

Ohev Members: Meet Tikkun!

by
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I recently became aware that many of our members do not know and understand what Tikkun is, what it does, and how we benefit from it. All they know (or may not know) is that we help support Tikkun through giving a tithe of our congregational income, and that I, your Congregational Leader, also tithe to Tikkun. It is my hope that this article will shed some light on this very important ministry connection; in writing it, I will borrow heavily from descriptions and terminologies that are contained in Tikkun's Leadership Manual that is available to any member for the asking.

An Apostolic Network

First of all, Tikkun is what we call an apostolic network because it is founded on the biblical pattern of apostolic team leadership, and is led by a person (one day it might be persons) who is recognized as having the gift of the apostle. It is unique in being one of the very few Messianic Jewish organizations that are apostolically led and Holy Spirit oriented; its organizational premise is that congregations expressing the Kingdom of God ideally are submitted to a fivefold ministry leadership that is inter-congregational. What that means is that, just as our members are submitted to the oversight of Ohev leaders in appropriate matters, Ohev and its local leaders are, themselves submitted and accountable to the oversight of a plurality of translocal Tikkun leaders, most of whom are themselves also congregational leaders, although some of them are also anointed for other "five-fold" ministry service (Ephesians 4:11). At the top, the Tikkun network is overseen by Dr. Dan Juster, whom we call our *shaliach* (apostolic leader), and whose anointing for intercongregational apostolic ministry has been confirmed by many Messianic Jewish and Christian leaders worldwide. This oversight and our accountability to Tikkun has many benefits, not the least of which is safety for Ohev members in ensuring that your congregation's leaders are serving you with honesty, morality, and fidelity to biblical truth.

Other Aspects of the Network

In addition to being apostolic, Tikkun is also prophetic in that it promotes the seeking of prophetic input from God for major decisions. The *shaliach* himself does this for Tikkun, and we are encouraged, as a congregation, to do likewise. This is sometimes called being led by the Spirit, something we all can and should do. However, there are some in Tikkun who have a special prophetic anointing, that of a prophet or *Navi*, and these persons are given a significant role in hearing and speaking God's direction for Tikkun. This hearing, when it occurs, is submitted to the *shaliach* and the government of Tikkun for discernment.

I mentioned two of the Ephesians 4:11 five-fold ministries; the other three are evangelist (*m'baser*), pastor (*roeh*), and teacher (*moreh*). All five gifts are for us today, and Tikkun believes that the Bible teaches that senior men of five-fold gifting, led by a senior *shaliach*, ought to tie congregations and trans-local ministries together so that the usual conflicts between the congregational and para-congregational is eliminated.

What Ohev's Membership in Tikkun Means to You

I already mentioned the safety for you that results from your congregation's leaders submitting their ministries and often their personal lives to the scrutiny of other Tikkun brothers. Tikkun is also your major connection to other like-minded congregations, and is your connection to Israel through our relationship with major Tikkun leaders in the land such as Asher Intrater, Eitan Shishkoff, and Moshe Morrison. Tikkun sponsors local councils such as the Washington Metropolitan Tikkun Council, to which Ohev belongs, and which I lead under Dan Juster's direction. This ties Ohev locally to El Shaddai, Ahavat Yeshua, and Rosh Pina. Tikkun also sponsors the Annual week-long Leadership Advance (Tikkun doesn't want to retreat, so its retreats are called Advances), the annual Members' weekend Advance, the semi-annual Leadership Training Institutes, and various other educational and spiritual functions.

A very important function of Tikkun is to provide dispute resolution for congregational leaders, and an appeal route for any congregational member who has been subjected to congregational discipline and believes that the adjudication process or the result was unjust. On rare occasions, an appeal to Tikkun may also be heard if a member considers the corporate eldership to be in serious error. If the eldership is found to be in such error, Tikkun has the authority to remove the eldership and appoint interim leadership, possibly from outside the congregation. Grounds for an appeal are gross sin, gross doctrinal error, or gross incompetence. All of these protections enhance your safety.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention a service of Tikkun that I didn't even know existed until last year – one that you will not find in its Leader's Manual – Messianic matchmaking. One happy result is the approaching marriage of our elder Scott's son Jonathan, to our *shaliach*'s daughter Simcha. What better proof is there of Tikkun's value to Ohev?

December 2007