

Overflow

CHURCH



Small Group
Life Group
Care Group
Home Group

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

MANUAL

OMC



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Introduction

Community. What comes to mind when you hear that word? Perhaps memories from your past; maybe of a small town, a small group, your college years, sharing a table of food, Bible Study, times of deep prayer, or a neighborhood where you grew up. I know for me it's a combination of all these things and so much more. The idea and experience of community within the body of Christ has been both one of my greatest joys and deepest frustrations. All along the way my varied experience has included; Sunday School, Small Group, Cell Group, Life Group and Care Group. With each incarnation of "group" or class, I've been left with a gnawing feeling that something was missing. Was it me? Was I just choosing to dwell on the negative, never to be satisfied? Or was it something more, was something in my experience incomplete, and was I alone in this or was it more common than I realized?

At Overflow we wholeheartedly believe that the missing piece has been right in front of us all along, but the hierarchal model of leadership needs to give way to the biblical model of shared leadership found in Ephesians 4:11-16. No longer can we, or should we, rely on the giftings of one Pastor, or just a few leaders, creating a sharp divide in the lay person and the paid staff. The truth is, we are all vital to the furthering of God's Kingdom, and without each other something will always be missing. No longer can we afford for the Christian life to be only about attending Church on Sunday, there must be, and there is more to be had. The invitation to discover, develop, and deploy the God-given gifting inside you is yours for the taking, and at Overflow Church we want you to rise to the challenge. We are all called, now the question remains, will you stand up, step out in faith, and take your place as a vital part of the family of God?

Unabashedly we pray that the answer is yes, and we are here to walk you through what it means to live your personal life on mission (ME), and to live on mission together with others (WE). Life lived together is the abundant life Jesus talks about in John 10, and I for one want that life! How about you?

Missional Community Vision Statement:

“We see you as a vital part of a community that honors and equips each other to overflow God's love continually.”

Overflow Church – 4 Core Values

Intimacy – “Friendship with God is our greatest priority and privilege.”

The entire Gospel is summed up in the command to love God with all of your heart (Matthew 22:37). We believe that God adores humanity, the cross paid for our every need, and God is actively speaking and pursuing us. Because of this, it is our great joy to help people recognize and understand God’s voice — to them directly and through the Bible. Overflow Church is a safe place to discover how to walk with the God.

Expectancy – “We trust God’s faithfulness over our feelings.”

We all reach places where the circumstances we are facing prompt feelings about God that do not seem to match who God says he is. Overflow Church is a safe place to be vulnerable in taking these doubts to God. It is also a place which empowers you to elevate what God says over how you feel, weaving a beautiful tapestry of vulnerability and faith.

Restoration – “We recognize worth in everyone and partner with God as he transforms them.”

When Jesus saw broken people, he never treated them like they were broken. Instead, He recognized and called out the glory God placed within them. Every single created being bears immense worth and glory. We are a family who refuses to treat people by their history, but sees them instead by their destiny. We focus more on loving people than labeling them. We walk with God to see dreams given back, hope replacing shame, and a voice returned to the silent.

Community – “With God, we GROW together and we Go together.”

Most of the commands in the Bible weren’t written for isolated individuals but for the family of God to experience together. We celebrate our need for one another and our opportunities to walk together, as genuine friends, in an attitude of continual honor!

Missional Community



What is a Missional Community?

A Missional Community is a *close-knit* community, *fully committed* to *equipping* one another to live as *missionaries* who share God's love to *everyone...* everywhere.

Close-knit:

Our MC's are *intentionally small enough* for real community to take place. They are a microcosm of the larger church — a place where everyone is *seen*, everyone *serves*, and everyone brings *strength* to each other.

Fully Committed:

MC's are *not a 'program'* we ask people to add to their schedules — they are the joyous decision to walk *"WITH"* God & one another: to *'belong'* to community in a way that integrates into *every facet* of our lives. Those we walk with in MC's become our closest companions in carrying the love of the Father everywhere we go.

Equipping:

The purpose of the church is to *"equip all of the believers"* for their own works of ministry. God made you intentionally and there is a glory in you unlike anyone else who has ever lived. Following the pattern of Ephesians 4, MC's help you to see how a *"measure" of each of the 5-fold* (*Apostolic, Prophetic, Evangelistic, Shepherding, & Teaching*) reside in you. MC's function to continually *elevate* and *equip* these "measures" in every member of every age!

Missionaries:

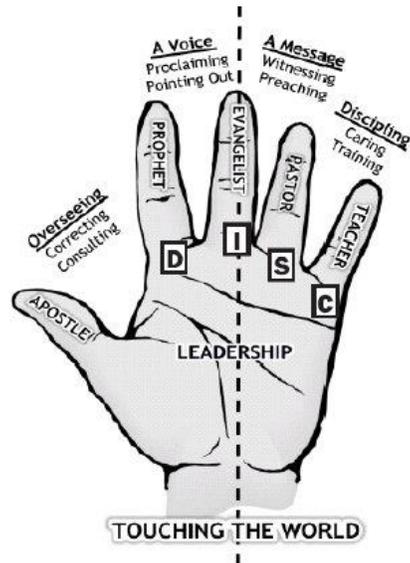
Every place your foot steps is a 'mission field' where you are invited to release the Father's love. MC's joyously walk with you to have *confidence* and *celebration* in living as a *lifestyle missionary* everywhere you go!

Why join a Missional Community?

We were never intended to do life alone! At Overflow Church we believe that the Christian life is most complete when lived in personal (ME) intimacy with God, in tandem with life together (WE) in community. The members of Missional Communities get the fullest Christian life as God intended. This includes both the smaller gathering of people on mission together (during the week), and the weekly corporate celebratory gathering (Sunday Morning). (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Who Leads a Missional Community?

Each MC will practice shared leadership as each leader continues to grow and operate in their God-given gifting. Ephesians 4:11-16 lays out five different and co-dependent gifts that we call Five-Fold Ministry. They are Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher. (APEST) All five giftings are present in every follower of Jesus Christ in varying degrees, though there is typically a primary lens with which each leader views the world. We believe that it is essential for all five to be taking place in any Missional Community to have a balanced and complete community experience. (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)



1. *Apostle* – Connected to the mission of God
2. *Prophet* – Connected to the heart of God
3. *Evangelist* – Connected to the message of God
4. *Shepherd* – Connected to the people of God
5. *Teacher* – Connected to the truth of God

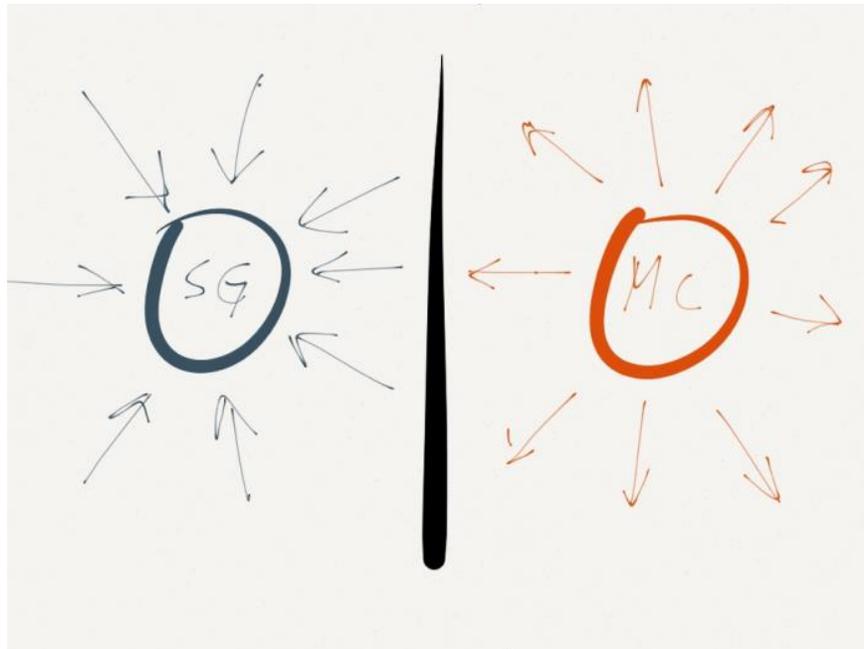
What is the difference between a Sunday morning gathering and a Missional Community gathering?

Overflow Church Sunday morning gatherings are intended to be a central meeting place to celebrate what is happening in the overflow of our personal and community lives. Sunday gatherings provide big picture vision, corporate worship, and inspiring biblical messages to fuel our everyday lives. Missional Community gatherings are where we put our faith into action as

we do life together on mission to expand God's Kingdom and grow deeper into the good news of Jesus Christ.

What is the difference between Missional Communities and traditional Small Groups?

As good as many of our personal small group experiences may have been, have you ever felt like there was just something missing? Maybe the group was strong in fellowship, but when it came time to dig into the word, things got super tense and "spiritual" in tone. Or maybe you were strong on the Bible Study portion of the group, but there was a lack of affection and warmth for each other. Or maybe you had both fellowship and strong bible study, but it just didn't seem like anything ever really changed despite the fact you were learning really good stuff from God? For the most part that's due to the fact that by nature most small groups remain internally focused which in time will only lead to frustration at the very least, and implosion at the very worst. We believe that Missional Communities allow for all five areas of a believer's life to be in better balance. Whereas a small group may have been as strong as the individual leader and/or co-leaders strength, at no fault of their own, the other giftings were weak or non-existent. That's because each community needs the gift that God has placed in every individual! You are a vital part of the body/family of God, and the unique lens that God has given you is needed for the fullest experience of each in your community!



What is my role in a Missional Community?

If you are not one of the primary 5 leaders in your MC then you will be intentionally disciplined to grow up into your spiritual gifts, abilities, and experiences so that you will ably fill your God-given role in the family of God. We believe everything that makes up who you are is vital and necessary to build up the entire body of Christ. We are strongest as we grow and go together!

Missional Community Practices

Fellowship

Though some leaders may be more wired for one-on-one versus group dynamics, fellowship is an essential part of any Missional Community. The idea is that you love these people and want to spend as much time around them as possible. Eat together, worship together, play together, serve together...this is life in the Overflow! Remember that fun over time equals connection, and connection is the starting point for deeper relationship.

Prayer

Often times we spend more time in our church groups talking about what to pray about than we actually do praying. Prayer is a bedrock of any Missional Community, and not only should they stop to pray for needs in the moment, but members of the MC should stop to pray for that person when prompted to during the week as well. A text thread, private Facebook group, or Marco Polo app is also helpful in accomplishing the great work of encouragement and care for each other through prayer.

Scripture

Though a MC is more than a Bible Study the word of God both spoken and written must be evident during an MC's time together. A healthy MC makes Scripture a part of the members lives and moves beyond an intellectual practice, to regular practical application. MC's refuse to allow the statement that we are biblically educated beyond our obedience to be a true statement of their community. In a healthy MC, Scripture is read, dialoged about, and then acted upon in a tangible way.

Mission

There's a reason why most of our stories of best church moments revolve around a mission trip, a camp, or a work project; there's just something powerful about shared experience. For this reason, every MC takes the oft missing missional element from the small group model and pushes it to greater balance. Every Missional Community has a specific mission and that is to act as both individuals who bless and a close-knit community who seeks to bless. It may be simple, but the important thing is that we serve each other, and our communities together but the win from the beginning, the place we must start is with mission. This outward expression of our faith acts as a catalyst to salvation for unbelievers and greater growth of Christ followers.

Life

Remember! Though we are each gifted with a primary lens with which to view the world and spread the love of God, but we are all responsible to walk in the measure of all five giftings as

the Holy Spirit directs. None of us are off the hook for being Apostolic, Prophetic, Evangelistic, a Shepherd, or Teacher in the moment that we are prompted. Missional Communities are where we practice the “one another” statements found in the New Testament:

- Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (*Romans 12:10*)
- Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (*Romans 15:7*)
- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (*Ephesians 4:2*)
- Be Kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (*Ephesians 4:32*)
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (*Ephesians 5:21*)
- Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. (*Hebrews 10:24*)
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (*James 5:16*)

BELOVED,
let us love one another.
FOR LOVE IS OF GOD...
-1 JOHN 4:7

Missional Community Postures

These six postures are taken from the book *Thin Places: 6 Postures for Creating & Practicing Missional Community* and can be explored in more depth there. As best as I can describe it, a thin place is when the space between heaven and earth is thin, when we get glimpses of “on earth, as it is in heaven.” They are sacred moments that fleetingly this side of heaven satisfy our deepest soul longings. These postures are not meant to be exhaustive, but a jumping off point for how we can approach engaging our community as a missional community group. These postures are modeled after the ministry of Jesus seen in the gospels. They are intended to build upon each other with the ultimate goal of transformation. Jesus’ approach to ministry was threefold: 1. He lingered long with His Father 2. He invited a small band of followers to do life with Him 3. He sent His disciples out into the world all around them to be good news. We believe that these six postures within a missional community will be essential to the two main goals of each MC of discipleship and salvation for the glory of God and advancement of His Kingdom.

Listening

I think we can all agree that listening well has become a lost art, and it is often hard to slow down and discern the voice of God above the sea of noise and distraction. At Overflow Church we believe that in addition to prioritizing our intimate times of listening for God’s voice as individuals we must practice listening for the voice of God as a community. One function of community listening is confirmation of what we believe we are hearing individually. Listening also allows us to hear and contextualize the specific needs of the community/world around us.

Submerging

This is the idea and posture of fully giving ourselves to the community around us. Instead of looking to extract non-believers from their current context, we seek to engage people where they already are within the community. This is clearly seen in the life of Jesus who chose to live as a normal Jewish man, who worked in His community as a carpenter for the first thirty years of His life. It wasn’t until he had fully submerged himself in the culture and community He lived in that God released Him into three world changing years of ministry. While we likely won’t need to wait thirty years, we do need to emulate the approach to first listen, and then submerge.

Inviting

Another potential though needed paradigm shift for the western church that we are a part of is one of moving from hospitality to radical invitation. This is the idea of moving away from exclusively inviting people to a weekend church service, we are radically inviting them into our everyday lives as we submerge ourselves into theirs. In a post-Christian culture this is a radical, though vitally important shift that the Church must embrace if it is to remain relevant to a world in need of hope. We must carry the light, hope, and peace of Christ into the dark spaces!

Contending

This is the idea of continuing to fight (contend) for the needs of the community around you, even when it gets difficult and discouraging. It is a commitment to remain in the battle no matter the cost. This means contending for the poor and displaced, for creation, and taking spiritual authority over the work of the enemy in your community. It may look like taking a job in the community that allows you to bring the light of Christ in a dark place, starting a community garden, a soup kitchen to feed the hungry, or deliberately choosing to live in the poor part of town to give you close proximity to those in need, etc.

Imagining

This is embracing God's divine imagination of what seems so foreign, so "different" or "random" as a new normal for our lives. I ask you to imagine what it would look like for you to order your life, family and all, around the seemingly radical command to "love the Lord your God" with everything about you, and to "love your neighbor as yourself?" Would you be willing to sell a house and move to live within a 10-minute walk of those in your MC so as to engage a neighborhood? Would you be willing to establish a weekly invite to a literal next-door neighbor to your family dinner night? Would you consider taking a more flexible job that pays less in order to have more time to invest in your community? What about using your own money, selling a second car, or foregoing a daily drive-thru coffee to use the finances to meet a need in the community instead? The posture of imagining moves from seeing these seemingly radical acts as a very real and normal way of life that God just may call you toward. Will you accept the invitation?

Entrusting

This posture gets me most excited about the future of the church, and I think is best said in this excerpt from page 132 of the book,

"The imagining and entrusting postures are intimately connected. When we catch a vision of what God has for His people, we can't help but entrust ourselves to it by stepping forward as sent ones. In this posture, we desire to entrust people to God, celebrate their new or renewed understanding of God's call on their lives, and lean confidently into the future. Without sending, our formation is incomplete: it is where everything falls into place, and it moves us from speaking about it to living it out."

I again seek to fire your imagination by asking a question, what if instead of seeing those called away from our congregation as abandonment, we saw it as a reason for celebration as we send them to fulfill their God-appointed mission? This is a departure in thinking from a typical western church narrative of consumption and accumulation toward a narrative of receive and release through multiplication. Does it matter more that our sent ones bear the name of the sending church, or that they bear the name of Christ as they seek to advance His Kingdom? This step of entrusting may be the most difficult of all, but if it isn't the ultimate goal of our MC's then we are falling short of the Jesus model of ministry. Let us seek to prayerfully prepare, disciple, honor, and send members of our MCs out for the glory of His name!

Missional Community Leadership Roles

Jesus is the good shepherd, the door, the bread, the way, the truth, and the life, and the only true leader of any Missional Community. Any and all leadership at Overflow Church first submits to him, and then secondarily to each other out of love and reverence for the system that God has set up in the church. This mutual yielding one to another is fully submitted to the headship of Christ. We believe we must protect and intentionally cultivate honor and unity through prayer in order to accomplish anything that He has called us to do. We seek God's face as we live on mission to make disciples of Jesus.

Listed below will be the leadership types found in Ephesians 4:11-16. Apostle. Prophet. Evangelist. Shepherd. Teacher.

Who leads a Missional Community?

First and foremost, we believe that each Missional Community cannot succeed without shared leadership coming from leaders who are operating in their God-given grace gifting. It is what produces the balanced and healthy community that God originally intended. There are five types of leaders found in Ephesians 4:11-16 that are meant to be raised up to fulfill their role. This is called Fivefold Leadership, with each leader being of equal importance and necessity for equipping the saints for the mission of God found in the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20.

Apostle – *Connected to the mission of God/Calling out the glory in believers and sending them to fulfill their God-ordained mission on earth*

An apostle's primary gifting relates to the mobilizing of the MC to reach beyond their current group to those not yet connected to Christ. They earnestly desire to see more enter the Kingdom of God, and burn with a passion to see the current body of Christ sent out to reach the lost and hurting. You might be an apostle if you find yourself wanting to leave church gatherings to go and serve/minister to those who are far from God.

The most predominate question on the mind of the apostle is usually, "which people group(s) are we focusing on in our obedience to Jesus' command to make disciples? As well as "what glory do I see in this individual, and is there anything holding them back from being sent to fulfill it?"

Prophet – *Connected to the heart of God*

The prophet is generally concerned with worship experiences including, but not limited to, deep times of prayer, worship through music, and listening for the voice of God. When a prophet is operating in their gifting they want to help people connect to the truth and heart of God. Prophecy is meant for encouragement and acts as a reminder of the gospel for believers who have forgotten what Christ has done and is doing in their life. You might be a prophet if you long

to help people live faithfully through direct and encouraging words rooted from the word(s) of God.

The main question on the mind of the prophet is, “How do we consistently and creatively set up environments for people to hear from the heart of God in prayer and worship?”

Evangelist – *Connected to the message of God*

An evangelist loves to share the good news of the gospel with anyone and everyone they come into contact with. Often times evangelists are masters at knowing God’s story and seeing where the story of the gospel and the stories of our lives intersect. You might be an evangelist if you find yourself regularly calling people to believe the gospel of Jesus.

The burning question on the heart of the evangelist is, “do you want to begin following Jesus today?”

Shepherd – *Connected to the people of God*

The shepherd wants to nurture the MC through prayer and counsel. They have a heart that breaks with the brokenhearted and wants to rejoice with the joy-filled. When operating in their gifting they are acutely aware of the heart and headspace of the members of the group and are often willing to go to great lengths to listen, pray, and talk through the troubles that MC members experience. You might be a shepherd if you find yourself empathizing deeply with others and feel drawn to pray for and care for their needs.

The question on the shepherd’s mind is typically, “how are my people doing?”

Teacher – *Connected to the truth of God*

The teacher is always looking for ways to make difficult concepts and passages of Scripture more easily understood. They passionately study God’s word, and seek to relevantly show MC members how to grow spiritually. You might be a teacher if you find yourself regularly explaining God’s word and teaching in a way that leads others to understand and grow in their faith walk.

The teacher is constantly thinking, “How can I help hearers understand more deeply how much God loves them?”

Missional Community Leadership Pathway

If you are interested in more information about a leadership role in a Missional Community, please talk with Missional Community Director Josh Balogh to get started on the Leadership Pathway! Fair warning: we will also be on the hunt Apostolically to call out the leadership you may not yet see in yourself! We are excited for you to continue your journey toward growth and leadership in the Kingdom of God! Josh can be reached at baloghjosh@yahoo.com

Discover, Develop, and Deploy your spiritual gift

1. First, you must **Discover** your God-given gift!

Complete a spiritual gift/APEST inventory and turn it in to Pastor Chris/Len. Remember that tests and inventories are largely only as effective as your authenticity as you take it, and should never be seen as the absolute final word. It's simply a tool to help start you in the right direction, which will be most effective in conjunction with the testimony of friends, family, and Overflow leadership who know you best. (*Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16*)

2. Second, you must **Develop** your God-given gift!

Get in a discipleship relationship to develop your gift. After completing a spiritual gift inventory you will need to enter a training/discipleship relationship with leadership at the church. This could come in the form of a lay leader, an elder of the church, or a staff Pastor.

3. Third, you must **Deploy** your gift!

Prayerfully enter a co-leaders role within an existing MC or newly launching MC as you continue to practice and grow in your leadership. Allow your mentor/discipleship guide to help shepherd you through this process.

Missional Community Leadership Agreement

Please see Leadership Agreement provided by Overflow Church

Personal Regular Spiritual Rhythms

These are certainly not the only personal spiritual disciplines for believers to practice regularly, but they are an absolutely essential beginning to build upon. The main point being that we cannot lead others where we do not go regularly ourselves. We must first receive from an intimate relationship with God the Father before we have anything to release. From our time at rest, reading God's word, prayer, fasting, solitude, and service we seek to lead and minister to others, but it must first start alone with God. Let us allow our private displays of affection for our Savior fuel our public displays of affection!

Rest – There is a big difference in working FROM rest, and working TO rest. God made the sabbath for mankind for a reason, He knew that we would need to start with resting, abiding in Him, before doing the work of ministry that He has called us each to do. Ceasing work to allow our body, soul, and spirit to rest also affords us time to slow down and remember/celebrate what the Lord has done in our lives, and should bring us to greater levels of worship. Remember, God’s seventh and last day of creation was His rest day, but it was our first day! (*Genesis 1; Mark 2:27-28*)

The Bible – Whether you like to read or not, finding as many ways to creatively and greedily consume the Scripture is an absolute must! If reading isn’t your thing you can always listen to an audio reading of the Bible via the YouVersion Bible app or on cd form in your car as you drive to and from work. From the word of God, we are clearly shown His character and are reminded of the greater story that each of us has a part in. The Bible is the ultimate book, and the long-time best seller for a reason! It is full of creativity, sacrifice, mystery, longing, crushing defeat, and amazing redemption. It is imperative that we are familiar with the overarching story of God and how He is always the hero of the story. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

Prayer – When we think of prayer we can often be intimidated, thinking that our words pale in comparison to others. The key to prayer is remembering that it is intended to be a back and forth conversation. God is unceasingly available and willing to listen and respond if we take the time to wait for answers to our questions! He delights in every moment spent together, and eagerly awaits each meeting time. Prayer is simply having a conversation with a close friend. Speak openly and honestly, and be astounded again and again at His tenderness. Prayers can be spoken, sung, written, painted, etc. Allow creativity and authenticity to inform your prayer practices, He loves to hear from you! (*Matthew 6:9-13; Ephesians 6:18*)

Fasting – Biblical fasting is ceasing from something like eating, watching tv, eating sweets, coffee, etc. in order to replace the time spent doing said thing with deeper intimacy with God. It is meant to be a specific and short time period, and especially when considering withholding from food you should always check with a doctor first. The benefits can be physical as well as spiritual as it allows the body to flush out toxins that are not good for it. The main point of fasting though is to give up something you need in order to press into a deeper time of intimacy with Father God. (*Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 13:3-4*)

Solitude – In this faced paced society full of noise and activity it can be hard to slow our minds to even ponder the things of God, or even hear His voice. Regular solitude and silence will allow for us to slow down our spirit and set aside distractions to listen for the still small voice. We serve a God who wants to speak gentle, affirming, life-giving words to His beloved children and setting aside daily, weekly, and even annual uninterrupted time with Him will be key to staying on course with His direction for our lives. (*Psalms 46:10; Mark 1:35*)

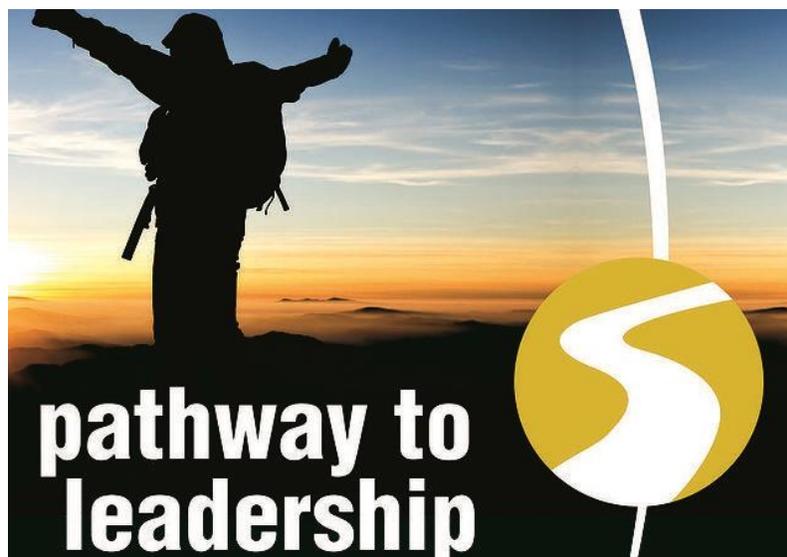
Service – Jesus himself said that he came to serve and not to be served. Jesus’ approach to life and ministry is found in Philippians 2 which gives us a clear picture of a King who chose to come as a humble servant. We can do no better than to find our place in the body of Christ and serve with all our heart and soul. (*Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 3:17*)

Restoration Practices

When it comes to family one thing is or certain, they love each other well, and we are well aware that even healthy family has disagreements and conflict. The key is that any disagreement, conflict, or fracture in relationship be addressed lovingly, gently, and biblically. Matthew 18 contains some very clear truths about how to work through things as believers, and it is what we emulate when seeking the ultimate goal of relationship restoration. (*Matthew 18:15-20*)

Getting even Smaller...

As a suggestion, but certainly not a requirement...As your MC grows larger in number you may find it necessary and beneficial to take a part of your weekly gathering to breakout into same gender, smaller gathering of 3-4 men, women, students, or kids. As a second possibility you could also add an additional day for the purpose of deeper connection and discipleship. This could be via zoom, through text, but in person is always ideal. These can be made up of members of your current MC and/or former MC groups. This is a training ground of sorts for Missional Community Leaders in development. Within these smaller groups, things like confession of sin, prayer, goal setting, and pastoral care are taking place on a continual basis. This is an invitation to go even deeper in relationship and leadership growth, and should be seen as such. It may feel overwhelming for you to feel the need and responsibility for 20 people, but even the most introverted of us can do for a few what they wish they could do for many. This takes the intentionality to another level and becomes another great place for iron to sharpen iron. Just keep in mind this is not intended to take precedence or replace your MC time, but be an additional supplement (as your schedule allows) or part of your weekly gathering.



Missional Community Potential Partners

Picking a mission for you MC could be tricky, but it doesn't have to be. Always start with prayer. Individual prayer, and prayer together, as each member lays down all preferences and agenda...and listen. Here's a list of potential ministry partners to get you started. This is by no means an exhaustive list but only some suggestions to get the creative juices flowing...Think about where you get righteously angry...what injustices fire you up? It could be your heart for a people group, a country, or an issue in life you see going unmet is meant to be started or joined by you. You may be the only one that can see it!

- Organize and host a craft night
- Organize an effort for neighbors to help take care of elderly in neighborhood
- Become a regular at your neighborhood pool/park. Engage people you meet while there.
- If you have a skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help them for free
- Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
- Facilitate a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
- Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
- Have a front yard slip n' slide & ice cream party in the summer
- Go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood (invite neighbors in on it)
- Throw a July 4th block party
- Put up a picnic table in your front yard for people to stop by and visit. Have sweet tea/lemonade and cookies ready to share!
- Attend the parties invited to by neighbors (you might have to invite them first!)
- Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
- Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with someone else
- Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
- Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yard
- Start a weekly open meal night in your home
- Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on their front porch)
- Find out the birthdays of your neighbors and take them a card and/or baked goods to celebrate them
- Ask your HOA or apartment complex if they need help with anything
- Host a Super Bowl Party
- Pass out candy in your driveway on Halloween night

Current Church Partnerships

Local Partnerships

- Lifecare
- Family Promise
- Door of Hope
- Go So Free Prison Ministry

International Partnerships:

- Haiti
- Nigeria

Missional Community FAQs

1. What is the process to discover which of the five-fold ministry graces are my predominate gifting?

Overflow Church will have a variety of methods to help you discover your God-given gift via spiritual gift inventories. They can be found online at myoverflowchurch.com under the resource tab.

2. Who do I talk to if I'm interested in being a part of a MC?

Pastor Chris Thomas can get you started in the right direction. He will have a few questions to help identify your place via email, and a follow-up in person chat. Then when you say "yes to Missional Community" you will hear from Pastor Len Harper who will guide you toward a Missional Community that is your place to belong. Pastor Chris Thomas can be reached via email at chris@myoverflowchurch.com

3. Who do I talk to if I'm interested in starting/leading a MC?

Missional Community Director Josh Balogh would love to chat with you about your interest in starting/leading a MC. He can be reached via email at baloghjosh@yahoo.com to help get you started on the pathway to leadership.

4. How often should my MC meet?

There is no set amount of time or frequency that a MC should meet, and it often depends on the group itself, but the ideal is weekly AND spend as much time together doing life as you can. Missional Community is simple, but it's all encompassing and meant to not just add additional events to your calendar but invite a close-knit group of people to join you where you already do life. This is meant to be a life fully submerged on Mission together with current church friends/family and the community/soon to be family at large.

5. How do we pick a mission as a MC?

View our list of suggestions on page 17 of this manual as a starting point, but also dream big! It's best to start in prayer, have individual members bring a suggestion that is close to their heart, and see if any/all ideas can align in some obvious or creative way. Then contact Missional Community Director Josh Balogh to make sure it aligns with the vision of the church before moving forward.

6. What do I do if there is conflict among the leadership of my MC?

Always, start with prayer! Take your grievances and complaints to the Lord first and listen for His counsel. Then from that point of intimacy with the Father practice the

biblical principles in Matthew 18. Remember that reconciliation is the goal! This will many times mean forgiveness before it's asked, true humility, and some hard but necessary conversations. Go to an individual in person first and then make a staff pastor aware of the situation for further guidance if needing to proceed beyond that point. Most often a face-to-face, and heart-to-heart conversation clears up any misunderstanding...but it does start with the willingness to talk early and often, openly and honestly all grounded in love.

7. Where do we look for people when looking to form an MC?

There are two main places to look for MC members. 1. Every human soul is a potential recipient of the love of God...so look wherever your feet normally go! Family, literal neighbors, extended family, friends, work colleagues, etc. 2. Current members of the church not already attached to a community. Practice the principle of "there's always room for one more" approach. We should always be giddy with excitement about the good problem of our MC's getting bigger, it's a joyous time when it's time to birth!

8. What type of resources do you have to help me keep growing in leadership?

Regular on-going trainings in each of the 5-fold giftings will be held throughout the year as well as books and videos to help you grow in your knowledge and practice. There is also an Overflow Missional Community Group on Facebook with videos, articles, and discussion to sharpen each other on an ongoing basis as well as semi-regular zoom calls/face-to-face meetings for vision, prayer, and growth.

9. Will you have any ongoing trainings in the five-fold ministry areas?

Absolutely! See above in question 8 and stay tuned for communication on when and where.

10. When do you know if it's time to birth another MC and how?

Though there is no perfect MC size, as it approaches 20-25 members it will get harder for everyone to share in leadership and participation. With one of the main goals of each MC being discipleship, it is to be understood that members are being invested in and growing in their leadership with the possibility of leading their own group eventually. As each MC approaches that size it is time to prayerfully approach a plan with the Pastors for how to proceed. Just as the start of a new MC will likely come from one or more people having a Missional passion, so too will it become obvious that a larger group with multiple missional passions needs to joyfully birth to run hard after the Lord-ordained partnership and make room for more to join in Overflowing in that area!



Additional Resources

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