



GARDEN CITY

HOME CHURCH

Garden City Home Church Guide 2021-2022 **ABOUT HOME CHURCH - *Equip & Mobilize***

Intimate gatherings of believers meeting in homes all across the city to worship, pray, read scripture, take communion, and develop deep, meaningful, authentic, relationships as each person continues to pursue Jesus! Home Churches meet the 1st & 3rd weeks of each month.

The purpose of Home Church is to mobilize and equip the body of believers to experience family, accountability, confess sin, experience spiritual formation and maturity as they learn to do life together in Christ. The Home Churches will be centered around the name, presence, beauty and truth of Jesus Christ.

His promise is that where two or three are gathered in His name that He would be present in the midst (Matthew 18:20). Jesus desires for everyone in the body of Christ to be equipped for the work of the ministry, for the body to be edified (built up) until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13). Home Churches will serve this purpose.

We believe that Home Churches should be the first place new believers, seekers, friends, co-workers, neighbors should be invited when looking to become part of the Garden City family. We believe that gathering in the living room, around the kitchen table, sharing a meal, and hearing the testimonies of other believers is the best way to introduce people to the faith and body of Christ.

Our desire is for each home church to show itself to be good neighbors and also to make a felt impact in the community it is located in for the Kingdom of God!

Scripture References for Home Church: Exodus 12, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 24:15, Song of Solomon 1:4, John 1:38-39, Matthew 10:12, Luke 19:5, Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2:42-46, Acts 28:23

What does the Bible Say about Home Church? *See our Home Church sermon series on our Home Church page of our website (<https://gardencitychurch.tv/home-church/>)

What is the goal of Home Church? *See our Home Church sermon series on our Home Church page of our website (<https://gardencitychurch.tv/home-church/>)

- What's the GOAL from God's perspective.....God's Glory and having a Priesthood (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10)
- What's the GOAL for the Body of Christ.....a mature body (Ephesians 4)
- What's the GOAL for me as the individual.....individual fruitfulness (John 15)

What should I expect of myself and what should I expect of others?? *See our Home Church sermon series on our Home Church page of our website (<https://gardencitychurch.tv/home-church/>)

12 Commitments

1. Commitment to the vision, mission, values, cultures and beliefs of Garden City Church (see them at the end of this document).
2. Commitment to practicing the one another scriptures (a list of the "one another" scriptures are attached to the end of this document)
3. Commitment to hosting 2 prayer and worship gatherings a month in your home for a 12 month period.
 - a. Focus on praying the scripture as a body and releasing worship that primarily glorifies Jesus, who He is and what He did (vertical worship). Seek a spirit of unity and oneness of mind and heart toward the beauty of Jesus.
 - i. Prayer for the church of Columbus, marketplace, families, personal/one on one prayer, citywide transformation, regional, national and global intercession is encouraged.
 - ii. Prayer for justice, the gospel to advance, discipleship, supernatural encounters, for God's glory and presence to fill our communities is encouraged. Singing worship and praise songs specifically over these areas is encouraged.
 - b. Wait on the Lord together don't move until He comes. The success of any gathering is every heart beholding and encountering the King. Let the Holy Spirit lead what should be prayed for from there.

- c. Use Youtube for praise and worship (unless someone in your Home Church plays instruments/sings)
 - d. When handouts are given by Garden City Church make sure to go through them. Read, discuss, and use these handouts to facilitate discipleship and learning in your Home Churches.
 - e. Leave time for fellowship (it's often best to start with fellowship see example of order of service below). Share meals together. Plan a few nights out of the year, especially around the holidays for game nights.
 - f. Take communion together often.
 - g. Be prepared to lead. You may have to help the group get back on track, focus back on the Lord. Don't allow for questions or conversations that are not focused on what God is doing in the room to derail the group. Be assertive while also being loving in the event that one or two people are talking too long or distracting the group etc.
 - h. Focus on getting to know your group, come alongside one another throughout the week through one on one meetings, calls, texts etc.
4. Commitment to communicating updates/news that you are asked to share at your Home Church gathering on behalf of Garden City Church.
 - a. Stay connected to Garden City social media, newsletter and any other church communication so you can share what is happening at Garden City with your Home Church.
 5. Commitment to serving your neighborhood through your Home Church.
 - a. One outreach/serving project per quarter (4 a year).

Examples include:

 - serving at a Block Party with the Dream Center in a neighborhood near you (www.columbusdreamcenter.org)
 - Serving with your Home Church at one of Garden City's Holiday events (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter)
 - Doing a prayer walk and street clean up in your neighborhood with your Home Church.
 - Choosing a non-profit or service project on your own through the POINT APP (<https://pointapp.org/>) to volunteer in Columbus with your Home Church
 6. Commitment to attending our bi-monthly Home Church cohort meetings (a schedule will be provided below).
 - a. Further leadership/spiritual development, equipping and resources for how to grow as a Home Church leader will be provided.
 - b. Connection with the other Home Church leaders, sharing testimonies and best practices will be included.
 - c. Schedule (Location TBD time 3-5PM):
 - i. November 14th, 2021
 - ii. January 9th, 2022
 - iii. March 13th, 2022
 - iv. May 15th, 2022

- v. July 10th, 2022
 - vi. September 11, 2022
7. Commitment to assigning a replacement leader in the event you are on vacation or plan to go out of town for holidays.
 - a. Please communicate two weeks in advance with your Home Church directors and administrator in the event that you plan to assign a replacement leader to lead your Home Church or if you need to change the location.
 - i. In the event you are unable to assign a replacement leader and need to cancel Home Church for any reason please communicate two weeks in advance. You will be asked to take the initiative in communicating with your Home Church community any changes, cancellations etc.
 - ii. In the event you need to change the location of your Home Church and a house is not available, you can request to use Garden City Church, or you can meet at a local coffee shop. All changes must be communicated to your Home Church Directors, Administrator and your Home Church community.
 8. Commitment to spiritual health. It is so important as a Home Church leader that you are continuing to grow personally in your faith/relationship with Jesus.
 - a. Prayer, fasting, worship, reading the word, serving, giving financially to the local church are all regular spiritual rhythms we are expecting you as a Home Church leader to be practicing.
 - i. Here is a link to the Garden City wholeness review form that will help you assess your spiritual and overall wholeness (<https://airtable.com/shrUoKfqNeeDkC4S>).
 9. Commitment to rest and health as a Home Church leader. We are asking all Home Church leaders to take at least 3 weeks off for rest/vacation throughout the year, preferably on a weekend we are having our Worship Celebration(s) at Garden City Church.
 10. Commitment to communicating with our Home Church Directors and Administrator through filling out weekly updates that allow us to best support you as a Home Church leader.
 - a. The weekly update form will ask the following questions:
 - i. Outline of Home Church meeting (activity and time spent)
 - ii. What worked well?
 - iii. What did not work well/what do you need support for?
 - iv. What testimonies would you like to share from Home Church?
 - b. Expect for the Home Church Directors to call and or reach out one on one to ask questions, pray with you, and discuss specific ways they can be supporting you.
 - i. Home Church Resources
 - The weekly Home Church form will be located on the Home Church page of our website (<https://gardencitychurch.tv/home-church/>) along with other resources including the previous messages explaining “What the Bible says about Home Church” (Old & New Testament), “What

The Goal of Home Church Is”, and “What To Expect”. Feel free to refer those in your home churches to these resources.

11. Commitment to filling out the weekly Home Church attendance report.
 - a. This will be done via planning center.
 - b. If you have questions please see your Home Church Directors and or Administrator.
12. Commitment to honor the Garden City leadership team/Home Church Directors and Administrator.
 - a. In the event that unbiblical behavior is being practiced and you as a leader(s) refuse to repent, pursue restoration and or reconciliation you will be dismissed from leading a Home Church.
 - b. Disclaimer for all Home Churches; the Garden City leadership team does not endorse, unless otherwise specified, any teaching, prophetic words, or ministry outside of the scope of prayer, worship and the reading of the Word out loud.

Example Order of Service For Home Churches

- 2 Hours
 - 30 min of food and fellowship
 - 45 min of worship, reading and praying scripture, praying for one another
 - 30 min of going through Garden City Handout for teaching/discipleship or other planning teaching
 - 15 min for communion and close out prayer

Home Church leader roles

- House Church Leader
 - Role
 - House Church leaders are responsible for creating healthy environments where members can commune in the presence of God. House Church leaders will foster practices that will lead to the discipleship of the believers in attendance.
- Cares Leader
 - The Cares leader is responsible for creating a caring community within the house church. The Cares leader will help the group better meet the “One Another” passages in the New Testament. They will help create a running care’s list that will allow Garden City’s corporate body care for its individual members.
 - Cares List
 - Extreme Celebration
 - Extreme Crisis
 - Transition
 - Inactivity in the life and rhythms of the House Church
- Hospitality

- The Hospitality leader is responsible for creating a welcoming environment for the community. No matter where a house church meets we want to ensure it is a safe, tidy environment. Hospitality leaders will guide the group to leave the environment in better shape than they found it. As groups share meals and snacks to commune at the table the Hospitality leader will aid the community to provide what is necessary. Finally as new people enter the meeting, Hospitality leaders will ensure that they are greeted and welcomed in with Christian love.
- Administration Leader
 - Administration leaders will ensure the proper communication and planning of the home churches activities. They will aid the House Church leader in the submission of the House Church Form after each meeting. The Administration leader will send messages to the group and ensure that any changes of plans are shared to the entire group. They will manage their GroupMe channel and add all necessary parties to the group. They will help communicate the announcements of the corporate Garden City Church.
- Kids Ministry Leader
 - Each Home Church is encouraged to determine the best way to engage/include kids within the Home Church experience. The goal is for the kids attending Home Church to grow in relationship with one another while also encountering God through the same teaching and worship that their parents are experiencing.
 - For kids 0-4 Garden City Church will reimburse child care expenses up to \$50.00 per Home Church gathering.

The 10 C's of Home Church

- **Christ** (who He is, what He did, why He did it, why it matters) **Celebration**, **Cannon** (encounter and experience Jesus in the word), **Chorus** (prayer and praise), **Communion** (enjoying the presence of Christ with one another), **Confessing** (sin, struggles, shame and experience freedom) **Crying** (hurts, pains, disappointments and experience) **Conflict/Communication** (with each other, in our outside relationships), (talk through it, pray about it, resolve it) **Caring** (for one another spiritually, physically, financially, for your neighbors and non-believers), **Calling** (striving to honor and champion one another's callings, passions, and gifts in the body of Christ).
 - **Christ** (Christ plus nothing, gather around His name, His beauty, His holiness, His worthiness, His presence, HIS PERSON!)
 - **1 Cor. 2:2** For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
 - **2 Cor. 11:2-3** For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
 - **Celebration** (Who is Jesus to YOU, what has He done for YOU!)

- **1 Chronicles 16:9/Psalm 105:2** Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!
 - **Phil 3:3** Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship [a]God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
 - **Phil 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
 - **Cannon** (Go to the word to see, know and experience Christ! It all points to Him)
 - **John 5:37-39** And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.
 - **Matthew 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
 - **Romans 7:7** What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."
 - **Galatians 3:21-25** (NKJV) *Is* the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our [g]tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
 - **Hebrews 1:1-4** God, who [a]at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the [b]worlds; 3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had [c]by Himself [d]purged [e]our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
- **Chorus** (praise and prayer together as the body of Christ)
 - **Psalms 22:3** But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
 - **Psalms 72:15** And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, *And* daily He shall be praised.
 - **Psalms 40:3** He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the Lord.

- **Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1** “Lord teach us to pray”
- **1 Thess 5:16-18**
- **Ephesians 5:19** speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,
 - **Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
 - **Revelation 22:20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
 - There is an apostolic and prophetic remnant rising up with one message “BEHOLD THE LAMB” and one prevailing prayer “COME LORD!”
- **Communion** (Sharing Meals TOGETHER as the body of Christ...recognize that we are being invited to His table, to dine with Him as His body!)
 - **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, [a]“Take, eat; this is My body which is [b]broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.
 - **Matthew 26:26-30** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the [d]new covenant, which is shed for many for the [e]remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
 - **Acts 20:7** On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.
 - **Acts 2:42-46** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- **Confessing** (There is so much power in confessing our sin to the Lord and to one another here are some scriptures below).

- **Leviticus 5:5** When anyone becomes aware that they are guilty in any of these matters, they must confess in what way they have sinned.
 - **Psalms 32:5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
 - **Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
 - **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
 - **James 5:16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
- **Crying** (Tears are a gift. We are not meant to be numb to the things that are affecting us due to this fallen world. We must learn to cry together, to mourn together, knowing that God cherishes and uses our tears for our own cleansing, to comfort us and to increase our compassion that yields supernatural impact!)
 - **Psalms 56:8** You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; *Are they not in Your book?*
 - **Matthew 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 - Jesus mourns the death of John The Baptist (**Matthew 14:1-14**)
 - Jesus mourns the death of Lazarus (**John 11:33-44**)
 - Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (**Luke 19:41-46**)
 - We are to give him our mourning for His oil of joy (**Isaiah 61:3**)
 - We are comforted by God to comfort others (**2 Cor. 1:3-7**)
- **Conflict/Communication** (We are committed to God's standards on how to handle conflict resolution)
 - **Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-20**
- **Caring** (It is a gift to care for one another in the body of Christ)
 - **Phil 2:4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
 - **Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
 - **Galatians 6:9-10** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
 - **Galatians 6:2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
 - **John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
 - **John 15:2** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- **Callings** (It is an honor to make room for one another's passions, callings, and giftings through Home Church and the body of Christ over all)

- **1 Corinthians 12:21** And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
- **Romans 12:4-8** 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. 6We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one’s gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith; 7if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.
- **Ephesians 4:16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Garden City Church

VISION: To be an Apostolic hub, awakening and equipping the Bride of Christ to bring transformation in the city of Columbus by advancing the Kingdom of God, starting on the westside of Columbus!

MISSION: Garden City Church exists to pursue communion with Jesus, by hosting His presence, to do life together in community as brothers and sisters in Christ and to use our influence to cultivate our city for the advancement of God's Kingdom as we look forward to the return of Jesus our King.

VALUES & CULTURE

- **VALUES:**

- Honor... “We will seek to Honor God, one another and the call of God upon this church in all we do” (Colossians 3:23, Phil 2:1-4)
- Gratitude... “We will seek to carry hearts and postures of gratitude, and thanksgiving for who God is, what He has done, what He is doing, and the privilege it is to partner with Him.” (Psalm 100:4, 1 Thess. 5:16-18)
- Humility... “We will seek to imitate Christ, the servant of all, walking in humility before God and before one another.” (Matthew 11:28-29, James 4:10, Matthew 23:11, John 13)

- Generosity... “We will seek to be radically generous (time, talent, treasure), toward one another and to the community. Everything we have belongs to God and is to be used for His glory.” (1 Chronicles 29:6-9, Psalm 84:10, Matthew 19:21, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 20:35)
- Excellence.... “We will seek to do everything we do in a spirit of excellence as unto the Lord.” (Daniel 5:12, Colossians 3:23)

- **CULTURE:**

- This is a Ministry and a Movement (Numbers 9:17)
- We will contend for a multi-expressional community. (Revelation 7:9)
- We are committed to Jesus’ the Man, Mission, Message and Method (John 14:6)
- We will run towards the Mess knowing it produces Maturity (James 1:2-4)
- We will choose Presence over Performance every time (Ezekiel 44:15)
- We will respond to the call to the mountain over the demands of the multitudes (Matthew 14:23)
- We will say yes to the Process knowing it is necessary for Purpose (John 21:15)
- We are committed to Purity, In our Public and Private lives (1 Thess. 5:23)
- We will build from rest, making a difference at a sabbath’s pace! (Exodus 20:8-11, 2 Chronicles 14:7)
- We will see convergence of biblical principles, emphases and mandates that traditionally remain separate. Example, seeing Matthew 10 (disciples walking in supernatural power) and Matthew 25 (disciples serving the least of these) coming together.
- We will seek after wholeness, experiencing and stewarding the deliverance that Jesus has provided through His cross and resurrection (Matthew 6:11-13, 1 Thess. 5:23,
- We will submit to God’s Word, Will, and Ways while growing in the Wonder of who He is! (John 6:68)

- **BELIEFS:**

- The Kingdom of God: We believe that the Biblical narrative is primarily about God’s rule and reign on the earth, Him dwelling with humanity in perfect relationship, for all things to be brought under His dominion, and His desire for His government to be stewarded by humanity (Genesis 1:26-28). We believe that it is only through the revelation of Jesus Christ and His gospel that this can be received. That Jesus Christ is the King of Kings, whose mission was to glorify God in announcing, inaugurating and demonstrating that the Kingdom of Heaven has come to the earth (Matthew 3:17). The culmination of this assignment being the victory of Jesus over the power of sin, death, hell and the kingdom of darkness, through His shed blood, cross and resurrection. This

being what the Old Testament covenant(s) with Israel and prophecies were pointing to all along. We believe that salvation, the church, how we perceive our purpose and identify as human beings, what we should seek first in our lives (Matthew 6:33) and what it is that we put our hope in, should all be centered around Jesus being King and the reality of God's Kingdom coming to the earth as it is in heaven, and everlasting dominion (Daniel 2:44, Matthew 6:10).

- Apostles Creed: We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting (eternal death/hell for the unrighteous and eternal life/new heavens and earth for the righteous Matthew 25:46).
- All are born into sin and need to repent, believe and receive salvation through Jesus Christ: We believe that all men and women are born into sin (Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1-3). We believe that all men and women are in need of salvation and that it can only be received through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12, 1 Tim. 2:3-5, Titus 3:3-8). That repentance (changing of mind and behavior) is a necessary part of salvation (Mark 1:15, Acts 2:37). It is the kindness of God that leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- The Centrality of Christ and the Supreme Sufficiency of His Word as truth - We believe that everything we are called to as a church is sustainable and enjoyable when it is focused primarily on the beauty and revelation of Jesus Christ. Even beyond desiring the results of ministry, for revival and breakthrough, we believe that loving God is a worthy goal and reward in and of itself. We believe that God Himself is our reward, we are invited to abide in His presence and love, experiencing His complete joy and eternal delight (Gen. 15:1, Psalm 16:11, 1 John 4:16). It is our joy and privilege to act as "priests" before the Lord, ministering to Him (Ezekiel 44:15) coming out of a culture of prayer and worship with a renewed love for God and man (Matthew 22:37). Moreover, the Word of God is supremely sufficient, the truth. It is through the word that we know God, His desires and purpose, Jesus is revealed, and how we govern our lives. The word is an anchor for why, how, and what we say and do as a church. (Luke 10:42, John 6:68, Hebrews 4:13, 2 Timothy 3:16) .
- Identity of the Believer: We believe that God desires a relationship with all men and women. We believe that in and through Christ, believers are justified (no longer guilty of sin but innocent and at peace with God (Romans 5:1). We believe that in and through Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit,

that believers are sanctified and continue to be sanctified (set apart as holy to God, morally right, free from sin, pure..1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Thess. 2:13). That believers are to participate in their sanctification, cleansing themselves from what is dishonorable (1 Thess. 2:21), purifying themselves as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3). That through salvation in Jesus Christ we become children of God (John 1:12). We believe that through salvation in Jesus Christ the believer becomes righteous, brought into restored relationship with God, and a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). We believe that as adopted children of God through Jesus Christ, we are called to be blameless, holy and beloved before God as He predestined us to be (Ephesians 1:3-6). We believe that as children of God, we were created to worship and glorify God in every part of our lives (Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:23, Hebrews 13:15). We believe that as children of God we are also co-heirs with Jesus Christ, sharing in the inheritance He has received by overcoming the power of death, sin, hell and the grave by way of His life, blood, cross and resurrection. We as believers are called to share in His sufferings that we may share in His glory (Romans 8:12-17). We as believers have been given access to the divine nature of God (1 Peter 1:1-4). We as believers are called to reflect the nature and character of God (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:35). We as believers have been given authority on the earth from Jesus, over demons, the devil and his kingdom (Matthew 10:7-8, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 10:18-19). We as believers are called to identify as the Bride of Christ, awaiting His return and the marriage supper of lamb (2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:27, Revelation 19:6-9). We as believers are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ (Luke 14:26, 27, 33). We as believers are called to be a kingdom of priests unto the Lord (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10).

- The Tabernacle of David (as our foundation and primary ministry)- It is our privilege to see and participate in the rebuilding of the Tabernacle of David (2 Samuel 6:17, 1 Chronicles 16:1) as described in Amos 9:11-12. We agree with God's desire to have a dwelling place characterized by prayer and worship. We celebrate and acknowledge the historic moves of God that have resulted from 24/7 prayer, and strive to become a church of believers that embody that same heart and spirit in our region in partnership with other communities of prayer and worship. (Amos 9:11-12, Acts 15:16)
- The Ekklesia - Church - We believe that the local church is the hope of the world. The church being those who are no longer bound by the kingdom of darkness and the spirit of the age (antichrist spirit) but have been translated into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13). The church is comprised of those who have been called out, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, living lives set apart to God for His glory in this present earth, actively advancing God's Kingdom, awaiting the return of the Lord. The church is empowered by the gospel of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and His ministry gifts (Romans 1:16-17, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Cor 13-14). The church of Jesus Christ is the vehicle through which the

gospel, the Kingdom of God, and transformation is brought to communities and nations (Matthew 16:18 1, Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 1:23). The church is a part of the evidence of God's rule and reign on the earth, His mercy, faithfulness, and grace, a sign post of what is to come (Revelation 21).

- Israel- We acknowledge the Biblical narrative of God's rule and reign in the earth, cannot be told apart from God's covenant(s) with Israel (Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19-20, 32-34, 2 Samuel 7). That Jesus Christ is a Jewish man, the King Messiah of Israel appointed to sit on the throne of David and govern the earth forever (Micah 5:2-5, Matthew 2:6, Luke 1:32-33, Luke 2:11). Jerusalem will be called the throne of the Lord and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:17). We stand with God's desires, plans, and purposes for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, to be a light to the nations, that the salvation of God would reach the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6). This is not based on the righteousness of Israel, but on humbly agreeing with the plans of a Good God. We recognize that by praying for Israel we enter into a special blessing from the Lord (Psalm 122:6-7). We believe that a part of the assignment of the Gentiles in the church is to provoke Israel to jealousy that their eyes may be open to see Jesus Christ as their Messiah (Romans 9-11). God's desire is for Jew and Gentile to become one in Christ (Galatians 3:28), one new man, in Him a holy temple, a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. We acknowledge there are many Messianic Jews (Jews that believe Jesus is the Messiah) in the earth and that number is growing (Ephesians 2:11-22). We believe that the covenant made with Abraham and Israel is unto the blessing of the nations, through Jesus Christ (Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:16, Galatians 3:26-29). Finally we are committed to honoring the three annual feasts first given to the people of Israel and we now are blessed to share in as a part of God's family. Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles all point to Jesus and are meant to be celebrated in every generation of God's people (Exodus 34:1-28, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16)
- The Return of the Lord/Garden of Eden-New Jerusalem- We acknowledge that Jesus is returning to judge the living and the dead and this reality should impact how we live (John 5:26-29, 2 Timothy 4:1-5). We believe in and look forward to the restoration of the Garden of Eden and the hope of New Jerusalem, new Heavens and new Earth. We acknowledge that this is contingent upon the literal, physical return of Jesus Christ which we as a kingdom of priests have been called to hasten through prayer and worship (Matthew 24, 2 Peter 3:10-13, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Revelation 21).
- Kingdom Culture/Preaching the Gospel- We value and affirm the importance of creating and developing a prayer and worship culture in the context of families, the marketplace, and communities (Acts 4:23-31, Acts 10:34-46, Acts 17) . We believe that the gospel of the Kingdom should be preached in our churches and in public (Matthew 10:7-8, Mark 16:15, Acts 5:42). We believe that the Kingdom of God is here already but not yet in its fullness (both here and coming). By taking the culture of prayer and worship and preaching the gospel

of Jesus Christ in our spheres of influence, we desire to make known the reality of the King and His Kingdom in our communities. Through prayer and worship and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, we are establishing the rule and reign of Jesus (Psalm 72:15), releasing justice (Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:8) and righteousness in our society (Psalm 89:14).

- Sexual Purity- We believe in the sexual purity of the believer (1 Corinthians 6:12-20, 1 Thess. 4:3). A commitment to God to have healthy relationships, that are Christ-Honoring - not engaging in a sexual relationships outside of marriage, not living with someone of the opposite sex outside of marriage and not engaging in or pursuing same-sex relationships (1 Thess 5:22, 1 Cor. 6:7-11).
- God's design for marriage and family- We agree with God's design for marriage, a covenant (commitment to permanence) relationship between one man and one woman (Gen. 1:27-28, 2:18, Ephesians 5:31).
- Biblical Standards on gender- We agree with the biblical standards on gender (Gen. 1:27-28).
- Sanctity of Life- The Word of God teaches that each individual is known by God from before the foundation of the world (Jeremiah 1:4-5, Psalm 139:13-17). Our Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God has pronounced His blessing upon the life of a child, according to Psalm 127:3-5. Since all life exists for God's purposes and all human lives are equally sacred, it is our belief that the life of the unborn (and born with an emphasis on orphans) child is blessed by God and must be preserved, nurtured and protected.

THE "ONE ANOTHER" PASSAGES (Code of ethics for all Garden Group leaders and those whom you host)

The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word *allelon* which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to *allelon*, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of *allelon*.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

- Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be like minded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16) Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how not to treat one another)

Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)
If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you'll be destroyed by each other (Galatians 5:15)
Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26)
Do not slander one another (James 4:11) Don't grumble against each other (James 5:9)
We do all this because we are in a real sense "members of one another" (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25)

MATTHEW 5 and MATTHEW18 (Conflict resolution standards)

Matthew 5:23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:15-20 “If your brother or sister[b] sins,[c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’[d] 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[f] loosed in heaven. 19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

HONORING THE GARDEN CITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Willingness to honor the Garden City leadership team. The Garden City leadership team is here to serve and support you. It is very important that you are proactive in bringing anything that is deemed unbiblical or unhealthy within your Home Church to the attention of The Garden City/Home Church leadership team.

(a) In the event that unbiblical behavior is being practiced and you as a leader(s) refuse to repent, pursue restoration and or reconciliation you will be dismissed from leading a Home Church.

(b) Disclaimer for all Home Churches; the Garden City leadership team does not endorse, unless otherwise specified, any teaching, prophetic words, or ministry outside of the scope of prayer, worship and the reading of the Word out loud.

Garden City Home Church Director(s)

- One of the goals of the way Garden City Home Churches are set up is to provide high accountability while allowing freedom in the way Home Churches are structured/facilitated.
- Garden City Home Church directors will be responsible for ensuring the Home Church leaders are held accountable, are supported, and are giving the guidance they may need as they lead.
- Responsibilities:
 - Review the Home Church weekly form that is to be completed after each Home Church gathering.
 - Follow up with the Home Church leaders after each weekly gathering after reviewing their form to address questions concerns they may have, and to provide the support they ask for.

- Help plan the bi-monthly Home Church leader cohort meetings.
 - Determine where the meeting will take place
 - Order food for the meeting (send receipts to Garden City Church Administrator for purchase)
 - Help determine what topics will be discussed related to leadership development and spiritual development
- Be available to pray and encourage the Home Church leaders whenever they may reach out.
- The Garden City Home Church Directors will report to the Garden City Administrator for questions and support

Garden City Home Church Administrator

- With Home Churches being such an important part of the vision of Garden City Church we want to do all we can to make sure that we are keeping track of how our community is engaging with the Home Churches.
- The Garden City Home Church Administrator will be responsible for making sure that attendance reports (planning center), and weekly updates are being completed by each Home Church leader.
 - Responsibilities:
 - Each week on Monday (after a Home Church gathering), logging onto the planning center and checking to see that attendance for Home Churches has been reported.
 - In the event a Home Church has failed to fill out their attendance report, the Garden City Home Church administrator will reach out to that Home Church leader until their attendance is collected.
 - Each week on Monday (after a Home Church gathering), making sure that the Home Church weekly update has been completed by each Home Church leader.
 - In the event a Home Church has failed to fill out their weekly update, the Garden City Home Church administrator will reach out to that Home Church leader until their weekly report is collected.
 - Help plan the bi-monthly Home Church leader cohort meetings.
 - Determine where the meeting will take place
 - Order food for the meeting
 - Help determine what topics will be discussed related to leadership development and spiritual development
- The Garden City Home Church Directors will report to the Garden City Administrator for questions and support