

All Together Now: Mutually encouraged by each other's faith

CapChurch: Small Church September 14, 2025

At CapChurch both of our styles of worship gathering, All Church and Small Church, are full expressions of the gathered body of Christ (the Church). The fruits of both types of worship are similar, but the scope and purpose are different.

To make the most out of Small Church gatherings this year, you are invited to take some time to review the purposes and outcomes of Small Church. After some reflection and discussion your Small Church will set some intentions for your group for the coming year.

You are encouraged to do this activity so that as you start this new year of Small Church, there is a shared understanding for why you are gathering and what you hope to get out of your time together. Please note, there are no right or wrong answers, and you don't have to share this with anyone outside of your Small Church. If this activity seems like a lot to go through at one time, you can spread it out over a few weeks.

STEP ONE: Review the purpose of Small Church

Small Church Purposes
1. Christian faith formation
2. Encouraging integration between Christian beliefs and everyday life
3. Relational connection and care

There is actually a fourth purpose: "Tangible outward expression of incarnational witness." However, as a community we are still developing that one, and working out what it looks like in practice. For today's activity, we will stick with the three listed above.

Also, we know that not all Cappers are in a Small Church. Some people have other groups or communities which meet the same purposes for them – we bless them as they engage with others. There are also some in our community who are not quite ready to take the step of joining a Small Church. When they are ready, there is a space waiting for them.

STEP TWO: REVIEW THE OUTCOMES OF SMALL CHURCH

If the **purpose** is the **why** we do Small Church, then the **outcomes** are the **results** we expect to see happen when people are part of a Small Church. Below are some of the outcomes that Cap's pastoral team has come up with for Small Church.

Purpose <i>Small Church is part of Cap's expression of worship, so that there is:</i>	Outcomes <i>When the purposes are met, we would expect there would be:</i>
Christian faith formation	Discipleship and formation of participants.
	Development and equipping of leaders.
Encouraging integration between Christian beliefs and everyday life	Better able to reflect Jesus' love in all parts of participant's lives.
	Broadening imagination for what worship, and Christian community looks like.
Relational connection and care	Integration into one another lives
	Expanded understanding of who belongs and what it means to be part of the Cap community

STEP THREE: REFLECT AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

- What resonates with you? Where do you need more clarity?
- Is there something you would add to this list?
- Which purpose does your Small Church excel at?
- Is there a purpose that your Small Church grow into more?
- Are there outcomes which you see happening in your Small Church?

STEP FOUR: SET INTENTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL CHURCH

For the coming year, set intentions for your Small Church. Perhaps start by discussing in pairs, then come together as a group. You don't need to come up with a final answer today, you can keep coming back to your intentions throughout the year.

To help your discussion, consider the following:

- What are your hopes and dreams, both personally and for the group?
- Is there a specific focus that the group wants to take on for the year?
- Who are you trying to encourage in their faith – Children? Adults? Both?
- What purpose or outcome do you need to pay more attention to?
- Is there a practice you want to add?