

INTRODUCTION

Think what a local church would be like if its people were radically devoted to Christ, irrevocably committed to each other, and relentlessly dedicated to reaching outside of God's family with the gospel of Christ.

It would be a church against which the gates of Hell could not prevail. It would be an unstoppable force for good in the community, an inspiration to other churches, and a testimony to God's unfailing grace.

That's the goal of the Willow Creek Association UK & Ireland - to help church leaders like you build churches like that.

Bill Hybels
Founding & Senior Pastor
Willow Creek Community Church



PURPOSE

Our purpose is
to help local churches
reach unchurched people
and assist them
to become fully devoted followers
of Jesus Christ.



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THE WCA STORY

It all began in 1975 when Bill Hybels and a small group of people felt called to start a different type of church. A church aimed at people far from God - a place where they could come, not feel judged and where biblical truths would be applied to daily problems in a relevant and accessible style.

The word of its impact spread and church leaders across the US and the world started to ask for advice. The demand led to a separate organisation - the Willow Creek Association - formed to share a vision for the local church and encourage leaders with practical training and resources. In 1992, there were 200 churches signed up as members from 50 denominations. There are now over 12,000 member churches in 35 countries representing 90 denominations.

In 1991 a small group of UK church leaders caught the vision for Willow Creek's approach and held the first of several conferences in June 1992. Since then, thousands of UK & Irish church leaders and volunteers have benefitted from WCA's inspirational events.

Since its introduction in 1994, WCA UK & Ireland membership has steadily risen to 1000 members providing a range of benefits, training opportunities and resources to help leaders build prevailing churches.



SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Association in the UK and Ireland exists to serve the local church. Our vision is that each church would reach its God-given potential. Our mission is to envision, equip and encourage leaders by providing conferences, resources and building networks of like-minded people.

Membership is at the heart of what we are about. Members receive monthly information on training and resources, a monthly leadership audio resource dealing with a significant church issue, a quarterly Leadership publication and a range of discounts on events and resources.

Members are also invited to conferences on a range of ministry subjects held in the UK, Ireland and the US.

Training courses are also run for those churches wanting to implement courses on volunteerism, gifts, evangelism, spiritual formation and stewardship.

Our mission is to serve you as a church leader to the utmost of our ability.



RESOURCES

Willow Creek has a wide array of resources that help churches reach seekers and minister to believers.

Resource by Type

Conferences & Training, Curriculum, Manuals, Bible Studies, Books, Conference Resources, Membership Benefits, Website Downloads & Leadership Forum, Willow Creek Messages

Resources by Ministry

Arts, Children, Evangelism, Leadership, Small Groups, Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Gifts, Stewardship, Teaching & Preaching, Youth



What they've said...

'*Network*...the best tool I have found for moving people from drudgery to delight in their service for the Lord.'

'*Living Beyond Myself* is a huge gift to any local church... Just watch your members rise to the privilege of serving their community by unleashing the power of kindness... awesome!'

'*Just Walk Across the Room* is going down here a storm. People just love it and find it is freeing them from years of guilt about how they witness.'

'The teaching on the Willow Creek tapes expresses a vision of what church could, and should, be like. *Tape of the Month* has been an invaluable life-line. The teaching is first class, enthusiastic and inspirational.'

'The *Journeys* course is excellent. We use it as a pre-Alpha course to generate increased spiritual awareness and to encourage people to recognise that Christianity is relationship and not religion.'



TRAINING

Our goal is to assist church leaders to train their congregations for the work of the ministry and equip them to reach the unchurched. All course materials include leaders manuals and details on how to implement the training.

Workshops

We offer workshops on the different aspects of church ministry covered by the WCA training materials. WCA Accredited Trainers are also available to provide consultation or to come and run courses at your church.

Examples of Training Resources

Children's Ministry - *Promiseland*

Evangelism - *Becoming a Contagious Christian*

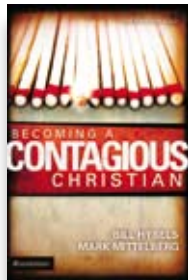
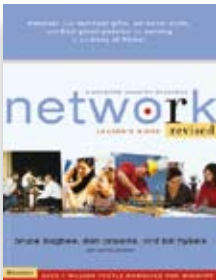
Leadership - *Defining Moments & Summit Team Edition DVDs*

Spiritual Disciplines - *An Ordinary Day with Jesus*

Spiritual Gifts & Service - *Network*

Stewardship - *Good Sense*

Volunteerism - *Living Beyond Myself*



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

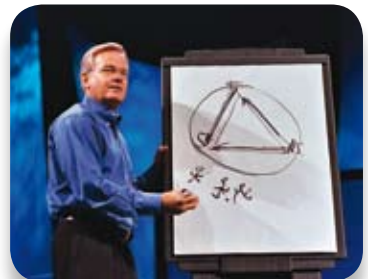
Building into the lives of church leaders is simply “a must” for the WCA. Bill Hybels puts our leadership agenda this way: ‘The local church is the hope of the world, and its future rests primarily in the hands of its leaders.’

WCA is committed to providing yearly leadership training events with top-level practitioners, plus quality materials for personal and team development.

We emphasise the importance of leadership teams attending events together in order to gain maximum benefit for their church.

WCA members enjoy a monthly 60-minute *Defining Moments* audio journal with Bill Hybels and other Christian leaders. Each journal tackles probing questions relating to a specific aspect of ministry life.

An online forum is available to WCA members to link with like-minded leaders and share ideas.



CONFERENCES

Willow Creek conferences are a source of inspiration and challenge. They envision, equip and encourage local church leaders in a variety of ministry fields.

WCA Conferences in the UK & Ireland

Live Events: Willow Creek faculty and other notable speakers travel across Europe regularly to conduct conferences and seminars.

Videocast Events: WCA UK & Ireland makes a big investment in partnership with WCA member churches to bring the world-class training of the 'Leadership Summit' available via videocast. We encourage leadership teams to invest in this premier event annually which is designed to be affordable and accessible in multiple locations.

WCA Conferences - Chicago

Each year teams from around the world attend conferences held at the Willow Creek Community Church - an inspiring experience for all and highly recommended.

International delegates receive special rates which include up to 8 nights accommodation with a Willow family.

The Leadership Summit held in August each year is proving to be a life-changing experience for many church leaders and "a must" to attend.



What they've said...

'Inspiring and helpful, Nancy held our attention all day with her honest, funny and real knowledge of leading an arts team.'

UK Arts Conference with Nancy Beach, Willow Creek

'A deeply thought-provoking day with important wisdom... its presentation was timely, humorous and challenging...'

UK Leadership Conference with US Pastor & Author Gordon MacDonald

'... another fantastic conference. The speakers were great, the topics spot on and being there with my fellow leadership team helped us to apply the principles to our church.'

UK Global Leadership Summit videocast

'The trip to Willow Creek was for me inspirational. The way we were served was outstanding. The facilities were obviously very impressive but what spoke more was the deep commitment of everyone we met to fulfil the vision of the Church.'

Willow Creek US Conference



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

WCA UK & Ireland is an exciting organisation. In addition to being part of a community of like-minded leaders who share a passion to reach seekers and build believers, WCA members also enjoy the following benefits:

Resources

A monthly *Defining Moments* audio journal for church leaders covering a church leadership issue.

Subscription to the quarterly *Leadership Journal* magazine published by *Christianity Today*.

Subscription to the quarterly *Willow* leadership magazine

20% off Willow Creek Resources (e.g. books, DVDs, kits)

75% off message & drama transcripts from WCA-US.

Online Members Area featuring forum, articles and free downloads.

Events

20% discount on Willow Creek Conferences and Seminars.

Special rates for WCA-US events.



What they've said...

"I have never felt so affirmed and energised in my 25 year ministry than through our relationship with the Willow Creek Association. Their resources are biblically based, culturally relevant and practically orientated. The growth we have seen in the ministry at Virginia Water in recent years is directly attributable by God's Grace and to the Willow Creek resources and strategies we have embraced and implemented."

Rev. Stephen Sizer, Christ Church Virginia Water

"Being part of the Willow Creek Association has been a fundamental factor in the growth of our church. The support is wholehearted, the resources outstanding and sheer enthusiasm is contagious. It is great to belong!"

Pastor John Kearns, Old Roan Baptist Church, Aintree

"If the focus of your ministry is concern for reaching out to lost people, watching them grow to maturity in Christ, being built up in their faith, and reaching the next generation for Christ, then I would say join the WCA because whatever your theological background there are people there who are passionately concerned for the same thing as you are. And through the resources, the training, the friendship, and the personal care that I've experienced, I don't know a better organisation to help make that happen."

Pastor Peter Short, Waterfront Church, Southampton



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There are two categories of membership available at present:

1. Church Membership / Individual Membership*

Annual: £59 (UK) | €109 (Ireland)

Tri-Annual: £169 (UK) | €309 (Ireland)

Church membership includes the benefits listed on page 12 with the discounts and download facilities extended to all the members of the church.

*While we try to encourage church membership, it is possible for individuals to become personal members.

2. Youth Leader Membership (Y>NET)

Annual: £29 (UK) | €55 (Ireland)

Y>NET members receive the same discounts listed on page 12 plus three subscriptions:

Youthwork magazine published by *Christianity*

Willow Creek's Youth Resource Website *THE NET*

Defining Moments audio journal

Three Ways To Apply

Online at www.willowcreek.org.uk

By phone 023 8071 0295 | 0845 1300 909

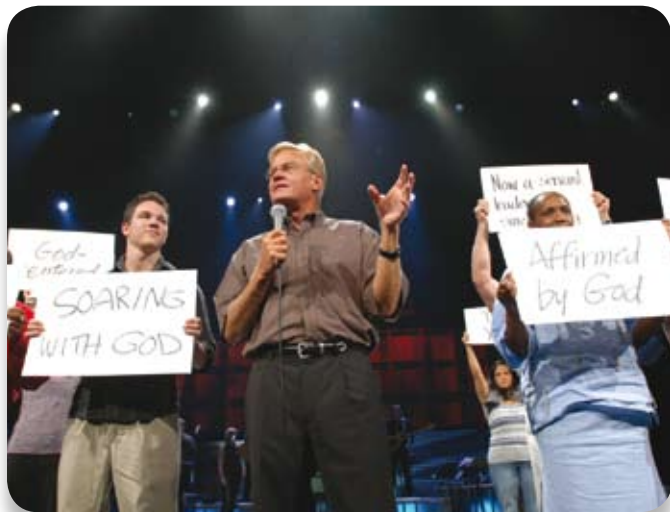
Enclosed application form (if provided with this booklet)

WCA UK & Ireland Membership Welcome Pack

Upon receipt of your application you will be forwarded a membership pack. This will include your membership number which will make available all the member benefits to you.



REACHING SEEKERS | BUILDING BELIEVERS



MAKING THE MOST OF MEMBERSHIP

There is significant value in belonging to the Willow Creek Association UK & Ireland, as you will have seen as you read this booklet. There is the real benefit of relational building with other church leaders who hold the same desires as you to see the church advancing the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

WCA UK & Ireland was formed in 1995 with the goal to establish a network of like-minded church leaders throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland who hold firmly to the value that 'lost people matter to God'.

There is no doubt that in partnership we can effect change. We are here to serve you. Our over-riding motivation and purpose is to assist you strategically in your endeavours to reach the unchurched.

We believe that as members share ideas and strategies, we will learn from each other's successes as well as mistakes, and will ultimately increase our ministry impact.

I invite you therefore to join with other outreach-orientated churches in partnership with us to accomplish this great task.

Graeme Paris
Executive Director
WCA UK & Ireland

