



Harbor Collective Microchurches are IDENTIFIED by:

Shared Mission:helping people find their way back to God.

Shared Approach to the mission: *Creating communities of belonging, centered on Jesus where people are formed and sent to be good news.*

Shared Actions that get reported monthly: *Up, In, and Out.*

UP: Encountering God

Encountering God is essentially the fountain from which our actions as a church will flow. This action takes on many forms including communal and personal worship, constant prayer, regular engagement in the scriptures and a general attitude of expectation that God will be present to us in all of life.

We recognize that one of the ways that God reveals himself to us is through the exercise of his spiritual gifts given to the Church. Therefore, we realize that all Jesus' disciples, and not just a few, are qualified to lead, pray, prophecy, minister, care, proclaim, etc within our community as God called them to do so. As the Harbor Collective we will recognize calling and gifts instead of titles (or a separate clergy class). This is our desire to live the historic conviction of the church that there is a "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:9).

IN: Cultivating Family

Family is one of God's chosen metaphors for his Church. God is our Father, and we are all his children.

Defining "family" is important. As no human family is unaffected by the fall of humankind into sin, we want to celebrate the beauty of our human families as gifts from God, but also recognize that the human family alone (in its many forms) is insufficient to be a community on its own. Therefore, it is our conviction that church is called to be a new, *found*, family – one that is spiritual in nature rather than only genetic.

Cultivating family means intentionally building a hospitable atmosphere where all are "insiders" regardless of age, ability, spiritual maturity, culture, etc. Sharing meals and meeting each other's needs are natural and biblical examples of this shared action in practice.

Lastly, we recognize that cultivating family means shifting our glossary. No longer is "church" a thing we "go to," but rather simply who we are as the new spiritual family of God, placing the emphasis on the people in our community first.

OUT: Being Good News

In Genesis, God called Abraham and Sarah's family to himself and declared that they were "blessed to be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). The same identity has been extended to the church.

We believe we have been called to seek the peace (otherwise known as the *flourishing, blessing, and Shalom*) of the city or community we live in, so much so, that our own peace is tied up in that of our local community's peace (see Jer. 29:7).

We are called to be catalysts for peace, seeking to partner with God by his Holy Spirit who is already at work in our communities.

We will daily ask individually and communally: “what is good news, for this people, in this place, at this time?” We will prioritize tangible relationships with the people who live in our communities, committing to pray for, serve, and love our literal neighbors.

Harbor Collective Microchurches HAVE:

- **Missionary Leaders:** A couple or individual acting as the functional ‘elders’ of the group.
- **Missionary Apprentices:** Couple(s) or individual(s) identified for future sending to launch their own microchurch in a new missional context.
- **A Missional Context:** Specific geography (i.e. neighborhood or street) OR specific people group (i.e. stay-at-home moms, the closing shift of a bar staff).
- **A Shared Life:** Digital & Physical. Gathered & Scattered.
- **Specific Rhythms**
 - Gather
 - Worship
 - Prayer
 - Scripture
 - Typically a *Discovery Bible Study* style discussion. But can be adapted.
 - Whatever it is, it must focus on obedience (“I Will” statements) and *discipling others* (“who will you share this with?”)
 - This should NOT focus only on accumulating scriptural knowledge
 - Meal (This is also invitational)
 - Mission (What is good news in our context?)

A Note about the Next Generation:

Since Jesus has followers of all ages (Matt. 19:14), microchurches are encouraged to develop practical and balanced approaches to including children in all aspects of their shared life and rhythms. As a collective of microchurches, one of the gifts we offer each other is the ability to innovate new ways to invite kids into our shared mission.