Letter from Pastor Ken

If you or I were in need of heart or brain surgery, neither of us would want the surgeon who just finished the classroom portion of their education. We would want the surgeon who had some experience and successes under his/her belt; the one who had grown under the watchful eye of a seasoned teacher/leader.

Many of the men and women I graduated with from college or seminary are no longer in ministry today, for a variety of reasons. I believe, in part, many were not prepared for life on the “front line.” They either had a bad experience and never fully recovered, or they never actually reached their maximum potential as a leader. I’ve seen numerous young people from my congregations sense God’s call to full-time ministry service. I know they will be adequately prepared to interpret and teach scripture upon their graduation from college or graduate school, but I often wonder if they are really “ready.”

I was sharing the dream of our NEXT WAVE Internship Program with a doctor friend of mine and he said, “Oh, sounds like you are creating a teaching church, just like we have teaching hospitals; sounds like a smart idea.” On a much smaller level, that is exactly what we are creating.

My passion is to provide an internship experience that will allow healthy ministry DNA to be taught in a real-life lab context. I want to provide the opportunity for students to learn through observation, interact with ministry principles in action, and have hands-on experience in a variety of ministry settings and sizes... all within the context of a carefully controlled environment. My goal is to maximize potential for success while minimizing the potential for failure, in the hopes that healthy growth and learning will take place.

Since the year 2000, I have been the lead pastor of Cypress Wesleyan Church in Columbus, Ohio, and I have seen God do great things as we continue to grow in our weekend worship services. I have experience in church planting where a dream of mine began with approximately 60 people and, with God’s favor, grew to over 400 in just two years. I’ve also been the lead pastor in a church of 150 people and witnessed God at work in that congregation as it grew to approximately 250 attendees over a two-year period.

I feel part of my call is to prepare the next generation for success in leadership and life in ministry. There have been countless people who have poured into my life and helped shape the man, the leader, and the pastor I am today. I am looking for a few sharp men and women who are eager to learn and be a part of something big for the Kingdom of God.

I pray you can sense my heart’s desire and motivation behind our NEXT WAVE initiative. This brochure will answer more specifics of the program. If you have any questions or are ready to apply, visit our website, CypressChurch.tv.

Ken Murphy
Sr. Pastor, Cypress Church
Overview

TIME FRAME
Options
- Summer Internship
- Semester Internship
- 12 months (residential)

COMPENSATION
A weekly stipend is intended to assist with normal expenditures (food, entertainment, minor expenses).

HOUSING
Housing is provided as part of the compensation package. We aim to partner a church family with the students for short-term housing. Safe, clean, and comfortable accommodations are ensured.

CREDIT
The Internship/Residency will be for (or qualify for) college credit, based on the requirements of each individual university.

EXPERIENCES
- All interns/residents will be exposed to healthy small, medium, and large church systems, allowing them to see the differences and to work creatively through each of the systems. We know that ministry calling and placement can be very diverse in context and ministry backdrops.
- All interns/residents will be exposed to every ministry department at Cypress, enabling them to experience the holistic nature of ministry preparation and team synergy.
- The final aspect of the internship/residency will be for each intern to work specifically in the department of their ministry calling or giftedness (music, children, youth, pastoral, sports, etc.) to gain more hands-on and in-depth experience.

Selection Process
After you have applied online, the selection process will be twofold:
First, we will ask the school to make sound recommendations for the students who apply for the internships/residencies. Second, applicants will participate in a short interview and assessment process with the Director of Next Wave. We will strive to help students get to a place where they will "Fit and Flourish."

After the selection is made, an email will be sent along with a general information package. This will include a list of expectations, a conduct policy, and an initial assignment; it will also be used to gather pertinent information.

What to Expect
- Weekly teaching times with the experienced and high-quality staff of Cypress
- Skill development sessions in areas of specific calling and giftedness
- Experiences in the diversity of church size and structure (small, medium, and large)
- Teaching times and discovery times with Lead Pastor Ken Murphy
- Hands-on experience: leading projects, teaching, and creative planning
- A HIGH energy and fun atmosphere for reaching people for Jesus