



The Ministry of the Saints within the Ministry of the Church

Has God laid something upon your heart? Do you feel passionate about a particular need, ministry opportunity or cause? How do you know if this burden/calling/desire is for you alone to fulfill or something for other believers in the church to join you in?

These are good questions that need to be answered. The following four steps were written down for this very purpose. Trying to balance the ministry of the church with the ministries of individuals within the church is important because both are necessary and play a vital role in the expansion of a gospel movement. With the exception of major ministry direction we want as many of our ministries to be from the bottom up and not necessarily top down. This means your proposed ministry idea will have traction and longevity as a self-sustaining ministry amongst our congregation rather than a program that the staff & church offices will have to support. We want our staff and office focused on the ministry of the church as a whole rather than the ministries of Christians within the church. Also, from the elders perspective, it is wiser and better stewardship to recognize a work that God is doing amongst His people, then marshal the churches resources around that than to amass resources first, hoping that God's people will respond or that God will bless the effort.

First, Pray about this- Actually do this. Find one or two people who might share your passion and begin to pray. Get together once a week. Do this for a season.

Second, Speak to your community group- have them pray for you to find the one or two other people or for the patience to wait upon God. If you can't find one or two people maybe this is indicative that the time is not yet right. The best way to get word of mouth out- is to be involved with people in the church, have conversations, tell people what you are praying about, ask them if they know anyone who shares this passion, ask them to pray for you. You would be amazed how many of our people share a similar passion but don't know about others in the church. The best environment for this to happen would be at our monthly Lord's supper service. In short step two is about *being proactive at the informal relational level first before depending upon the official promotional level next.*

Third, While you are doing steps one and two above think about these things:

What are the biblical principles at play that support or provide the framework for such a ministry.

Write these out. This is as important for you as it is for others who God might draw into this ministry. The clearer you are about what this ministry is and isn't, the easier it is for others to join in the work, or participate in what's going on.

What is it you desire to see happen?

What timeline? Describe what it would look like for this ministry to flourish?

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What resources would you need for this to happen?

Keep in mind every ministry endeavor requires some kind of human, capital and/or financial resources. (human resources include people to make announcements, someone to post things on Realm, make copies, send emails, etc. Capital resources include use of a room at the church, scheduling it, who's responsible for open/lock up, etc. Financial resources include fund raising? church budget item, personal solicitations, etc).

Who's going to be the point person? Are they a member of the church? Will there be teaching/doctrine/worldview being espoused? What qualifies this person for this role?

Fourth, If/when God connects a few of you together (hopefully you've been doing item three above) begin to actually do the ministry God has laid upon your heart. Don't wait for official recognition because you're not doing an official ministry of Christ Community Church at this point, you're just believers who are being obedient to the Lord's direction in your life- just go for it (begin to meet on campus (contact the office for facility space first), create a Realm group to provide a communications hub and allow others who are interested a way to join, etc)! If God continues to bless and the work gains momentum (make sure that you write out in step three above what this 'momentum' might look like so there are some practical and objective metrics to discern direction rather than pure subjectivity) **then let's talk** about what God is doing & what role Christ Community Church should/ought to play.