

Local Missions

Core Convictions

Goal **To be who we are (disciples of Jesus), where we are (our community), so that people might see evidences of the Kingdom and submit to the King.**

- Core Convictions**
- 1. Depending on the Holy Spirit**
 - Because apart from the Holy Spirit we can do nothing of eternal impact, prayer must empower and direct all that we do. (Jn. 15:5/Acts 1:8/Eph. 2:8/2 Cor. 4:6-8)
 - 2. Speaking the Gospel**
 - Because sharing how people can be reconciled to God is the most unique and eternal way that we can love them. (Rom. 10:14/2 Cor. 5:20)
 - 3. Showing the Gospel**
 - Because the gospel creates compassion for people, that leads to action to relieve both spiritual and physical suffering. (1 Jn. 3:18/ Matt.11:2-5/Lk. 9:1-2)
 - 4. Multiplying disciples**
 - Because Jesus commands us to go make disciples and His goal is to have disciples from every people group in heaven. (Matt. 28:18-20/Rev. 5:9)

- Guiding Principles**
- 1. Loving our neighbor means knowing our neighbor**
 - We can best love and disciple people whom we have deep and lasting relationships.
 - Relationships are costly and difficult and yet they are the context in which true and lasting change occurs in both our neighbor and ourselves.
 - 2. Loving our neighbor means going to our neighbor**
 - Just as Jesus came to live among us, seeking us out, we want to go to people and exit our comfort zones and enter theirs. (Jn. 1:14, Lk. 19:10)
 - We want to locate ministry as geographically close to people in our community as possible, even encouraging members to intentionally relocate into specific areas. (2 Cor. 8:9)
 - 3. Loving our neighbor means being humble**
 - Being humble means entering the community fully aware of our own poverty and the undeserved and sacrificial help God has given to us. This awareness leads us to approach people not as the strong there to save them but as those who are weak there to point them to the Savior.
 - Being humble means entering the community as listeners and learners. We don't assume we know people, their needs, or the best way to help them.
 - Being humble means not doing it for people but doing it with people.

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.