

highpoint



ascending
leaders

equipping churches for Christ-centered discipleship

2021: Much to be Grateful for

Of our Vision til 2025
from Isaiah 54:2,
we especially...

Isaiah 54:2

Make a large area for your tent.

Spread out its curtains.

Go ahead and **make** your tent **wider**.

Make its ropes **longer**.

Drive the stakes **down deeper**. NIVR

● **Enlarged** the footprint of our tent

Developed our board and discovered clarity of our mission (with new logo and website).

● **Widened** our tent

Reached out to many more churches to serve. Began a co-lab for Texas UMCs.

● **Lengthened** our ropes

Treated our donors more like the **Champions** they are by finding more ways to express our appreciation.

Newest Board Member



We are pleased to have Rev. Dr. Tyler Greenway join our board. Dr. Greenway is connected to the Caledonia Gathering Christian Reformed Church in Wayland, MI and works as the Director of Research for the

Fuller Youth Institute. He has already brought scientific insights about discipleship assessments.

AL Goes International

In 2021, AL went international with two Discipleship Coaches working in a country not to be named because of religious persecution. These two Discipleship Coaches are taking discipleship to the infant churches that have popped up in rural villages. Their work with young Christians is very exciting.

We welcome donations allocated for their work. Just check "AL International" on the website donation page or giving envelope.



Churches We
Served in 2021



2019-2021



Kansas Co-lab has crossed the finish line!

- Tithing increased in one church by 133%.
- One church progressed from top 50% to top 5% of churches in discipleship.
- One church increased in participation in & satisfaction with weekend services, small groups, serving the church & serving those in need through the church.
- Both churches: on average 76% of their people say their sense of oneness with God increased during COVID-19.



"The best part was the progress we made and the growth that took place. The evening celebrations were also very rewarding."

"The best part was the camaraderie with believers beyond our church walls ... unity in our purpose ... no sense of competition ... I didn't expect this between churches."

"The Overview and Wrap-up presentations were especially helpful."



100%

of Co-lab participants surveyed said they would recommend the CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP CO-LAB for other churches.

Churches We Served in 2021



AL Diversifies

On Nov. 9, 2021 in partnership with Houston Baptist University and GLO CPAs, LLP, Ascending Leaders provided a seminar on *Discipleship During a Pandemic and Beyond* in person and online to an audience of Black, White, Filipino and Latino pastors.



40% of our donors took the time to complete a lengthy survey, the most of any organization. In gratitude, we took the time to mine the results. We learned a lot.

Donor Survey July, 2021

What You Said

- The HighPoint = our most appreciated communication tool.
- Short statements, interviews, pictures, & stats are best.
- Hearing from us once per month is preferable.
- You have a clear sense of our mission & can see that lives are being changed (thank you!), but you'd appreciate more specifics on how your gifts are used to accomplish our mission.

What We Are Doing

- HighPoint production will increase to 4 this year.
- No more long articles in HighPoints!
- With a few exceptions, donors will receive just 1 update/month
- Expect clearer descriptions of how and where your mission support is distributed.

Thanks for Contributing to Improvement!

SUPERSIZED, Indeed! Giving Tuesday & Year End Success

	2021	2020
Amount Given	\$106,155	\$98,500
% Donors returned from previous year	82%	81.5%
% NEW Donors returned from previous year	70%	53%

The Difference Your Gifts Made

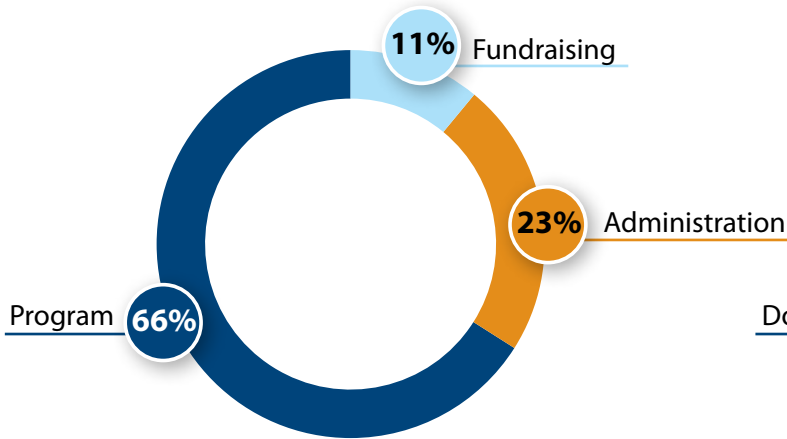
- 1 Paid all 2021 year-end costs of ministry.
- 2 Topped off a solid cash reserve for any rainy days in 2022.
- 3 Raised sufficient funds to hire a part-time Church Recruiter in 2022.

Churches We Served in 2021

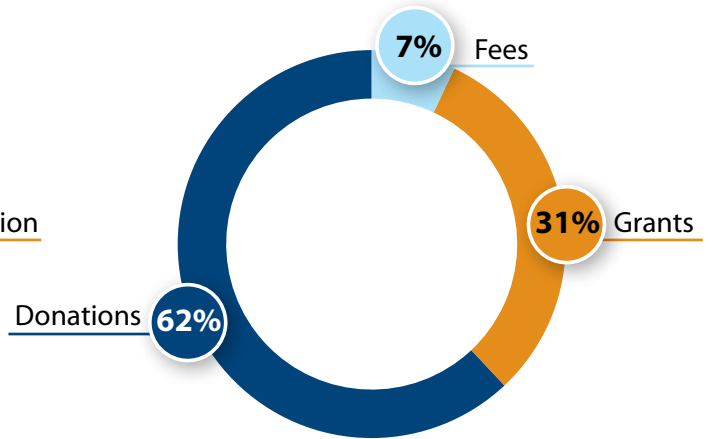


You Kept Us Moving Forward

Costs of 2021 Ministry



2021 Funding Sources



Transparency is important:

Visit ascendingleaders.org/transparency to see our reviews and recommendations



Become a sustaining donor in 2022!

Through monthly or quarterly donations, help us be there for churches whenever they need us. Spreading your annual donation over 12 months strengthens the impact of AL.

70% of 2020 new donors returned in 2021, compared to the national avg. of 20%

PPP loans received in 2020 and 2021 were FORGIVEN!

- Allowed each of our staff to continue working without their jobs or hours in jeopardy.
- Allowed us to keep building a strong ministry to serve more churches.

He is Risen

Churches We Served in 2021

