
JOHN H. SPURLING

15401 Chenal Pkwy. Little Rock, AR 72211
817.475.5753 docjohnspurling.com

Professional Objective

I am an experienced ministry leader seeking to serve as a Campus and Teaching Pastor, bringing a strong commitment to advancing the vision and mission of the church through clear, biblically grounded preaching and intentional leadership. I excel in leading teams, developing leaders, and implementing vision through effective systems, processes, and collaboration. I am committed to equipping staff and volunteers, fostering a culture of discipleship and providing thoughtful pastoral care. I value alignment, communication, and teamwork, and I desire to contribute to a healthy campus environment that reflects the broader mission of the church while faithfully shepherding people toward maturity in Christ.



Education

Doctor of Ministry – Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA

(Program Focus: Church Leadership)

Master of Divinity - AGTS, Springfield, MO

(Graduated with academic honors)

M.A. program in Strategic Leadership - Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA

B.A. in Biblical Studies - Evangel University, Springfield, MO

(Graduated cum laude)

Leadership Experience

Executive Pastor, Ministry Development (August 2023 - January 2026)

Element Church, Wentzville, MO

- Served as the Executive Pastor for Ministry Development at a large church in the St. Louis area.
- Responsible for all aspects of church ministries.
- Implemented a six-step volunteer pipeline, increasing new volunteers by over 200%.
- Doubled the number of active small groups through focused recruitment and leader development.
- Built a clear discipleship strategy developed around strong equipping classes and engagement.
- Launched a new believers ministry with aligned resources, mentors, and follow-up pathways.

Director/Professor of Strategic Leadership & Innovation (July 2018 – June 2020)

Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL

- SEU is one of the largest and fastest growing Christian universities in the country with over 9,800 students enrolled.
- Developed multiple strategically aligned, innovative, educational projects to advance quality leader development within various church and non-profit organizations.
- Focused on extending the resources and assets of the university to business leaders and church staffs primarily through non-degree seeking opportunities.

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- Responsible for developing a new Regional Executive Master's Program in Leadership. These executive level cohorts launched in several locations around the country.
- Taught several Ministry Leadership classes at undergraduate and graduate level.

Associate Senior Pastor (January 2005 to June 2017)

Gateway Church, Southlake, TX

- Served as a member of the 'Senior Leadership Team' and participated in all significant aspects of guiding the church from an average weekend attendance of 2,200 to over 32,500.
- Functioned in a senior leadership role encompassing a full-time staff of 850+ people, along with a part-time staff of 2,200, with an annual operating budget of over \$142 million dollars.
- Developed the church volunteer strategy, training, and ministry onboarding process that placed over 10,400 church members in serving opportunities within the church.
- Designed and developed all equipping and spiritual formation ministries with over 200 courses offered annually within six growth tracks and over 9,800 church participants.
- Created and led effective staff leadership development training for 190 pastors.
- Engaged in frequent preaching opportunities at Gateway and various relating churches.

President, Professor of Pastoral Leadership (March 2012 to July 2017)

The King's University, Southlake, TX

- Increased overall university enrollment by 255% with a total of 867 ministry focused students.
- Effectively identified, hired, and lead a healthy staff of over 100 employees.
- Designed and developed extensive "college ready" student success department.
- Recognized as a "Top 15 Online Education Program" for private Christian universities.
- Engaged in building significant relationships with local and state officials, community leaders, key business executives, prospective donors, and influential senior pastors/churches.

Additional Leadership Positions:

Senior Pastor (2001 – 2004)

First Assembly, Colleyville, TX

- Led congregation of 750 people with a full time-staff of 12 in a suburban community within the Dallas Metroplex.

Chair of Practical Theology Dept. / Prof. of Leadership & Org. Health (1997 – 2001)

AGTS, Springfield, MO

Founding Partner, Leadership Development Resources & Consulting, LLC (1998 – 2003)

- Co-Founded a successful resource and consulting business that served several hundred churches in the United States and thousands of churches worldwide.

Senior Pastor, Harvest Chapel (AG), Yorkville, IL (1994 – 1997)

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Student/Athlete Career

Evangel University

- Lettered in Football (4 Years).
- President's Award winner (Given to student athlete with highest GPA).
- Inducted into Evangel University Hall of Fame (2024).

Personality Profiles

StrengthsFinder 2.0 Top 5 Signature Themes:

- Learner, Achiever, Strategic, Relator, Belief

Digital Portfolio

NOTE: To view a small collection of speaking samples please visit my digital CV page at:
docjohnspurling.com

References

Available upon request