



## ***Garden City Presence and Word Group Handbook*** **ABOUT PRESENCE AND WORD GROUPS**

Presence & Word Groups establish a consistent space for believers to gather together around the presence of Jesus and the Word of God in the marketplace (job, school, coffeeshops, etc.) or in small groups at home throughout the week. Praising The Lord and praying His Word out loud, even if just for 15 minutes, with other believers is so powerful. Doing this shifts the atmosphere, brings the awareness of Jesus, and activates us to be on mission for the Gospel of the Kingdom everywhere we have influence.

***Psalm 72:15b*** *Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised.*

***1 Kings 5:3-5*** *“As you are well aware, due to the wars waged on all sides against my father David, he could not build a house for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD had put his enemies under his feet. 4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or crisis. 5 So behold, I plan to build a house for the Name of the LORD my God, according to what the LORD said to my father David: ‘I will put your son on your throne in your place, and he will build the house for My Name.’...”*

***2 Chronicles 6:2*** *“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud. 2 I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever.”*

***Matthew 6:10*** *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

***John 1:14*** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

***Revelation 5:8-10*** *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”*

***Revelation 21:1-3*** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, [a]John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

## 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 a minimum of a bi-weekly and up to a daily prayer and worship gathering at your job, school, campus or home for at least 12 months.
  - 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. Take communion together often.
  - d. 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 attending quarterly Presence and Word Group cohort meetings (a schedule will be provided below).
  - a. Further leadership/spiritual development, equipping and resources for how to grow as a Presence and Word Group leader will be provided.
  - b. Connection with the other Presence and Word Group leaders, sharing testimonies and best practices will be included.
  - c. Schedule (ZOOM 7-9PM):
    - i. October 28th, 2021
    - ii. January 27th, 2022
    - iii. April 28th, 2022
    - iv. July 28th, 2022
    - v. October 27th, 2022
5. Commitment to assigning a replacement leader in the event you are on vacation or plan to go out of town for holidays.
  - a. Please make sure to talk to someone else in your Presence and Word group in the event that you cannot attend or will be on vacation.

Consistency is key when it comes to leading a Presence and Word Group. If no one else can lead that's ok, just make the effort and set this up as a goal for the future.

6. Commitment to spiritual health. It is so important as a Presence and Word group 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 Presence and Word Group 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>).
7. Commitment to communicating with your Presence and Word Group Support Leader through filling out monthly updates that allow us to best support you as a Presence and Word Group leader.
  - a. The monthly update form will ask the following questions:
    - i. What is working well?
    - ii. Where do you need support?
    - iii. What testimonies would you like to share from Home Church?
      - See form on the resources page on the [gardencitychurch.tv](http://gardencitychurch.tv) website
8. Commitment to honor the Garden City leadership team/Presence and Word Group Support leader.
  - 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 Presence and Word Group under Garden City.
  - b. Disclaimer for all Presence and Word Groups; 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 Presence and Word Groups

- 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
- 15 min
  - 5 min in thanksgiving/praise
  - 5 min reading the word/devotion
  - 5 min in prayer

## The 10 C's of Presence and Word Groups

- **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 no 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.

- **Psalm 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 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.



- **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 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** **4**Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, **5**so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another. **6**We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one's gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith; **7**if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; **8**if 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 MATTHEW 18 (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 Presence and Word Group Support Leader**

- 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 the Presence and Word Groups are structured/facilitated.
- The Presence and Word Group Support Leader will be responsible for ensuring the Presence and Word Group leaders are held accountable, are supported, and are giving the guidance they may need as they lead.
- Responsibilities:
  - Review the Presence and Word Group monthly form.
    - Follow up with the Presence and Word Group leaders to address questions concerns they may have, and to provide the support they ask for.
  - Help plan the quarterly Presence and Word Group leader cohort meetings.
    - Help determine what topics will be discussed related to leadership development and spiritual development
- The Garden City Presence and Word Group leader will report to the Garden City Church leadership for questions and support