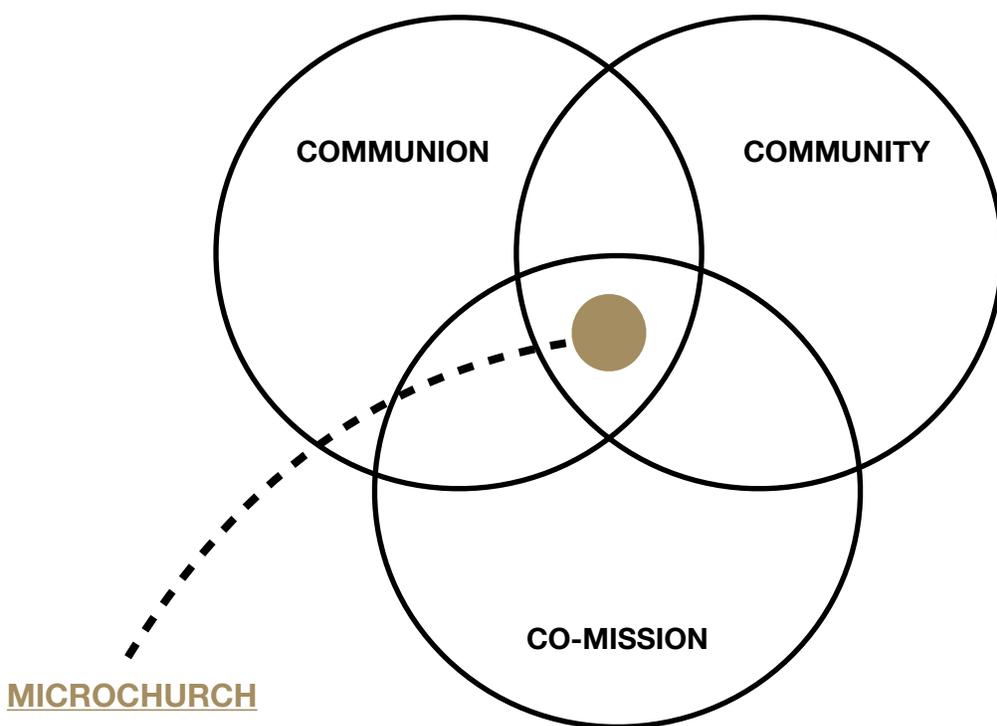


LIVING INTO THE RHYTHMS

Our belief: When people huddle together in communion with God, operating as a spiritual family, and living out God's mission, they are the church.

We love how Tampa Underground puts it, “The New Testament Church is simple, small, fluid...and powerful. Where we see worship (communion), community and mission (co-mission) overlap, we are seeing the church of Jesus. Simply put, a microchurch is a small community of believers, who love Jesus as Lord and Savior and engage in his mission.”



HOW DOES THIS WORK OUT IN A MICROCHURCH?

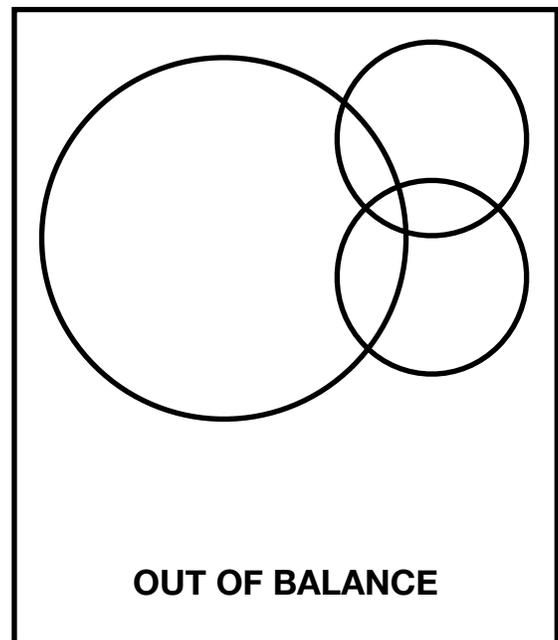
Any one microchurch can't reach "everyone". So every microchurch must define a people, or a place, but ultimately the calling comes from God. As the microchurch walks towards their calling they must clarify and contextualize how to manifest communion, community and co-mission. This implies

missional creativity and diverse methodology for microchurches. For example, your methods for reaching neighbors in a neighborhood and unhoused people on the street will be vastly different, and therefore the rhythms need to be contextualized around those missional concerns. In other words, every microchurch needs to assess its mission field while following the Holy Spirit in crafting these rhythms.

Also, leaders must pay attention to where they might be extremely out of balance. Most microchurches don't have a perfectly "even" communion, community, and co-mission rhythm happening. That said, it isn't hard to overemphasis one of the three rhythms over the other two. This will lead to an unhealthy microchurch.

Mostly Communion: If your microchurch is limited to private worship and study times, the microchurch will be fostering a group of theorists who talk about faith but who lack a lifestyle of practice. To truly live into the way of Jesus we need deep community and a missional calling to practice faith obediently.

Mostly Community: If your microchurch is limited to relationships and fellowship, the microchurch will fostering a group who lacks spiritual direction and fall prey to idolatry. To truly live into the way of Jesus, we must be shaped by our devotion to prayer and God's Word, while obediently following God's heart to the lost and broken around us.



Mostly Co-Mission: If your microchurch is limited to serving others and/or justice work, the microchurch will fostering a group full of pride and exhaustion. In other words, such a rhythm sets us up to detach our work from God's work in the world. In doing so, we use our own merits as a means of religion, which inflates our egos and/or exhausts us over time. Instead, a microchurch understands that justice work flows out of our communion with God and relies on the gifts and talents of everyone in the faith community.

How do you think you're doing in these areas?

MICROCHURCH ASSESSMENT

Assessment adapted from Brian Sanders

Take a few minutes to fill out the following assessment to discern next steps in your microchurch. Rank your microchurch on a scale of 1 to 5 (most accurate) with a check mark in the appropriate box.

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
1. People who come to your microchurch would describe it as an experience with God.					
2. New people from our context are attending my microchurch every month or two.					
3. We look at Scripture together regularly, and often leave feeling inspired and amazed.					
4. The people in our micorchurch hangout regularly outside of group times and celebrate together often.					
5. We talk about Jesus a lot in our microchurch and our people are growing to know the Gospel more.					
6. Prayer is priority in our microchurch, and it never feels forced when we pray together.					
7. There are people who would say they've come to faith in Jesus because of our microchurch.					
8. People in my microchurch would describe us a family, truly carrying each other's burdens.					
9. If a non-believer walked in our group they would hear the Gospel and learn more about Jesus.					
10. Most people in our microchurch would say they've become closer to Jesus because we exist.					
11. Our group knows each other's birthdays and important life moments, and celebrate with each other.					
12. It's not uncommon for people to cry or open up about private issues in their lives in our microchurch.					

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
13. When our group dives into Scripture or spends time in prayer, we often go over our designated time.					
14. Everyone in our microchurch is part of inviting and welcoming outsiders into our rhythm.					
15. If someone in our microchurch was to get married, everyone else in the group would be invited.					
16. We often talk about our mutual call to reach people, love people, and do ministry outside of gathering times.					
17. If someone were to have a crisis in our microchurch, they would bring others into it.					
18. We have seen people grow in Christ in our microchurch and also become leaders.					
19. If someone was having an affair in our microchurch, it would be obvious to other members.					
20. When we look at the Scriptures it is not just an intellectual exercise, but a heart and obedience exercise.					
21. A former non-member in our group now understands their calling and is engaged in living missionally.					

SCORE YOUR MICROCHURCH:

Add scores for statements 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 13, 20 to get your COMMUNION score.

TOTAL SCORE = _____

Add scores for statements 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, to get your COMMUNITY score.

TOTAL SCORE = _____

Add scores for statements 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 18, 21 to get your CO-MISSION score.

TOTAL SCORE = _____

DISCUSSION STARTERS FOR YOUR MICROCHURCH:

1. What did our results tell us about our microchurch? Did anything stand out?
2. Were the results somewhat unified or are we seeing different issues?
3. Based on our COMMUNION score, what might we need to change so that we can be healthier?
4. Based on our COMMUNITY score, what might we need to change so that we can be healthier?
5. Based on our CO-MISSION score, what might we need to change so that we can be healthier?
6. Who can we better utilize in our microchurch community to help in these areas?
7. What goals should we put in place this year so we can evaluate next year?