

# COMMUNITY ON MISSION DEFINITIONS

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## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ON MISSION?

A Community on Mission is an 8-12 person group that uniquely blends deep relationships with the call to serve others. Weekly meetings rotate between missional outreach and community gatherings. In the missional outreach, relationships are formed and heaven on earth as made visible through the service of a specific group/place. Through the community gatherings, relationships are formed as participants share in life, faith, and growth.

This holistic pairing fulfills both callings of the Church: to meet together within community and to go out into our world. It allows persons to join in – where they are – and belong, whether or not they believe. The beauty of Communities on Mission exists in the tension of holding both the community and the mission in equal importance.

## WHAT ARE MISSIONAL OUTREACHES AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS?

The Missional Outreach and Community Gathering are the weekly activities of a Community on Mission, each taking place alternating weeks. These two offerings provide a variety of ways that a person join in at their comfort level.

## MISSIONAL OUTREACH:

Missional Outreaches fulfill the call to the Church to go out into the world. For each outreach, the CoM returns to serve the same group, like caring for veterans or serving the homeless. on earth is made visible through building relationships with the people there and letting them know they are loved, worthy, and are not alone.

## COMMUNITY GATHERING:

Community Gatherings fulfill the call of the Church to meet and pray together. The group moves through a selected curriculum while sharing in the joys and struggles of life, growing personally and in their faith, and being mentored and guided by the community leader.

## WHAT IS THE “CORE GROUP” OF A COMMUNITY ON MISSION? WHO IS IN IT?

The “Core Group” of a Community on Mission are those who have chosen to participate regularly in the Community Gatherings. These gatherings are honest and vulnerable spaces, so core group members sign a commitment document to commit

to being present at the gatherings and creating a safe space to learn and grow.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN MISSIONAL OUTREACHES?

Anyone can participate in Missional Outreaches. These gatherings provide spaces that are social in nature while they are a part of something bigger. Missional Outreaches are open to everyone so that you can belong, regardless of where you are on your faith journey. Those that serve at a Missional Outreach are not required to engage in a Community Gathering, although they are invited to if they feel they are ready.

## WHO LEADS/ORGANIZES A COMMUNITY ON MISSION?

Each Community on Mission has two leadership roles, which may be held by the same person or, ideally, shared by two people: Mission Leaders organize and direct the Missional Outreach and are responsible for caring for/guiding the people at the mission location; Community Leaders plan and facilitate Community Gatherings and are responsible for the spiritual well-being of the group member.

## WHAT IS A MISSION LEADER?

The main responsibility of the Mission-Leader is coordinating Missional Outreaches at the mission location. The Mission-Leader is responsible for developing and guiding the vision for that specific place in the community. In addition to communicating this vision to the community itself, the Mission-Leader is responsible for relations with the location or local contacts. The Mission-Leader also is in charge of Missional Outreaches and is responsible for the team. This includes preparation / community briefings and follow-up / group de-briefings for each outreach. During the Community Gathering, the Mission-Leader facilitates reflections on the Missional Outreaches and is responsible for the prayer requests and needs of the place and people that the Community on Mission serves.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LEADER?

The main responsibility of the Community-Leader is the Community Gathering(s). They are responsible for creating a space to develop deep relationships, facilitating prayer and discussion around the study topics, and guiding the group in spiritual growth. This leader should be meeting individually with the Community on Mission members and creating social opportunities for the group.