

## Pastor Lawrence L. Kirby II

Your guide to understanding the Acts DNA, Values  
and Member Expectations

The Acts Church  
West: 5710 32nd Ave, Kenosha,  
WI 53144  
(262) 298-ACTS  
[www.actschurchkenosha.com](http://www.actschurchkenosha.com)  
11/22/2017





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR .....	3
MISSION STATEMENT .....	4
MEMBERSHIP.....	5-6
THE ACTS CHURCH DNA .....	7-8
THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF THE PASTOR... ..	9-10
COMMUNICATING WITH THE PASTOR.. ..	11-13
LIFEGROUP .....	14
GET INVOLVED, NEED RESOURCES? ... ..	15
STAY CONNECTED.....	16



Holy Greetings,

I greet you in the powerful and majestic name of Jesus our Christ. I praise God that you have made a commitment and decision to join us as a member of this dynamic body of believers known as The Acts Church. My belief is that God brought the Acts Church into existence to fill a void, to create a church for those who feel as if they don't fit into the traditional churches that they have experienced or have yet to meet Christ at all. I know that The Acts Church is God's response to the outcry of a generation.

I am so thankful that you made the decision to become part of our family. I need you to know that I, as your pastor, am committed to leading you with the love of Jesus, and with transparency and integrity. I know that joining a church is a big step and I want you to know that you are in the right place. The Acts Church is dedicated to loving God and loving people and I look forward to watching you grow in your faith as you connect to our community.

It is my prayer that this handbook serves as a guide (not in totality) and will help you and your family better connect with the ministries at The Acts Church. I believe that God has great things in store for us as we seek to serve this generation. I love you with the love of Christ and I'm praying for you. Be blessed!

Because of Christ,

Lawrence L. Kirby II, Pastor





## The Acts Mission Statement

Our desire is to create a community that is relevant to this age, reaches lost people, assimilates them into the body of Christ, equips them for ministry and empowers them for service. To care for the poor, invite them into our community and glorify God in all that we do.

We want to be an Acts Chapter 2 church that has invaded the modern world!





# MEMBERSHIP

## The Meaning of Church Membership

### WE ARE ALL NECESSARY PARTS OF THE WHOLE

There are a number of places in the New Testament where we can see a clear picture of church membership. One of the more voluminous sections is 1 Corinthians 12 to 14. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explains the metaphor of the church being a body with many members. In 1 Corinthians 13, he established love as the central attitude and action all members should have. And in 1 Corinthians 14, he returns to the messed-up church at Corinth that has the concept of membership all wrong.

Some church leaders and members view membership as a modern business or organizational concept, so they reject the label as unbiblical. Membership, to the contrary, is very biblical. The Bible explains “members” differently than secular culture. For example, look at the term in 1 Corinthians 12:27–28: “Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. And God has placed these in the church.”

Do you get the difference? Members of a church comprise the whole and are essential parts of it. The apostle Paul would carry the body metaphor further and explain that members are individual parts of the body. Some are eyes; others are ears. Some are feet; still others are hands. That is why he concludes: “For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12).



### WE ARE DIFFERENT BUT WE STILL WORK TOGETHER

With a country club membership you pay others to do the work for you. With church membership, everyone has a role or function. That is why some are hands, feet, ears, or eyes. We are all different, but we are necessary parts of the whole. Each part, therefore, has to do its work, or the whole body suffers. There is a

beautiful diversity in the midst of unity in church membership. The Bible makes it clear that if one part does not do its job, the whole body does not function well. But if one part does its job well, the whole body rejoices and is stronger: “So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26).



### **EVERYTHING IS BASED ON A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF LOVE**

Most Bible readers will speak glowingly of 1 Corinthians 13, commonly known as “the love chapter.” It is read at weddings. It is used for a husband to declare his love for a wife or vice versa. It is preached to demonstrate a fuller meaning of agape or unconditional love. Can you imagine 1 Corinthians 13 being read at an acrimonious church meeting? In its full biblical context that might be the best place to read it.

If we could just abide by the principles of the love chapter, we would have completely healthy churches. It would be a revolution! Just look at some of the relational principles of 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 “Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs.”

The principles of these two verses alone are sufficient to cause a revival in most churches! We are not to love fellow church members just because they are lovable. We are to love the unlovable as well. We are not to pray for and encourage our pastors just when they are doing things we like. We

are to pray for and encourage them when they do things we don’t like. We are not to serve the church only when others are joining in. We are to serve the church even if we are alone in doing so. Church membership is founded on love authenticity, biblical and unconditional love.



(Excerpts from the article [I Am a Church Member](#) by Thom S. Rainer)



### ***This is who we are***

We believe that the church is a living and breathing organism; A network of people who are knit together through faith in God through Jesus Christ. Acts 2:42-47 provides for us a snap shot of the principles that the early church lived by and we believe that these principles give us insight into what the life of the church should be like. These are the values that serve as the DNA of the Acts church.

#### **WE ARE A CHURCH THAT WORSHIPS**

Worship captures the heart of God. We believe that worship is our response to who God is and is the act of letting God know how valuable he is to us personally and in the life of the church. We believe that we are people of the presence and that God's presence is one of the most important commodities that we have as believers. We seek to create worship experiences that are passionate, authentic, and powerful that flow out of our love for God.

*John 4:23 (NIV)*

*23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*

#### **WE ARE A CHURCH OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS**

We believe that God is relational and that he created us to be relational. Our vertical relationship (with God) impacts our horizontal relationships (with one another) and we love each other based on God's love for us. The church is God's supernatural community and we are a church built on authentic relationships with God and with people based on Jesus.

*2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)*

*11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*





### **WE ARE A CHURCH THAT PRAYS**

We believe that God's people must live in constant communication with him through prayer. We believe that prayer is conversation that involves speaking and listening and that a praying church is a powerful church. Prayer helps us to discover what God's plans are for us and then empowers us to do his will. We must be committed to scheduled times of prayer and all that we do must be saturated in and led by prayer.

*Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)*

*9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,[a] 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[b] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

### **WE ARE A CHURCH THAT IS DEVOTED**

We believe that God calls us to be devoted to his every word. We believe that we are called to study the scriptures and then obey what we discover as his will. As Christians we showcase our love for God by being obedient to his word and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The bible is critical for us in that it teaches us how and in what ways we obey God. We believe that Jesus is Lord and that we are called to submit ourselves so that God gets glory out of our lives.

*Jeremiah 7:23 (NIV)*

*23 but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you that it may go well with you.*

### **WE ARE A CHURCH THAT IS GENEROUS**

Our God is generous and in our quest to become more like him we are called to walk in generosity. We live out this generosity by how we give to those who are in need. We believe that it is our responsibility to find creative ways to meet the needs of under privileged populations in our community. In the bible we often see Jesus meeting the needs of people and we believe that the church is an extension of the ministry of Christ and that we are called to meet needs.

*Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)*

*10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

**(Foundational verses Acts 2:42-47)**





## THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF THE PASTOR

### THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF THE PASTOR

For many centuries, people viewed the role of the pastor as a servant caregiver who does the following:

- I. Teaching/preaching of traditional doctrine
- II. Caregiving, such as visitation, counseling, comforting, and taking care of the needs of people
- III. Performing rites of passage, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- IV. Administration, such as taking care of meetings, putting together a bulletin, and developing programs for the church and evangelism
- V. And finally, serving as ambassador of the church to the community

This model of a servant caregiver does not lend itself to growth, but creates a culture of people dependent upon the pastor, a role utterly inconsistent with the biblical principles of the priesthood of all believers. It also encourages people to focus on their needs and thus hinders the growth of the kingdom of God.

### THE CONTEMPORARY ROLE OF THE PASTOR

Around the 1970s and 1980s, the pastor became the person who:

- I. Casts a vision and rallies and motivates people to carry on the new vision in a changed and healthy environment
- II. Is a visionary leader who constantly builds other leaders and changes the culture and structure of the church, while doing all of this with an eye for mission, evangelism, and growth
- III. Empowers, equips and prepares others for the work of the ministry

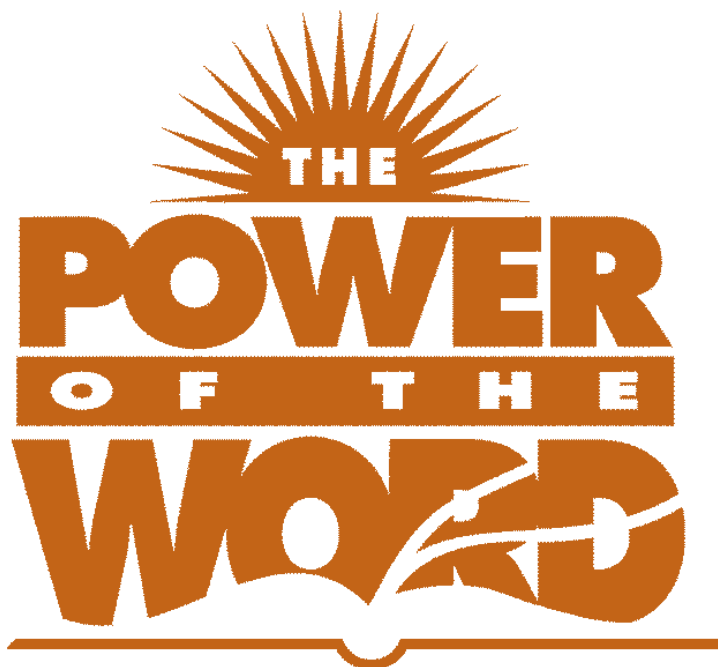


### **WHAT ARE PASTORS SUPPOSED TO DO?**

The answer can be found in a return to biblical Pastoral ministry that includes relationship, care, leadership and development. The central role of the Pastor is to walk in, cultivate and maintain a close and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The work of ministry always flows out of a healthy relationship with God, in Christ through the Holy Spirit. The Pastor should be spirit filled and steadily following the Lord. The Pastor should be apt to preach and teach the word of God in a way that connects and relates to the people. The Pastor is called to care for people through visitation, prayer, counseling and other duties. The Pastor is also called to lead by example which sometimes means making tough decisions and always involves seeking God's will for the church and sharing vision with leaders and others in the ministry and galvanizing them to execute. Last but not least the Pastor is charged with the task of identifying, preparing and equipping other leaders to share the work load of ministry. The church must function as a team and although the Pastor is clearly the leader of the team, the dedication, sacrifice, and development of the other team mates (membership) is paramount to the success of the local body. As members it is your responsibility to follow the Pastor as he/she follows Jesus. The Pastoral ministry is not about us as much as it is about Jesus. Knowing and serving God is always the driving force of what we do.

Source: Kidder, Joseph S. (2009) The Biblical Role of the Pastor. Ministry: International Journal for Pastors. Retrieved from [www.ministrymagazine.org](http://www.ministrymagazine.org)

Supporting Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:5-10; Jeremiah 3:15; Acts 20-26; I Timothy 5:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 12:7 and I Peter 5:2-3.





## COMMUNICATING WITH THE PASTOR

IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU. LET YOUR PASTOR KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

### CALL YOUR PASTOR WHEN...

**You're going into the hospital.** Please tell your pastor when you going into the hospital, or if a family member is. Your pastor likes to visit people who are in the hospital for a few days or more, but keep in mind that another member of leadership may visit as well. The pastor will bring you or your family member God's words of comfort.

**You would like a prayer said for you.** Your pastor is always happy to do this. The Pastor will at times issue altar calls during times of worship; feel free to come up and ask him to pray for you during those times. Also know that after any of our worship services the Pastor (or other intercessors/altar workers or ministers) would love to pray for you. You can also contact the Pastor throughout the week to offer words of prayer. We know that our powerful and loving God answers prayer!

**There is a death in the family.** Loss of loved ones is a phase of life. If a family member or friend passes, please contact your pastor as soon as you are able. You are able to call the funeral home of your choice and seek the pastor's advice. The pastor will assist in the scheduling of the funeral service and preparing the order of service. Be sure to contact the pastor prior to finalizing any date and time for the service that will be held in which the pastor is expected to be participate. The administrative team can send some type of resolution to immediate family members (i.e. wife, husband, mother, father, sister, brother, son or daughter); however you must provide them with the necessary information. The funeral procedure is as follows:

- I. Notify the pastor
- II. Notify the church administrator
  - a. Do not attempt to set the hour for the funeral service, as there may be a scheduling conflict.



**You are not able to come to church for more than a month.** If you are sick for a prolonged period of time or recovering from illness or surgery and can't get to church, your pastor will come to you. He will see how you are doing, pray with you, have a short devotion, and bring you the Lord's Supper. Your pastor simply wants you to stay connected to God's Word and his Sacrament. We all constantly need what God gives us when we gather in his house.

**You have a question or concern about something at church.** Many church-related questions that people have can be cleared up easily by contacting the church administrator. However, if your concern was not addressed, let your pastor know and he'll see what he can do to resolve it. Or if you have a suggestion for something that can be done that is new or different, tell your



pastor. Your pastor will not be able to implement every suggestion, but your input does matter!

**You have an issue in your marriage.** If an issue in your marriage does resolve its self within one month, then it is probably not going to go away without some help. Don't wait to seek help until your marriage deteriorates. A Christian marriage needs to be rooted in God's Word and built on God's love. Therefore, pastoral counseling will focus on spiritual issues. Your pastor is not a professional marriage counselor. But he is able to apply God's powerful Word to your relationship!

**You are planning to get married and need pre-marriage counseling.** Pre-marriage counseling sessions are required! The pastor will not perform a marriage ceremony without counseling sessions taking place. To plan the sessions, please contact the church administrator to arrange a meeting with the pastor well in advance of the chosen date for the wedding.

**Your conscience is troubling you and you want assurance of God's grace or your may just want brief counseling.** God does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation and guilt. He invites us to confess our sin and receive his forgiveness. In strict confidence you can confess your sin to your pastor and receive assurance of God's forgiveness and absolution delivered personally to you. You are welcome to come even if no particular sin is troubling you. It's faith-building to receive God's forgiveness at any time.

**You're wrestling with a spiritual issue or have a question about something the Bible says.** Questions often come up when you're talking religion with coworkers and friends. Join us at Bible study or your may call your pastor if you have a question about a Bible teaching. Talk with him about it. If you encounter something in a sermon, Bible study, or in your own personal Bible reading that makes you scratch your head, let your pastor know. Your pastor loves to discuss God's Word and to see people grow in their understanding of it.

**You have a friend or relative who wants to know more about Jesus.** Please pass their names on to your pastor. He would love to invite them to Bible study and meet with them to share the hope that we have in Christ. Granted, meeting with a pastor can be intimidating for some people. So assure your friend or relative that your pastor is not nearly as people make out pastors to be and offer to come along with them to meet him. Assure them that your pastor's goal is not to brainwash them, but simply to listen to them and to share with them the truth and beauty of God's Word.

**There is a social service need.** The church must be sensitive to the needs of the people. Although the church is not a social service agency, we are able to offer reasonable assistance when an emergency arises, if possible. We do not want any of our people to struggle in an emergency. When there is a need, please call the church office and ask about benevolence (compassion) options.



**Keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list. You can certainly call your pastor at other times too. You can view this list as 'this is when my pastor wants me to call him.'**

**NO PHONE? SEND AN EMAIL! [Lawrencekirby2@gmail.com](mailto:Lawrencekirby2@gmail.com)**





In the book of Acts we see a pattern established in the church. The bible says repeatedly that often believers would meet together in homes for times of worship, instruction and fellowship.

We believe that small group ministry is foundational to building a church of mature, connected believers. One of the dynamics that drew individuals to the early church was that they were the only people group in ancient culture that operated outside of the cast system. In other words it did not matter if you were rich or poor, free or a slave, black or white, man or woman, the church embraced you and related to you as equal. People were shocked to discover this family of worshippers authentically connected to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The church fostered a community that did life together and supported one another based on their mutual dedication to Christ.

The modern church has replaced relationships with programs. We believe that programs and ministries are valuable but nothing can replace the human need to know and be known and to love and be loved. We know that the church cannot continue to be a place but must operate as a people, a people who love God and love each other.

“A Life” is our response to the need to have authentic relationships within the body. Our desire is that every member of The Acts Church be an active and vibrant participant in A Life. A Life Groups will meet in small groups of between 10-15 people and gather 2 to 3 times monthly to learn, share, pray, and grow together. Each A Life Group will have a facilitator who will organize the gatherings and help lead times of sharing and instruction.

A Life is essential to growth and maturity and your participation will be considered as a requirement for church leadership. God has called us to love him but to also love each other and your life group will be your support system as you grow through the issues of life. The acts Church is not a church **with** life groups, but a church **of** life groups.



### What are you interested in?

Not sure, visit the website to get more information. [www.actschurchkenosha.com](http://www.actschurchkenosha.com)

See our "Get Involved" section for all available teams and ministries. That's it! And yes, it is really that simple.

**Not big on websites?** That is "A" okay just send an email to our admin team or email the team of interest directly to get more information.

**No Access to email? Please call (262) 298-ACTS**

Ministry	Email
Pastoral	<a href="mailto:lawrencekirby2@gmail.com">lawrencekirby2@gmail.com</a>
Admin	<a href="mailto:actschurchkenosha@gmail.com">actschurchkenosha@gmail.com</a>
Finance	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.finance@gmail.com">actskenosha.finance@gmail.com</a>
First Touch	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.firsttouch@gmail.com">actskenosha.firsttouch@gmail.com</a>
Audio Visual	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.AV@gmail.com">actskenosha.AV@gmail.com</a>
Our Future "Children's Ministry"	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.ourfuture@gmail.com">actskenosha.ourfuture@gmail.com</a>
Praise and Worship	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.praise@gmail.com">actskenosha.praise@gmail.com</a>
A-Life Groups "Small Groups"	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.lifegroup@gmail.com">actskenosha.lifegroup@gmail.com</a>
Bloom " Women Ministry"	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.bloom@gmail.com">actskenosha.bloom@gmail.com</a>
Men Of Acts "Men's Ministry"	<a href="mailto:Actskenosha.moa@gmail.com">Actskenosha.moa@gmail.com</a>
Corporate Directors	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.directors@gmail.com">actskenosha.directors@gmail.com</a>
Executive Council	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.execcouncil@gmail.com">actskenosha.execcouncil@gmail.com</a>
Social Media	<a href="mailto:actoutlove@gmail.com">actoutlove@gmail.com</a>
Dance Ministry	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.dance@gmail.com">actskenosha.dance@gmail.com</a>
Membership/Intake	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.membership@gmail.com">actskenosha.membership@gmail.com</a>
Condolence, Compassion, Comfort & Charity	<a href="mailto:actskenosha.4cministry@gmail.com">actskenosha.4cministry@gmail.com</a>



## STAY CONNECTED!



**Why social media?** Social media is a way to connect on a different level. Use it to create that personal connection with people. Why? Because relationships are super important! Leverage the channels it provides to be genuine and reveal a little more about you and your relationship with God.

**You can add value!** Social media is a two-way conversation that starts with listening and helping

**Learn!** On social media, you have a group of fans, followers, and fellow members out there listening. They bring their own various experiences and knowledge, so why not learn from them? When you come up with an idea, share it with them and get feedback. It's like having an army behind you at all times. If you identify your most engaged followers, you can even reach out to them with specific questions, since they probably care enough to answer. Experiment with social media to figure out which types of content your followers like, and what time of day you should be posting.

**Relationships!** Social media can also be used to build relationships with influencers and potential opportunities to work in the kingdom of God.

Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/actschurchkenosha">https://www.facebook.com/actschurchkenosha</a>
Twitter	<a href="http://www.twitter.com/actoutlive">www.twitter.com/actoutlive</a>
Google+	<a href="http://www.plus.google.com/u/0/116019131215063394746">www.plus.google.com/u/0/116019131215063394746</a>
You Tube	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckIYXFOJj2sc6u3-HofnniQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UckIYXFOJj2sc6u3-HofnniQ</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/actschurchkenosha/">https://www.instagram.com/actschurchkenosha/</a>



**Hate Social Media?** That is okay. Subscribe for email updates on our website. We will keep you up to date with outside engagements, churches social events, etc.