



“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Messiah is Jesus.” Acts 5:42

According to the repeated teaching of the New Testament, community/ fellowship/relationship is not optional; it is vital to the Christian life and walk. It is the heart of the church. Meeting in an auditorium, sitting in rows and listening to a few people sing and speak to you doesn't promote very well the intimacy and relationships necessary for deep spiritual development. But when we meet in one another's home, where everyone shares a meal, worships, disciples, prays and cares for one another deep life change takes place. That is the purpose of Metrolina House Church. We want to rethink church, to return to its original design. To move from being an institution, a corporation, back to being a family, a community of people who love Jesus and one another.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

Our Metrolina House Churches will meet every 5th Sunday in 2020 (March 29, May 31, August 30, November 29). We will meet in one of five host homes with an assigned leader. Every Metrolina member will be assigned to a House Church with 10-20 people per church. Lesson/sermon topics and study notes will be provided for each HC leader, a Children's activity will be provided for each HC, and worship music resources will also be provided. Each house church meeting will include the following components: worship, prayer, lesson/discussion, communion, and a meal. Inviting, engaging and reaching new people will be a priority strategy for each HC.

FAQ's

What is a house church?

House churches are one the best ways we know to encourage true discipleship, accountability, and spiritual growth through the teaching of God's Word, fellowship with other believers, and reaching out to the community around us.

Why should I be a part of a house church?

We believe that house churches are part of God's design for the life and mission of the whole church. Being smaller, HC's allow disciples of Christ to be the church in ways that you simply cannot in a large gathering. The New Testament lists more than 50 "one another's" in which the church ought to be active. Love one another. Encourage one another. Serve one another. We simply cannot live life together as the church without opportunity to do these things... and these things simply do not happen well when the church remains a gathering of anonymous people.

Who are the house churches for?

Everyone! Since house churches are organized by geography, they are not intentionally geared toward specific ages, life stages, etc. Does that mean that a house church may have singles, parents, and children all together? Yes, it does! They can really become a family environment, teaching one another and sharing life together. It will often be much more like "Family Thanksgiving" than "Small Group Bible Study." And yes, that can make things interesting at times... but you will most likely grow to love it if you give it a chance!

What makes a house church different from a traditional Bible study?

Keeping in mind that every house church is unique, they will generally have the common elements of a shared meal, communion, worship, prayer, and time in Scripture. They seek to establish transparency and accountability. They encourage their members to minister to one another and be on mission to all those around them.

It would not be unusual to hear about house churches baptizing, participating in house church mission trips and local service projects together. We hope to hear reports of people coming to know their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in living rooms and backyards.

What exactly happens in a house church?

Every house church is unique due to the fact that personalities, gifts, contexts, and backgrounds within a church shape a group to some extent. We do, however, encourage a simple 3-part measuring stick by which the group can hold themselves accountable to healthy community life. 1.) Biblical Truth: Teaching one another the dynamic truth of scripture and challenging one another to be accountable and obedient to becoming more like Christ. 2.) Edifying Relationships: Building strong, dependent relationships with one another through close, personal accountability, prayer, and the many "one another" expressions of community mentioned in the New Testament. 3.) Actively On Mission: Encouraging one another to outwardly obey the commands of Scripture and the prompting of the Holy Spirit to share the gospel and do good works to advance the kingdom of God.

What is the typical "format" of a house church gathering?

While every house church is unique, the common structure is worship, prayer, Bible discussion, communion and sharing a meal.

How many people are usually in a house church?

The “average” size house church is 10 to 20.

How long does a house church gathering last?

This also depends on the house church you are in. They typically go anywhere from two to three hours.

Is everyone going to be my age?

No. There are certain house churches that may have more people who are XYZ age than ABC age. We understand the importance of fellowship with others who are in the same stage of life as you, but we really want to diversify our house churches! We have so much to learn from one another! You will find people from all stages of life within the house churches. Remember, the purpose of a house church is to grow together and be on mission with people in your community.

Is childcare provided?

It is up to each house church to decide. Since children are part of the family, we encourage their inclusion in house church. That’s why we provide resources for each House Church to include the children in their gatherings.