
JOHN H. SPURLING

33 Grantham Estates Drive, Wentzville, MO 63385

Digital Portfolio: docjohnspurling.com

817.475.5753 johnspurling4@gmail.com

Professional Objective

Seasoned Senior Level Pastor and Educator with 35+ years of ministry experience as a visionary leader who knows how to communicate God's Word with transformative impact, develop people and nurture a healthy church culture. I desire to serve a dynamic church where I can make an important contribution to the church's ongoing impact and growth. I am a passionate leader who thrives on making disciples, communicating for life change, developing dynamic leaders, building strong team collaboration, implementing the strategic visionary plan, and finding innovative solutions to complex challenges.



Education

Doctor of Ministry – Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA

(Degree in Organizational Leadership)

Master of Divinity - AGTS, Springfield, MO

(Graduated with academic honors)

M.A. in Strategic Leadership - Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA

B.A. in Biblical Studies - Evangel University, Springfield, MO

(Graduated magna cum laude)

Leadership Experience

Executive Pastor of Ministries, Element Church, (August 2023– Present)
Wentzville, MO

Serve on the Executive Team with responsibilities to provide oversight, leadership, and ministry engagement across the spectrum of church ministries including all Discipleship/Equipping, Connections/Assimilation, Children, Youth, Volunteers, Leadership Development, Marriage & Family, Stewardship, etc. Element Church is a non-denominational church located in the western suburbs of St. Louis with three campuses and a weekly attendance of 4,100. I also serve as a Teaching Pastor.

Founder/CEO, TransformU Leadership Services, (August 2020– Present)
Wentzville, MO

A multi-faceted consultation, executive coaching, training, and resourcing company designed to walk alongside senior leaders in non-profit and church settings. Utilizing 30 years of leadership experience, **TransformU Leadership Services** provides proven strategic planning and organizational development success to guide leaders and organizations through critical growth challenges. With expertise in developing innovative equipping platforms, "systems" process, design planning, problem-solving, communication skills, and leadership development, **TransformU** provides important support for global leadership. Critical in this process is aligning every aspect of the organization around producing measurable movement toward fulfilling a clear organizational mission and achievable outcomes.

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Primary services offered include:

- Developing Spiritual Formation/Equipping/Discipleship Strategies
- Creating Pathways for Church Onboarding and Volunteer Ministry Involvement
- Providing Executive Coaching (small groups and individual)
- Guiding Strategic Planning Process and Staff Leadership Development
- Leveraging Technological Innovation
- Coaching Leaders in Effective Preaching & Teaching

Executive Director/Professor of Strategic Leadership & Innovation (July 2018 – June 2020) Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL

Until June of 2020, I served as the Executive Director for Strategic Leadership & Innovation at Southeastern University. My position functioned within the Graduate, Unrestricted Education department. When the full impact of COVID-19 was being felt across university campuses nationwide, SEU immediately released over 70 staff and faculty. As someone who was relatively new at SEU (and with a comparatively large salary), I was part of their cost saving staff reduction efforts.

- SEU is a growing Christian university with over 9,000 students enrolled.
- Developed multiple strategically aligned, innovative, educational projects to advance quality leader development within various church and non-profit organizations.
- Focused on extending the resources and assets of the university to business leaders and church staffs, primarily through non-degree seeking opportunities.
- Responsible for developing a new Regional Executive Master's Program in Strategic Leadership. These executive level cohorts launched in several locations around the country.
- Taught several graduate level courses in Strategic Leadership, Spiritual Formation, Preaching & Teaching to Change Lives, and other practical ministry topics.

Associate Senior Pastor (January 2005 to June 2017) Gateway Church, Southlake, TX

- Served as a member of the 'Senior Leadership Team' and participated in all significant aspects of guiding the church from an average weekend attendance of 2,200 to over 32,500.
- Functioned in a senior leadership role encompassing a full-time staff of 850+ people and a part-time staff of over 2,100, with an annual operating budget of \$142 million.
- Provided extensive contributions to national and international leadership training projects and provided extensive coaching to leaders.
- Created, wrote curriculum, and taught our comprehensive multi-campus spiritual formation and volunteer service pathway (Gateway Adventure) with over 12,200 church participants.
- Developed all equipping and spiritual formation ministries on 7 campuses in DFW Metroplex with over 9,000 active participants and six equipping tracks.
- Created and led effective staff development training.
- Engaged in frequent speaking opportunities.

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President (March 2014 to July 2017)

The King's University, Van Nuys, CA and Southlake, TX

Primary duties included: As chief executive officer, I worked with the Board of Trustees to confirm the strategic vision for the university, communicate the vision to all internal and external constituencies, and secured needed resources to accomplish all strategic goals. As the administrative leader of the university, I exercised general authority over, and supervised the operations of, all departments, members of the faculty, administrative officers, other employees, and the student body. I also provided extensive monthly and semi-annual reports to the Board of Trustees on all operations, academic development, accreditation, student-centered engagement, and pertinent matters consistent with the mission, vision, and direction of the university.

Accomplishments included:

- Successfully moved main campus operations from Southern California to Texas.
- Lead and supported our multi-campus system with nine adult learning extension locations in four states, plus one international location in Hong Kong.
- Effectively identified, hired, and lead a healthy staff of over 100 employees.
- Increased overall university enrollment by 64% with a total of 867 ministry students.
- Implemented an advanced Distance Education learning platform for all online students.
- Recognized as a “Top 15 Online Education Program” for private Christian universities.
- Taught several leadership/pastoral ministry courses at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level.
- Directed annual budget of over \$27 million that was financially sound, exercised high competency, was fiscally responsible across all departments and functioned “in the black”.

Provost/Chief Operating Officer (2012 to 2014)

The King's University, Van Nuys, CA and Southlake, TX

Primary Duties Included: As both Provost and COO, I was responsible for all day-to-day administrative decision-making for the university. I exercised authority over all staffing, financial, academic, and facility decisions on nine campuses nationally and one international campus (Hong Kong). I was also responsible for consistent reporting to the non-resident President and Board of Trustees. As chief academic officer I was responsible for all matters pertaining to proper academic accreditation reporting, student success, and the overall quality of the educational experience.

Additional Leadership Positions:

Senior Pastor (2001 – 2004)

First Assembly, Colleyville, TX

Chair of Practical Theology Dept. / Professor of Leadership & Organizational Health (1997 – 2001)

AGTS, Springfield, MO

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- Chaired Practical Theology dept. and increased department credit hours sold by 110%
- Partnered in establishing the Doctor of Ministry degree program.
- Served as member of the newly formed Doctor of Ministry staff.
- Taught dozens of graduate classes and eleven doctoral classes while at the seminary.
- Designed and achieved ATS approval for new Master of Christian Ministries degree.
- Successfully participated in achieving 10-year ATS accreditation reaffirmation.

Founding Partner, Leadership Development Resources, LLC (1998 – 2003)

- Co-founded a successful resource and consulting business that served several hundred churches in the United States and thousands of churches worldwide.
- Created denomination-wide discipleship and equipping resource call “We Build People”, that was also translated into 27 languages.

Senior Pastor, (1995 – 1997)

Harvest Chapel, Yorkville, IL

Sr. Associate Pastor, (1992 – 1995)

First Assembly, Bakersfield, CA

Student/Athlete Career

Evangel University

- Lettered in Football (4 Years).
- President’s Award winner (Given to student athlete with highest GPA).
- Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

Sample Speaking/Teaching/Commencement Video Excerpts

NOTE: To view a small collection of speaking samples please visit my digital portfolio at: docjohnspurling.com

Personality Profiles

StrengthsFinder 2.0 Top 5 Signature Themes:

- Learner, Achiever, Strategic, Relator, Belief

References

Available upon request...