

Church Leader, I wanted to share with you what my next season of ministry will look like.

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



A Note About My Next Season of Ministry

By Dave Travis, CEO

Since 1995 I have served church leaders and congregations at Leadership Network. We have helped thousands of churches implement innovation.

My journey began by hitting the road to learn from great practitioners and leaders. The opportunities to convene forums, plan learning adventures and connect with mentors such as Peter Drucker, Lyle Schaller, Jim Collins, and others have been invaluable. I also got to spend lots of time with Bob Buford, other members of our board, and most importantly, hundreds of great pastors and staff teams from around the world.

Seventeen years ago, my focus shifted to managing the team, in time becoming the CEO of the organization. While some connection was maintained through our gatherings and through hundreds of conversations each year with lead pastors, my hands-on-work with churches was limited by time constraints.

I did several key consultations every year, mostly in large church succession, but demand always outstripped my available time.

Last summer I decided my next season should get back to more direct work with churches and walk with their leaders and congregations in navigating their futures.

Last September, I informed our board of my intention to step down as CEO as soon as a replacement was found. That has now happened, and I will move forward to a stage of life to consult in a direct way.

I will become a Senior Consultant at Leadership Network to advise the new CEO as needed on various situations and to help explore the exciting new fields of big data, predictive analytics and its use with churches.

After a few weeks of vacation, I will join **Generis** to lead a consulting practice providing strategic counsel to Senior Pastors, their executive teams, and governing boards to help

them design, plan and execute their next season of ministry. This practice will focus on helping leaders not only with succession planning, but also with multisite, a story/season/spark process as well as a process I call Springboard/Staff for board and staff function.

Some of you know Generis in the generosity field. Leadership Network has had a long association with them and even has a current partnership with them in our Generosity Accelerator. But over the past season they have added practice areas in other key areas such as Executive Pastors, multisite, family ministry and now, my own practice, all with the goal of helping churches solve the giving and generosity challenge. You can learn more at www.generis.com.

I have known the principals, Jim Sheppard and Brad Leeper, for over 20 years. It's also a plus that they are based here in my hometown of Atlanta, Georgia.

My face and writings will still appear at some Leadership Network outlets and events so this is not a leaving, but a transition to a more at-large role.

You can still reach me at dave.travis@leadnet.org and I look forward to finding new ways to serve both Leadership Network and many of you personally. Every so often I plan to drop some great reports and actionable ideas to those on my personal insider list. If you want to get those, just click [here](#) to get added.

May God continue to bless the work of your hands, hearts, voices and minds as you serve God in the next season.



A Few Tributes As I Leave my Full-Time Role

By Dave Travis, CEO

There are hundreds of leaders and people to thank as I transition out of this role as CEO. On our staff team I do want to note my long friendships and fellow co-workers. I guess between our various staff levels and contract team members I have worked with over 100 since I came in 1995. But to note a few:

- **Diane Reynolds**, our VP of Finance and CFO works tirelessly behind the scenes for us.

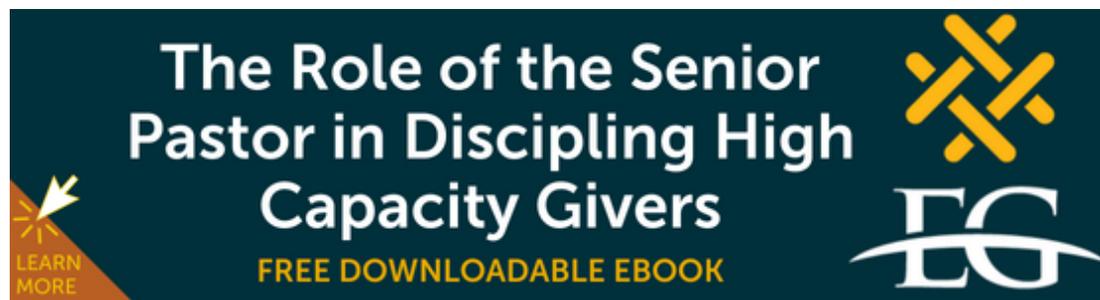
- **Greg Ligon** is the man I call my right hand. He has held many roles over time but he oversees the entire program now plus other duties. It would not be possible without him.
- **Linda Stanley** I called my left hand. She retired six months ago after serving as a VP for many programs. When we had important new initiatives to start, she often took the lead to launch and nurture.
- **Dr. Warren Bird** served as Research Director for many years with me and he helped take some of my hunches and prove, and disprove some of them. Everyone needs a friend like that!

I also want to recognize two pastors:

- **Larry Osborne of Northcoast Church** walked with me since the beginning of my tenure here. When Larry agreed to be the anchor mentor in our Next Generation Pastors group that made all the difference in those pastor's lives. He also has contributed financially (personally and his church) and has been our "Sunday Preacher" at our Vision event that everyone asks to have again.
- **Steve Stroope of Lake Pointe Church** has also been a key mentor in the Next Generation Pastor groups. But for most of my CEO tenure, he was also the Board Chair of Leadership Network. Lake Pointe has been the largest church financial contributor through our ENGAGE team, and Steve also made significant personal contributions of financing and time to our ministry. While he is taking a season off from the board, he continues to serve in other ways.

There are thousands of other pastors, board members and leaders I have learned from over my tenure. Those include Peter Drucker, Jim Collins, Everett Rogers and more. Lyle Schaller, who gave me training in church consulting almost 30 years ago and was my mentor, was one of the primary people that "hooked me up" with Leadership Network. I use his thinking every day.

I am thankful for all these contributions to my own life and ministry and look forward to continuing to serve you in new ways.



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Larry has made his first chapter available for you to download. Get a sense of Larry's intent for writing this book to leaders like you by clicking or tapping on the button below and completing the brief download form.



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