



# Spokane Impact Association

A draft proposal on the means of achieving ministry unity in the work of healing the brokenness of people within our community



# Introduction

Spokane area businesses, social services and ministries have felt for years that the Lord has had His hand on Spokane, desiring to accomplish something incredibly special. The consensus by many is that the Lord would provide the means of uniting organizations in spirit and in the work of healing the brokenness of people, providing the full and complete impact that only can be accomplished through such a joint effort. Jesus was clear on this desire as indicated in His final prayer to His Father just prior to the cross. Having done some research on this subject, Jarvis Williams, an associate professor of New Testament Interpretations at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author, writes that unity within the church best represents the love of God and the world fails to see our love for Jesus when disunity is present. He further writes that unity is not intended to represent people's agreement on every subject but rather a patient pursuit of harmony among His disciples for the good of the church by glorifying our Lord and the salvation of sinners. From these discoveries, we can conclude that everyone holds on to their own code of attitudes and beliefs that may differ from others, and that unity requires a higher platform of focus that centers on Christ and the work we must do together in fulfilling the great commission of making disciples of all mankind. Such disciples are made whole in every aspect of the Christian life.

This portfolio outlines the means to do our part, as community members, to accomplish the task of unity. The premise of what the unity of ministries could do within our community is as follows:

- A. Demonstrate to those people both inside and outside of the church that Christ's love for them is real, powerful, and available equally from many denominational sources, leading to their salvation.
- B. The combined efforts of many organizations equate to one common and powerful voice of education and direction for our city to support in healing the brokenness of people.
- C. The combined experience of many ministries brings higher intellect on how best to bring people to wholeness. By the contributions of many, this association can arrive at a comprehensive platform defining each of the categories of need that people may have and how best to provide for their restoration.

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- D. Each of the participating organizations represents a key and valuable role for meeting the challenge of restoration and, by such organizations working together and collaborating their progress, broken people can be tracked, monitored, and coached to wholeness.
- E. A team effort having a common identity and purpose always represents the most efficient design for accomplishment, utilizing resources the best way possible.
- F. One united body of organizations working together creates higher impact, resulting in a much more significant manner to attract and maintain funding sources.
- G. The organizations working within this charter become better known to one another, strengthening themselves and becoming a great prayer team, regularly conducting prayer for the seven mountains of community.

The means to attain this required unity is to implement an association of organizations entitled "Spokane Impact."

## Why an Association?

As a fan of simplicity, I always advocate the least amount of organizational structure as long as the job gets done. I believe that this viewpoint allows for more attention to outcome rather than setup.

Early on, the fewer organizations involved the quicker the progress will be toward testing our methodology and making improvements. While we begin with a simple framework for an association that will meet the needs of our opening cast of players, more structure to the association will come as an ever-increasing number of organizations learn of our success and desire to become part of the team. As I have experienced, there is no better source of creating interest than success.

The reason for creating an association is that it allows for the following:

- A. Members to keep their autonomy, individual community service and not be challenged over their attitudes and beliefs.
- B. The concept of an association allows for its own charter to be implemented that better represents the whole body of members as a united entity dedicated to an ongoing cause that is often much bigger than any one member can accomplish on their own.
- C. An association becomes the governing body to help maintain the harmony, progress, and agreed to focus of its members.
- D. The association represents to the community the common voice of its members.
- E. The association leads in the collection of data and information, organizes it, and disseminates it to all interested parties.
- F. The association organizes member meetings and presides over their administration and delivery.
- G. The term “association” is fitting as the intended work to be completed is ongoing by its members and manages a number of different topics. A “coalition” is more temporary and single-minded in purpose by its members.

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## Why an Association?

- H. It should be remembered that the association leadership will be decided upon by its founding members and should represent a fair cross section of personnel from its membership. Such structure will allow for the best interests of its membership to be represented and their work to represent maximum impact.
- I. The association leadership would keep its members updated on all pertinent information, maintain the proper status of its members, organize meetings, gather and circulate required data, and be the key contact for inquiring members, potential member organizations and the community at large.
- J. An association will allow for the agreed on number of meetings each year that will provide an organized time of prayer, and to establish and deliver agendas fitting for that scheduled period of time.

# Association Charter

A charter of an association is a written instrument that defines the roles, rights and expectation of individual members and the whole of the association. A draft proposal of the Spokane Impact Association charter is...

*Spokane Impact is a formal association of organizations that each serve a unique and valued role in the restoration of broken families and people within the community. While member organizations are made up of many denominations and may hold differing ideals, the bond that binds them within the association is the paramount commitment to one God under one faith who requires the rescue, renewal and restoration of orphans and widows, standing for people who have inherited life tragedies and are unable to resolve their own life crisis. Members of the Spokane Impact Association agree with the following membership requirements:*

- A. Members have a mutual respect, realizing that each play a different role and are equally focused on their combined efforts to coach and support people back to wholeness.*
- B. Members are dedicated to their Lord Jesus Christ and to sharing the good news of His redemptive salvation.*
- C. By their experience and resulting expertise, members are committed to the development and delivery of education by the association to interested parties on how best to solve all poverty related subjects.*
- D. Members will cooperate in the development of defining poverty related platforms that will include the best possible remedy for each.*
- E. By the collaborative efforts of its members, the Spokane Impact Association best utilizes the resources made available to them by community members and governing authorities toward the elimination of people's brokenness.*
- F. Members will meet regularly to assess community needs, evaluate their progress, improve their means of service, work in a cooperative manner with other community entities and governing authorities, and report their progress on a regular basis.*
- G. Members will have at least one appointed primary and secondary person from within their organization to participate in all association and or related committee meetings.*

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# Association Charter

- H. Members are granted a three-year membership upon the approval of the association directors. Membership and renewal of memberships requires the successful completion of the membership application and evaluation by the association's directors. Members are subject to the evaluation of their charter compliance conducted by the association directors that may result in written notification of required corrective action concerning validated non-compliance issues and, if not brought back into compliance, may result in the members termination of membership.*
- I. While funding of the association will be minimal, any costs incurred to conduct the business of the association will be paid for proportionally by the members on a quarterly basis.*

Please note that this proposed charter is extensive and will need to be considered for full adoption as the association grows in membership. Early on, and with only a few member organizations, a far less formal charter would be necessary. Please recall my earlier statement concerning the need for more structure as membership grows.

# Association Directors Charter

The Spokane Impact Association will be managed by an elected group of individuals, each belonging to at least one approved association member organization. Their term will be for three years, with re-election available. Their nomination will come from any approved member organization and their selection will be based upon a vote by all member organizations, with each organization able to cast a total of 3 votes. There will be a minimum of three elected directors, with no more than one director from each member organization.

The service requirements of the association directors are outlined in the following charter:

- A. *Association directors shall be willing and committed to following each of the defined requirements of the members charter.*
- B. *Directors primary role is to manage the necessary administrative support required to operate the association. This shall include, but not be limited to...*

- ◇ *The scheduling of association meetings.*
- ◇ *Setting the agenda for each association meeting.*
- ◇ *Securing the meeting location, the necessary equipment to support the meeting attendees and presenters, and food and beverage.*
- ◇ *Maintaining an up-to-date contact listing of all active members.*
- ◇ *Providing the necessary communications with the membership body to keep them informed and ready to participate.*
- ◇ *Manage the process of membership standings.*
- ◇ *To be first contact by any outside organization or interested party.*
- ◇ *Establish and maintain necessary records and files.*
- ◇ *To take minutes for each meeting.*

- C. *Directors can attain assistance from member personnel.*

It should be noted that the concept of managing the association by a body of directors will most likely work well early on. As the association grows, there most likely will be the need to have elected officers. At some future date, consideration of incorporating the association may come to the table. The Way of Business is currently corporately established to allow the Spokane Impact Association to operate under its umbrella.



# Association Membership Application

1. Name of Organization:
2. Organization Mailing Address:
3. Organization Street Address (If different):
4. Executive Director/President/CEO
Phone:
Email:
5. Primary Participant:
Phone:
Email:
6. Alternate Participant:
Phone:
Email:
7. Description of Services Provided:
8. Date of Application:
9. Signature: (Note that your signature indicates your organizations agreed to compliance with the Spokane Impact Association Membership Charter.)

Please note that the above outline of application is only intended to represent those subject areas requiring completion by the applicant organization. Once the final content is developed, a final rendition will be designed for both hard copy and electronic use.