

COMMUNITY ON MISSION COMMITMENT

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PART #1: WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ON MISSION?

At Church in Action, we dream of seeing how heaven breaks into our lives, our city and our world. Practically, we live that out by coming together in our worship services to then be sent into our world as Communities on Mission.

But, what exactly are Communities on Mission?

A Community on Mission is a group of 8-12 people who come together regularly in an every-other-week rhythm. One week they meet to exchange ideas, study the Bible and pray together. The other week they serve together on a chosen project to make heaven visible in a specific area of their city.

Everyone is invited not only to serve, but also to find a spiritual home to which they can belong.

We would love for you to join one of our Communities on Mission and be a part of seeing heaven break in on earth, find a spiritual home, and grow in your faith.



PART #2: 12 REASONS FOR A COMMUNITY ON MISSION

1. The triune God is a Community on Mission, therefore Communities on Mission reflect the essence of who God is. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in intimate community with each other and at the same time are on mission to restore all of creation.

2. Spiritual growth happens through action and reflection, therefore both are equally important and must always be integrated with each other. Accountability about personal spiritual well-being happens in a natural and mission-oriented way through Communities on Mission.

3. Jesus and his disciples were a Community on Mission. Jesus had the clear goal of establishing and proclaiming the Kingdom of God and at the same time he had fostered authentic and intimate community with his disciples.

4. Communities on Mission make sure we don't fall into passive Christianity. Faith without works is dead (James 2).

5. Individual spiritual growth is much easier to evaluate, since no one is able to hide in the masses.

6. The danger of burning out while serving for and with God is minimized by coaching and shepherding provided through our leadership structure, who closely guide each member of the Community on Mission.

7. Lay persons are empowered to share in the responsibility of shepherding, therefore the pastor

is no longer solely carrying the burden, when it comes to the spiritual growth and walking alongside the people within the church.

8. Communities on Mission create a real sense of belonging and true commitment. Each participant knows where he belongs, every leader knows which mission he is responsible for, and every shepherd knows who he or she provides care to.

9. Communities on Mission offer people who are new to the church a simple and clear way to directly connect with other Christians and a clear mission that brings heaven on earth.

10. Communities on mission make it easy for potential leaders and shepherds to step out and take on responsibility through clearly defined leadership roles and expectations.

11. Communities on Mission provide a clear framework for multiplication without limiting the diversity of what Communities on Mission can do and look like.

12. Communities on Mission provide a healthy way of balancing a centralized and decentralized structure. Communities on Mission can reproduce without losing the vision of the whole.

PART #3: GUIDELINES FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

- The spiritual growth of the Community on Mission is equally as important as fulfilling the defined mission of the group.
- Each Community on Mission must have a specific group or place they regularly serve.
- Every Community on Mission has a Mission-Leader who takes care of organizing the mission and a Community-Leader who is responsible for the spiritual well-being of the group. This can be the same person, or two people can share the responsibility.
- Prayer, bible study, guidance and spiritual reflection are an integral part of a Community on Mission and take place every two weeks during the community gathering.



PART #4: MY COMMITMENT

In today's world of endless options, many people find it difficult to commit to something or someone; it is often seen as restrictive and controlling. However, the truth is, we all long for deep connection and meaningful relationships, which can only happen when we show up for and commit to each other. Commitment produces trust and creates stability for our discipleship journey. When we make a promise to a group of people in the form of our commitment, we allow others to walk alongside us, especially when other areas of our life attempt to distract us from what matters most. In a society where "keeping your options open", broken relationships, and destructive relationship patterns are part of everyday life, we want to be a beacon of hope. Commitment, loyalty, sticking with each other through thick and thin, praying for each other, building each other up and journeying together are characteristics of healthy and freeing relationships. Relationships lived the way God intended.

The following points describe the kind of promise we are making to each other:

OBJECTIVES/GOALS

- I understand that our Community on Mission is a group that embodies and lives out what it means to serve, reflect, and pray. We are on a spiritual journey together to participate in bringing heaven on earth in a specific place in our city.
- I understand that the hope of this group is to build relationships that foster discipleship, helping us through the power of the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus. The goal of this group is to create a safe space for each other where nobody has to hide their weaknesses through the community gathering, and create a space that challenges us to practically participate in bringing heaven on earth for people in our city through our missions.
- I understand that the long-term goal of our Community on Mission is to create new Communities on Mission. I will pray that more and more people join our Communities on Mission and that new Communities on Mission emerge so that more and more Heaven on Earth is made visible in our city.

CHARACTER

- I promise to have an attitude of humility, honesty, love and patience toward my fellow group members. I will not judge others.
- I promise to keep an open mind to new ideas, concepts, practices or theologies. I will seek and engage in charitable dialogue. I want to learn from and grow with others.
- I promise to allow others in the group equal time to share and not to dominate the conversation. I'll do my best to actively listen well and show a true interest in the stories and experience of others. We respect diversity and appreciate our differences.

- I promise to be loyal to my Community and Mission leaders and to support them with all my heart.

COMMITMENT

- I promise to be part of the core of this Community on Mission for at least 6 months.
- I promise to be responsible to prioritize the meeting times for our Community on Mission during this time. I will show up on time to each community and mission gathering. (Exceptions are emergencies and holidays)
- I promise to actively participate in the discussions, thoughts and activities of the group and intentionally engage in order to help the Community on Mission develop further.
- I promise to stand firm behind our joint mission, to show up to our mission gatherings and to be there for the people we are serving as best I can.



PLACE, DATE

NAME

PLACE, DATE

WITNESS