



MARCUS BIESCHKE

MY CORE CONVICTION

My steely resolve is to energetically apply my gifts to build the Church... the way God intended. The Body of Christ is intended to be a living, dynamic movement, not a monument. That's why I'm devoting my life to leading and feeding a church and nurturing a team of leaders in the pursuit of re-architecting the Body of Christ to be the revolutionary, redemptive, life-changing, world-transforming force it was intended to be.

PUBLICATIONS

- **"Carpe Mañana: How Strong Leadership Can Seize the Future Today"** in *Leadership Advance Online* (Jan 2005)
- **"What's In(novative) with Preaching? Revolutionary Innovations in Proclaiming Truth"** in *Leadership Advance Online* (May 2005)
- **"Dancing & Dust: Five Values of Effective Succession Planning"** in *Leadership Advance Online* (Winter 2006)

FORMAL EDUCATION

- **HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL**
Program for Leadership Development (AKA "Rapid-Fire MBA") (2019)
Leading Product Innovation (2017)
Launching New Ventures (2016)
Competitive Decision-Making (2015)
Strategic Negotiations (2014)
Crisis Management Alumni Program (2020)
HBS Alumnus as of Feb 2019
- **REGENT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
Doctor of Strategic Leadership
Summa Cum Laude (2005)
Award for Leadership Excellence (2006)
- **DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**
Masters of Theology
Magna Cum Laude (2001)
Emphasis: Pastoral Leadership & Expository Preaching
J. Ellwood Evans Award for Pastoral Leadership
H.A. Ironside Award for Expository Preaching
- **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO**
Bachelor's of Arts (1993)
Major: English; Pre-Law
Minor: Philosophy
- **TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP COACHING CERTIFICATION** (2007-2008)

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SPIRITUAL GIFTING

Preaching/Teaching

Leadership

Faith

ASSESSMENT INDICATORS

MBTI: ENTJ

DISC: High D with a secondary High I

Enneagram: 8 with a 7 Wing

StrengthsFinder 2.0:

Futuristic, Input, Relator, Learner, Belief

Working Genius: Galvanizing, Invention

Love Languages:

Quality Time, Words of Affirmation

PERSONAL CORE VALUES

Family

Impact

Incarnational Ministry

Movement

Learning

To access the full online resume, including clips of Marcus' teaching and references, please scan the QR code:



MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

NEOSPARKS CONSULTING

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT (Jan 2020 to Present)

Inspiring church and nonprofit leaders and teams to achieve the zenith of their organization's redemptive potential. For more details, see neosparksconsulting.com. (Also be sure to check out the Blog page for a virtual treasure chest of new ideas that will help you shape your own theology and practice of innovation.)

FOUNDATIONS CHURCH

LEAD PASTOR (Aug 2021 to June 2022)

I was called into this role with the mandate to help this young multisite church reorient and realign toward a discipleship focus as Phase 2 of a "bridge transition" succession process. During my tenure, the church experienced greater overall health, deepening impact, rebounding attendance, and growing generosity—even mid- and post-pandemic. However, despite my best efforts to process the tensions typical to the complexities of such a succession, we parted ways due to misalignment of strategic direction.

CHIEF OF STAFF (Aug 2020 to Aug 2021)

As a Phase 1 on-ramp toward succession into the Lead Pastor role, I provided senior strategic and pastoral leadership, coordination, and direction to Foundations Church including its staff team, ministries, and volunteer leaders. This included ministry oversight of all staff and ministry directors, multisite direction, leading the churchwide StratOp processes, team building and development, culture architecture, change management, COVID-19 crisis response, donor development, and weekend teaching.

WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

EXECUTIVE TEAM (Dec 2018 to Dec 2019)

Provided point leadership over all of Willow Creek through overall strategic and directional decision-making, including rearchitecting the culture and systems following Bill Hybels' sudden resignation and the ensuing crisis.

WILLOW CRYSTAL LAKE

LEAD PASTOR (June 2008 to Dec 2019)

The lion's-share of my energies at Willow's largest and most family-centric regional location went to setting overall strategy and direction, teaching, maximizing staff health and engagement, donor discipleship, and leading WCL's staff, key volunteers, and core to be a redemptive force for Christ in our community where the home is the epicenter of spiritual formation (Dt 6:5-9). During my tenure, WCL more than doubled in size, requiring us to grow our staff, start new services, plant another church, and, ultimately, oversee the acquisition of a 200k sf permanent home on a 25-acre property, including point-leading an \$18 million campaign and design-build process.

WILLOW HUNTLEY

LAUNCH PASTOR (Sept 2010 to Jan 2012)

Architecting and overseeing the launch of Willow's 1st grandchild in Huntley, IL included raising funds, locating venue, hiring staff, building core, recruiting volunteer teams, developing donor base, and, ultimately, finding, training and transitioning senior leadership to WH's new Lead Pastor. Willow Huntley is now a thriving local church with over 2200 strong each weekend.

CATALYST OF McHENRY COUNTY

LEADERSHIP TEAM (June 2008 to 2014)

Offering leadership to this highly collaborative group of 40-some local churches to manifest the Body of Christ as a unified Bride through coordinated, synergistic relationships and efforts to have deep and lasting impact in our communities for the sake of Christ.

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE, cont.

VIRGINIA BEACH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

LEAD PASTOR (May 2005 to June 2008)

In addition to weekly preaching, vision-casting, and mentoring at this established Bible church, I channeled my gifting to cultivate an outward-focused but spiritually-rich culture of learning, leadership development, volunteerism, and missional community. Providing oversight to the Pastoral Team during an organizational refocusing process toward greater spiritual transformation, we designed and launched leadership development programs for existing and potential elders, rebuilt staff hiring processes, initiated a team-based small groups-driven incarnational outreach ministry, and strengthened the process of membership.

PASTOR OF STRATEGY & DISCIPLESHIP (June 2002 to May 2005)

Involved leading the Elder Leadership Team through values and mission discovery, visioneering, strategic planning via scenario-building, vision casting via team preaching with the Senior Pastor, supervising the Pastoral Staff, elder and staff evaluation, catalyzing organizational revitalization (including staff restructuring), and developing a new team-based small groups ministry.

REGENT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GUEST PROFESSOR (Sept 2006)

Taught an interactive seminar on Creativity, Innovation & Futuring during the DSL Doctoral Residency.

THE RADLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

BOARD MEMBER & STRATEGY DIRECTOR (2004 to 2008)

Working closely with the founders of this non-for-profit board, my duties included formulating the foundation's values, mission, vision, and strategy, assessing grant proposals from numerous international ministries, connecting God's resources to God's people doing God's work, and seeking to network ministries whose need, resources, and vision intersected.

THE MALPHURS GROUP

EAST COAST CONSULTANT (2001 to 2005)

Equipped church leaders through consultation on Leadership Development, Church in Emerging Culture Issues, Team Building, Futuring, Creativity and Innovation, Church Planting, Church Revitalization, Church Growth, Core Values, Mission, Vision, and Strategy.

VIRGINIA CHURCH CONSORTIUM

CONSORTIUM TEAM LEADER (2004 to 2005)

Helping to lead the synergistic efforts of 9 sister churches in VA's Hampton Roads area, my contributions included values discovery, mission and vision development, leadership conference planning, and coordinating partnerships in world missions, church planting, and local outreach.

WEST HAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & ADMINISTRATION (2000 to 2002)

My contributions in this established church involved creating and managing various ministries such as evangelism, discipleship, small groups, young marrieds, guest connection, and a progressive worship service which included service planning and weekly preaching. When the Senior Pastor resigned a few months after my arrival, I became the Acting Senior Pastor which then also included pastoral counseling, hospital visitation, strategic planning, and supervision of all staff.

NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL (Chicago)

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN (1995 to 1996)

BAYLOR HOSPITAL (Dallas)

ER & ICU HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN (1999 to 2000)