

CityView Church will be resigning our membership with Acts 29, effective January 1, 2024. With respect for those I have recruited into Acts 29, those I have encouraged to stay in Acts 29 and those - to whom - I have personally defended Acts 29, I believe I owe an explanation as to why we are resigning our membership. The following is an abridged statement from the CityView Elders to our members.

Rick White
Lead Pastor
CityView Church
December 29th, 2023

From Pastor Rick on behalf of the CityView Elders:

It grieves me to announce that CityView Church plans to resign our Acts 29 membership, effective January 1, 2024. Our church has spent a good portion of the last 18 years serving and giving to the cause of the Acts 29 Church Planting Network. I have personally served in various Acts 29 leadership roles for about 12 of those years, most of which were spent leading the Texas and South-Central regions.

Me and my wife Stephanie have helped assess 40+ church planters through Acts 29. Additionally, our church has hosted multiple Acts 29 church planting conferences (formerly known as boot camps). Finally, our church has contributed significant tithing dollars to the Network and to Network church plants.

To say our church has been invested in Acts 29 would be an understatement.

However, Acts 29 is not the same network our church joined in 2005. The following represents a sampling of the many reasons we are separating from the Acts 29 Network.

1. **First and foremost, it is our conviction that the current Acts 29 organizational structure is flawed and susceptible to corruption and compromise.** Per the current by-laws, Acts 29's board is a self-perpetuating entity with the current Acts 29 President (who is also the lead employee) serving as a member of the five-person board to which he reports. Curiously, Acts 29's president also has two family members that work for the Network (one as Director of Human Resources) – all three at a substantial combined financial cost to the network. Finally, and frustratingly, despite the mandate for member churches to fund the network's budget, it has been our experience that there is no meaningful mechanism for Acts 29 to be responsive to the concerns of member churches.
2. **Second, Acts 29's poor decision-making and leftward, theological drift makes member churches increasingly vulnerable by association.** During 2020, Acts 29 and several Acts 29 leaders signaled leftward positions on multiple social matters.¹ These leftward positions became flash points which served to agitate relational rifts in many churches (including ours). At present, Acts 29 has failed to acknowledge or apologize for any part played in stirring divisions in member churches during 2020. Another example: In September of this year, Acts 29 posted a poorly conceived video titled *Walking with Jesus Among our LGBTQIA+ Friends*. While I am grateful the video has since been taken down, the video was an embarrassing distraction for several days to anyone associated with Acts 29.² Finally, Acts 29 has failed to speak plainly and decisively on the matter of women preaching in Acts 29 churches. Instead of making a decisive stand based on our historical position, Acts 29 chose to create a task force and survey member churches prior to writing a "[letter on Complementarianism](#)". While the letter was ultimately unnecessary, it contains much that is commendable, yet lacked decisive clarity, signaling Acts 29's intent to continue equivocating on this matter while disregarding and disrespecting its firmly conservative members.

¹ The most egregious and public example was when Acts 29 staked an ideological position when it posted some [Racism and Racial Reconciliation resources](#). The resources were clearly skewed leftward. Acts 29 went so far as to recommend Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning* for nearly four months before finally removing that resource from the Acts 29 web site.

² You can [view a critique of the video at this link](#), which should give you an idea as to the video's content and approach. For context, Acts 29's track record in providing decisive clarity on sexual matters was already under scrutiny, given their deafening silence in reference to Acts 29 pastor, [Guy Mason's stunning comments during a sermon on transgenderism](#).

3. **Finally, we no longer believe Acts 29 helps us multiply churches.** First, it is our conviction that multiplying churches will need to be intentionally disposed towards planting with a generational mindset. We desire to partner with institutions that will be a blessing to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We do not believe Acts 29 is helpful towards these goals. Acts 29 tends to lead by pragmatism and is often captured by the whims of the moment. Second, we believe that multiplying churches will need to be heavily invested in the work of replanting and revitalization in the days ahead. While it is admirable that Acts 29 wants to keep its focus on church planting, we believe this is myopic and will produce diminishing returns as planting churches becomes increasingly difficult in our western culture. Third, Acts 29's top-heavy structure has produced diminishing returns for our church. As the Acts 29 staff and operation has grown, Acts 29 has required member churches to contribute more money, time and commitment. We do not believe these obligations have been met with substantive added benefits to our church. Finally, while being a member with Acts 29 has previously been helpful for drawing both future planters and members, it is currently rare to receive referrals via our church listing on the Acts 29 web site. This is a significant change and speaks to Acts 29's fading reputation as a trusted "brand" in the larger evangelical landscape.

In conclusion, our church has been incredibly loyal to Acts 29 through the years. Notably (and by way of attrition), until our resignation takes effect, CityView Church is the longest standing member of Acts 29 in the state of Texas. I have personally recruited churches into the network, and I have done my best to persuade churches to stay in the network during difficult times. I have also chosen to defend Acts 29 to countless church leaders through the years.

Not only has our church been invested in Acts 29. I have personally been invested in Acts 29. To say I am saddened by this needed action is an understatement.

However, today, it is our best assessment that Acts 29 no longer deserves our continued loyalty or trust. In fact, it is my belief that I should have led our elders towards resigning from Acts 29 membership sooner. Regardless, we pray that this candid breakdown is nonetheless transparent, informative, and helpful for understanding why we are separating from Acts 29 at this time.

Pastor Rick (on behalf of the CityView Elders)

To current Acts 29 Pastors:

If you're reading this – Please know that I still have brotherly affections for the many men that choose to remain in this network – including the leaders with which I have formed friendships. And while I carry much disappointment, I will remain committed to staying united – where possible – with any gospel-aims of other Acts 29 churches (especially those local to CityView Church).

However, I can no longer personally recommend the Acts 29 Network as a good stewardship of one's time, money, and energy. If you sense that you have also been loyal to a fault, I encourage you to candidly consider whether this is a network that will help your church towards serving your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. If not, perhaps it is time for you to consider leading your elders to resign from Acts 29.