to invite you to raise any concerns you may have with my leadership or that of any other individual you see in a position of leadership in the church.¹ I gladly submit myself to a 360-degree appraisal process annually and, to ensure transparency, a copy can be made available on request to the Chair of Trustees.

Yours sincerely,



Adam North
Lead Elder

¹ To find out more about safeguards to leadership abuse and recommended routes for raising concerns go to <https://christcentral.church/safeguards>