

# COMMUNITY

...Supportive Relationships



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# Acts 2:42-47

## ... The Church as Community

How can we experience a real sense of community and belonging as a church?



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... Begin by Building Friendships

Close community doesn't just happen. It has to be cultivated and nurtured intentionally.

Intentional community is a core responsibility of being an active member of a church family.



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... Ministry Principle

## Supportive Relationships

A *'Programme shift'* from events to relationships, being a caring community.



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

## ... Ministry Principle

**John 13:34-35** *So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.*

vision  
casting  
*moving forward, creating a future*



# ... Core Values

## Community

*We uphold the value and worth of all people and will maintain an environment of love, acceptance and forgiveness.*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

**1 Peter 4:8** *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

**Ephesians 4:2-3** *Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.*



vision  
casting  
*moving forward, creating a future*

## ... Core Values

### **Belonging**

*We believe that life change happens best in small groups, through accountability, a sense of belonging and knowing that others care.*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

**Hebrew 10:24-25** *Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together. Let us encourage one another.*

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

Genuine loving relationships provide the care that people need and the context in which life transformation can take place.

We want to be large enough to make a difference but small enough to really care.

**But how can we do this?**

vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*



# ... Following the New Testament Church Model

The New Testament church grew very rapidly.

**Acts 21:20**



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... Following the New Testament Church Model

This rapid growth of the early church raises at least two questions;

1. Where did they put all those people?
2. How did they care for them?



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

## ... Following the New Testament Church Model

The early Church grew larger and smaller at the same time.

**Acts 5:42** *Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

## ... Following the New Testament Church Model

Notice that there are two types of meetings.

1. They met in the *'Temple courts'* - a large group meeting.
2. And from *'house to house'* - a small group meeting.



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... Building a Small Groups Culture

As we increase our ministry reach across the Geelong and Golden Plains regions, embracing a culture of small groups is vital in creating authentic community.



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... The Purpose of Life Groups

**A Life Group is a CARE Group.**

*'It is a place where Christians can gather together to care for one another through friendship, encouragement and practical expressions of love and kindness.'*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... The Purpose of Life Groups

**A Life Group is a *DISCIPLE-MAKING* Group.**

*'It is a place where Christians can grow together to become fervent followers of Jesus Christ through the process of discipline, teaching and mentoring.'*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... The Purpose of Life Groups

**A Life Group is a *MINISTRY* Group.**

*'It is a place where Christians can develop and use their God-given gifts and abilities to help others.'*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... The Purpose of Life Groups

**A Life Group is an *OUTREACH* Group.**

*'It is a place where Christians can bring their friends, neighbours and relatives in order for them to experience the life that is in Jesus Christ.'*



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

# ... Conclusion

We were created for community and God wants each one of us to experience the benefits of authentic relationships.

**Hebrew 10:24-25**



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*

## ... Conclusion

Involvement in a small group of Christ-followers makes an excellent contribution to our personal need for community and a sense of belonging.

**How about becoming involved in a small group today?**



vision  
casting

*moving forward, creating a future*