



## Guiding Principles

4. **Loving our neighbors means loving everyone, especially these:**
  - **The Widow** (Single mothers/Women in Need)(Jas. 1:27)
  - **The Sojourner** (Recent Immigrants/Refugees)(Lev. 19:33-34)
  - **The Marginalized** (People with Disabilities/Elderly/Prisoners) (Ps. 82:3-4)
  - **The Orphan** (Abused/Unborn/Foster)(Jas. 1:27)
  - **The Oppressed** (Human Trafficking Victims)(Ps. 72:12-14)
  - **The Unreached** (People groups with little gospel witness)
  - God seems to have a particular heart and plan for people in these categories and we want to especially be looking for ways we can reach out to and minister to them, especially where there is little to no ministry or care being provided.
5. **Loving our neighbors takes focus and intentionality**
  - We believe that church gathered (institution) is not called to do all that the church scattered (individuals) are called to. We would rather go an inch wide and a mile deep than a mile wide and an inch deep. There are going to be ministries/initiatives that we (as an institution):
    - Own**
      - Ministries/Initiatives central to what we believe God has uniquely and presently called us to do in our community. They closely align with how we believe we should minister. We will provide on-going financial support and take responsibility for their growth and direction.
    - Catalyze**
      - Ministries/Initiatives that are, close but not central, to what we believe God has called us to do in our community. They closely align with how we believe we should minister. We (as an institution) offer limited or temporary investment and guidance.
    - Bless**
      - Ministries/Initiatives that are not close to what we believe God has called us to be doing in our community. They may or may not be closely aligned with how we believe we should minister. We provide an encouraging environment (equipping, prayer), but no financial support, or direct oversight.

## Defining Our Community

1. **Gathered/Institutional**

We believe God has called our church to first and foremost **Own** and **Catalyze** ministry in the zip codes that make up Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village and any geographic area outside of those zip codes where there are significant numbers (20+) of church members that can be mobilized to minister in that area.
2. **Scattered/Individuals**

We believe God has called our church to primarily **Bless** church members seeking to do ministry outside of the zip codes that make up Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village unless there are significant numbers (20+) of church members that can be mobilized to minister in that area.