

highpoint



ascending
leaders

equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship

2024 In Review: Driven, Determined, Focused

2

new members
joined our board;
Kevin Stepney
of Sugar Land, TX
and Bryan Bandstra
of Pella, IA.



our seasoned
board members



The vision for Ascending Leaders took flight in 2024. We witnessed the power of Christ-centered discipleship ripple across continents, empowering 19 churches overseas to reach the unreached with transformative impact and disciple them toward maturity. I had the joy of beginning 2025 with a visit to experience the dynamic movement of discipleship God has ignited there.

Closer to home, we continued to ignite discipleship cultures within US congregations, seeing critical successes.

Celebrations of inspiring workshops and the forging of exciting new partnerships have laid a powerful foundation, propelling us towards an even greater future of Kingdom impact!

Even amidst transitions, our unwavering commitment to serving 45 churches in 2025 and expanding our impact toward 2030 burns brightly.

Mike



Global Impact Unleashed!

God is doing remarkable acts of discipleship in our four-year international reach in a country closed to Christianity.

- We coached **19 churches** through the transformative work of building a discipleship culture in the churches.
- These churches together launched **93 discipleship groups**, involving **over 500 people!**
- These churches reached out to 29 hard-to-evangelize **unreached people groups**.
- These churches **planted an additional 17 house churches**.
- These churches **proclaimed the gospel to 2,400 people!**

Across
2024

4

Dedicated operations staff working diligently, supporting our mission



In order to complete the 2025 global vision God has given us, we need \$15,500 in grants and specific donations to the International Work.

Mike and one of our local Discipleship Coaches teaching over 30 pastors and church leaders about a discipleship culture in churches.

10,530
the number of people impacted in the US and globally because of our discipleship coaching.

We provided audio Bibles in the local language for 69 people who cannot read, in loving memory of Mrs. Bonnie Bergman and Mrs. Marian Johnson.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: FROM *TROUBLED* TO *ENERGIZED* OVER 6 YEARS

AUG

9

AL Discipleship Coaches met by Zoom for a superb huddle to learn together and hone coaching skills!



Sugar Land, TX



Houston, TX

Galveston, TX



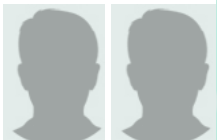
Alameda, CA

Spring, TX



Huntsville, TX

Allendale, MI



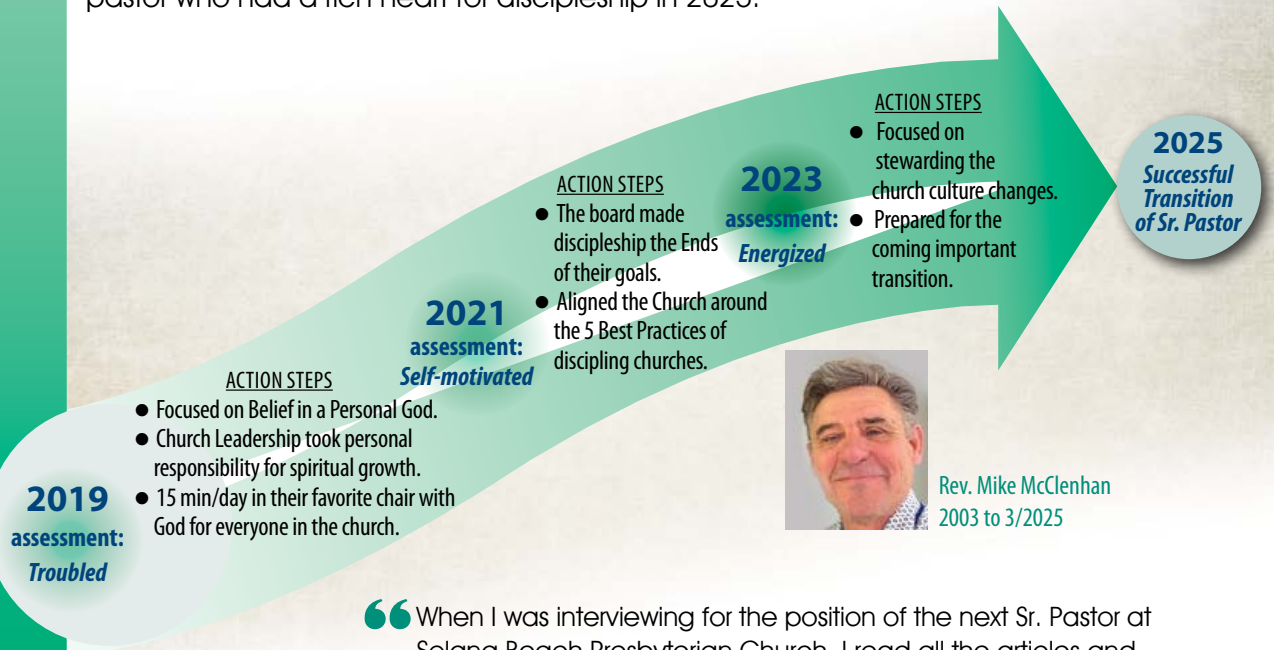
International

International

CHALLENGE: Transform a church's culture from that of splintered to unified and discipleship-oriented, while reinforcing the church's intergenerational and missional qualities.

STRATEGY: Discipleship coaching from Ascending Leaders, including assessments in 2019, 2021 and 2023.

OUTCOME: Significant improvement in its discipleship markers in 2021 and 2023. With this success, the church was able to smoothly pass the baton to a new senior pastor who had a rich heart for discipleship in 2025.



- ACTION STEPS**
- Focused on Belief in a Personal God.
 - Church Leadership took personal responsibility for spiritual growth.
 - 15 min/day in their favorite chair with God for everyone in the church.

- ACTION STEPS**
- The board made discipleship the Ends of their goals.
 - Aligned the Church around the 5 Best Practices of discipling churches.

- ACTION STEPS**
- Focused on stewarding the church culture changes.
 - Prepared for the coming important transition.



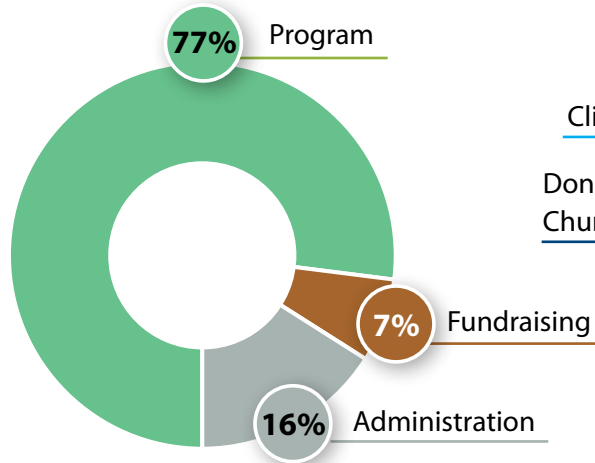
Rev. Mike McClenhan
2003 to 3/2025



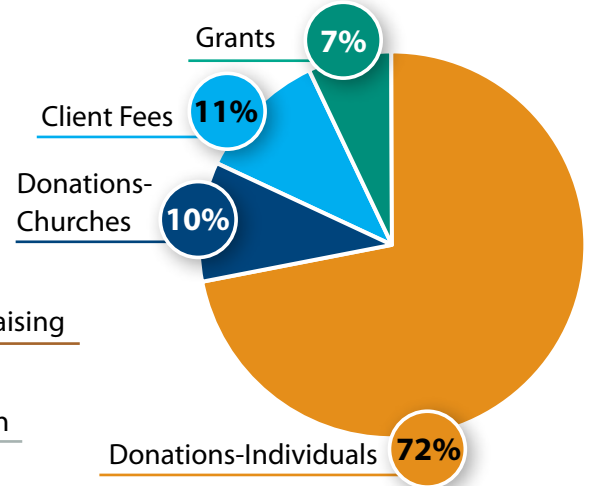
“When I was interviewing for the position of the next Sr. Pastor at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, I read all the articles and watched the videos about discipleship transformation in the church. In my first interview I was watching for which member of the search committee carried this discipleship passion. I was pleasantly surprised that there was no one person; they all had the passion and vision to grow as a disciple-making congregation.”
Rev. Peter Dunn, Senior Pastor of SBPC beginning April 1, 2025

Envision Your Church Thriving Like This!

Costs of 2024 Ministry



2024 Funding Sources



42%
Of our donor friends increased their donation in 2024.

DEC

\$128,000
The dollars donated in our year-end *Matched & Multiplied* campaign. Another record-breaking year!

Some of the 18 US Churches AL coached in 2024

Church	Denomination	Location
Redeemer Church	Presbyterian Church of America	Sugar Land, TX
Good Shepherd	Global Methodist	Cypress, TX
First Presbyterian	(ECO) Presbyterian	Wichita Falls, TX
Christ Church	United Methodist	Sugar Land, TX
Hope Church	Christian Reformed Church	Houston, TX
Disciples Church	United Methodist	Houston, TX
Marvin Methodist	Global Methodist	Tyler, TX
Moody Church	United Methodist	Galveston, TX
Foundry Church	The Foundry Network	Houston, TX



20th Anniversary Celebration
Participate in-person or simulcast in Houston, TX

Oct. 23
Save the Date

JAN 2025

8,899
The number of miles Mike traveled to experience our international work and teach there.

AN INVESTMENT YOU CAN TRUST

Visit [ascendingleaders.org/transparency](https://www.ascendingleaders.org/transparency) to see past annual reports



2024 Financials
Reviewed by



In 2024 Ascending Leaders rose to a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator. We are aligned for our score to soar to **5 STARS** in 2025!

