

Standards of Excellence

Standards of Excellence: Criteria to help all ministries get to their preferable future as we structure ourselves for growth and align around the same developmental values...

The *Standards of Excellence* characterize and identify the life change values that define our church, ministries and people. They exist to help us align to our vision and values for greater clarity and simplicity. These standards are to be embraced, employed and executed by every ministry.

The *Standards of Excellence* provide the best practice for:

- Providing a strategy that has a clear and obvious path and destination for people
- Structuring ourselves (internally and externally) to optimize growth
- Clarity and simplicity in our work and church environment
- Sustaining an effective developmental process for our church

The *Standards of Excellence* are written in a way to help you:

- *Align* your ministry around a common life change process (developmental wheel)
- *Prepare* for the future as you structure and position your ministry for growth
- *Express* the life change values uniquely and creatively to your ministry (out of the box thinking)
- *Increase* the values in the church, your ministry and life of the individual (transferable)
- *Easily* write goals that are measurable and quantifiable
- *Identify* ways to understand them and write goals that fit your specific ministry and context

The format that the standards are written in:

- Each life change value (reach-belong-grow-serve-lead) has a set of standards
- They are written as a **question**. This will help you think of ways that it best applies to your ministry
- Each standard has an **explanation** of why it is important and how it works

Tips that will help you integrate and incorporate the *standards of excellence* into your ministry plan:

1. Be creative and unique. Think outside the lines and use a filter that works for your ministry
2. Let key leaders and volunteers be a part of the process
3. Look at churches who have a best practice for each value (value champion will provide that information)
4. Take them seriously! You will be accountable for their outcomes.
5. Take advantage of the process (there are many ways we will provide tools and help for your success)
6. Don't work alone! Utilize your staff and key volunteers (more creative expression and generated ideas)
7. Get help from the appropriate Value Champion (they exist to give you clarity and success)
8. Look at ministries that have been identified as successful at each value (Value Champion has names)
9. Enjoy the process and make it fun!