

MICRO CHURCH FAQs



Our church family pivoted to a micro church model in November 2020. Although, by God's grace, we have witnessed incredible life change, we are still very much on an experiential journey to become followers of Jesus who are living on mission in community.

We hope this document will help you gain insight and understanding about our rhythms, structure, and vision for making disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the New River Valley and beyond.

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DEFINITIONS

What Is A Disciple?

Someone who is pursuing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus

What is a church?

The root meaning of "church" is not that of a building, but of people. A group of "*called out ones*" (Greek word = *ecclesia*) for the mission of GOing into the world as missionaries to make disciples

The church is also referred to in the Bible as the body of Christ, of which He is the head, and is often referred to today as either the universal church or the local church

The universal church consists of everyone, everywhere, who is following Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (1 Corinthians 12:13). This is the big picture view of the Church; from every spiritually adopted son and daughter of God, to "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20)

The local church worship gathering is a community of people who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who are committed to meet regularly for worship, teaching, fellowship, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47), and are sent on mission to make disciples of all people. All of this is done under the authority of the head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and under the authority of Biblically qualified leadership

What Is A Micro Church?

We see micro churches simply as a subset of the local church, primarily consisting of disciples (*someone who is pursuing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus*) who are pursuing life together on mission in community to make disciples

What is minimal ecclesiology?

It is the irreducible minimum for what a church must be for followers of Jesus to live on mission. For us, this minimum is **Jesus** ↔ **Mission** ↔ **Community**

What Is Disciple Making?

Entering into relationships to help people trust and follow Jesus, which includes the whole process from acquaintance, to conversion, through maturation and multiplication

We see micro churches as an even smaller community of disciples who not only gather regularly for worship (Acts 2:42-47), but are also pursuing mission and life together throughout the week.

MOBILIZATION

At the heart of this journey of every disciple is to be transformed by **Jesus as Lord** of our life. With Jesus as Lord, we are then compelled by the Word of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to **live on mission**. Living on mission, prayerfully and strategically, will then **cultivate deep community** with believers and non-believers in your life.



As a micro church walks towards its purpose, it must clarify and contextualize how to tangibly live out Jesus, mission and community

VISION

Why Did We Do This?

1. The larger our Sunday morning worship grew, we realized the more difficult it became for us to:
 - shepherd everyone well (Hebrews 13:17)
 - equip each other to use their gifts (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - maintain unity (Ephesians 4:13), and
 - grow in spiritual maturity on an individual level (Colossians 1:9-10)
2. It will provide more opportunities for everyone to utilize their giftings and strengths to serve as a “priesthood of all believers”
3. Smaller gatherings will help cultivate deeper relationships, which will help lead to healthier accountability, discipleship, and spiritual growth
4. Going small may be radical around here, but is an ancient, biblical model that is still flourishing throughout the globe, and other parts of the U.S.

Why Not Just Watch The Livestream By Myself?

Well, technically you can. And biblically speaking, where two or more are gathered in the name of Jesus, He will be with them (Matthew 18:20). However, it simply is not the same!

There is a reason the early church consistently engaged in fellowship, the Apostles’ teaching, breaking of bread, and prayers in community together. We are not meant to live in isolation. In fact, being a part of the Church is not an option for the follower of Jesus.

Did This Split Our Church Up?

On the contrary, we believe this has and continues to strengthen the relationships between the people committed to Jesus and His Bride, the church. Living on mission as a follower of Jesus will require a level of selflessness and sacrifice.

We are already starting to see how this pivot has put us in a position to multiply micro churches. Folks are being sent out by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to creatively start new movements to reach people.

Can It Become Cliquish?

The tendency to drift into cliques is a reality we must consistently fight against, regardless of the size of a church. At the end of the day, this is not about me, we, or us. It is about cultivating relationships with people from all walks of life to gather under the name of Jesus in authentic community.

Healthy things grow and reproduce along the way.

What If I Don't Like The People?

This is why Jesus as Lord has to be at the center. Think about the social dynamic of Matthew (a Jewish tax collector working for the Romans) sitting at the dinner table with Simon (a zealous Jew, who was trained to kill Romans). When you realize you have undeservedly been saved by grace, it should not matter who is sitting next to you. Love your neighbor.

What About My Kids?

This is the million dollar question. We are grateful our church is filled with young families who have kids of all ages running all over the place, and we love them dearly.

Our vision is for our kids to worship in community and with their families each week. This radical sounding idea may take time and patience for you to fully understand, but our prayer is that you give the Lord a chance to pleasantly surprise you.

We agree with the following quote from a house church leader in San Francisco: ***"It is so important for us to be comfortable with the messiness. We are going to view kids as a burden only if we are clinging to our gatherings being professional and well done."*** - *We Are Church*

One of our deep desires is for these micro churches to creatively become a place where families of various sizes and ages can flourish. A place where single parents can lean in on each other and other adults for help, and a place where parents and kids alike can worship freely and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

With this being said, we are always learning new ways to intentionally engage our kids, teach and show them the gospel of Jesus Christ, and raise them up to know and love Jesus. This includes reading them stories, asking them questions, teaching them worship songs, and allowing them to participate as much as possible through the entire experience.

LOGISTICS

What Is The Rhythm?

When it comes to weekly worship:

On the first Sunday of every month, all of our micro churches gather for “family worship” that focuses on sharing stories, worshiping in song and prayer, and other creative elements to celebrate who and whose we are.

On the other Sundays, people hang out at various locations throughout our community to worship together. This worship typically includes a meal, prayer, fellowship, and a streamed in message the group will debrief together.

When it comes to *mission*:

Each MC is empowered to creatively contextualize mission and life together throughout the week.

How Do Micro Churches Grow?

Each micro church will typically launch with 2 leaders and 2 potential locations. This serves several purposes:

1. It immediately alleviates pressure on one family to ‘always’ host and/or ‘always’ lead
2. It is immediately set up for future leadership as it grows or there is another need to step in when other leaders need to miss
3. It follows our leadership philosophy as a church, which is to give the ministry away (ie make disciples)

Multiplication occurs as people are stirred by the Holy Spirit with a distinct mission to reach a community. They are equipped, mentored, and sent out on mission.

Once an MC begins having around 20 adults consistently, and/or they have been meeting for a year, they are encouraged to ‘multiply’ into at least one more micro church.

What About Giving?

There are still three ways to continue giving financially to Northstar:

1. You can mail in a check or have your bank mail a check via online bill pay
2. You can pay online via our phone app via Subsplash giving
3. Each micro church site will have lockboxes to physically collect offerings each week

What About The Lord’s Supper?

Each week micro churches will participate in the Lord’s Supper in their own way.

CONNECTION IN A MICRO CHURCH

Where Do I Go? How Do I Find A Micro Church?

If you are not sure how or where to get connected into a micro church, you can download the app (click on the ‘connect’ tab, click on the ‘micro church’ button, and then click the ‘connect with one of our micro churches’ button). We will follow up with you shortly to help you and your family get connected.

If you're not sure where else to go, you're always welcome to come to our office (233 Broad St Dublin).

What Do I Need To Host?

All you need is a desire to host, internet speed fast enough for the livestream, and a space large where two or more can gather in the name of Jesus. If you have a desire to host, please fill out the MC host interest form located on our app

How Do I Get Connected In A Micro Church?

There is an online form available on our app and website you can fill out to help get you connected into one of our MCs. You can also email us at office@northstarpulaski.org for more information.