

## The Process to the official launch of MC's - Next Steps

### Step 1:

Be aware of teaching covered on the Missional Leadership Training evenings e.g. Qualities of leaders i.e. the 5C's; the 4 Non-Negotiables of MC leaders/ core team , Value of low control and high accountability; Serving at the Centre; Living at the edge; The 153 Experiment; IPODs

### Step 2:

The interested/Potential leaders register their hope to lead a MC to AG in an email confirming they've worked through the Check List. This email should contain names of the potential Core Team and an idea of the missional vision/focus for the MC

### Step 3:

HBC Leadership will meet in August to consider all potential MC's and confirm how many MC's to launch in October.

### Step 4:

The Potential MC Leaders and Core Teams along with HBC leaders are invited to a training evening on Wednesday 16th September. This will highlight the role and place of IPODS.

### Step 5:

The rhythm and leadership of the IPOD's is confirmed

### Step 6:

Wednesday September 30th : an evening for a "missional communities marketplace" takes place so wider HBC congregation can explore potential involvement in a MC.

### Step 7:

MCs officially launched and begin in the month of October with new HBC rhythms for Sunday Gatherings.

After 7 months we will "stop & listen" together and a review takes place of how the MC's have begun to function. As part of this we run a "Learning Community" for all the MC Core Teams where we will look at "What is?" What could be? And what will be? Proposed dates for this would be Friday evening 22nd and Saturday Morning 23rd April 2016.

## Launching Missional Communities

*'We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well because you had become so dear to us.'*

1 Thessalonians 2.8



## The Context

In the autumn of 2015 we intend to officially launch Missional Communities (MC's) at HBC. This means that MC's will be one of the primary vehicles that we will use to enable us to be a church that "makes disciples that make disciples" Our hope is to develop a network of MC's across Chester, a movement of disciple-makers committed to: 'Bringing healing, wholeness and freedom to broken lives and communities as we expect great things from God and attempt great things with God.' (HBC Vision Statement)

Since September 2012, we have been deliberately developing a discipleship culture moving away from an inward looking maintenance/pastoral model of church and moving towards becoming more of an outward looking Missional Church with empowered and equipped disciples. In November 2013 Andy shared a paper at the TCM called "What do I see for HBC in 2017?" In it he outlined a vision for change for HBC that included this line "*I see a church that is seriously good at making disciples. I see us praying for a harvest. I see us committed to reaching our city and not just Hoole with the good news. I see us serving and seeking the lost together in all kinds of imaginative ways.*"

Now we are moving into the "153 Experiment" and for the 6/7 months from October we shall set out on this new adventure for HBC.

## The Why

We hope that by 2017 we will see something of what we pray and hope for expressed in Andy's 2013 paper. The launching of these MC's is part of this vision and over the next 2 years as we develop the MC vehicle alongside the other primary vehicles we have at HBC i.e. Sunday Celebration Gatherings, Missional Projects and IPODs, we believe we shall see the Kingdom of God advance across Chester.

Each MC will run with the key value of "low control and high accountability" to and from the HBC Leadership. We are committed to enabling and releasing leaders to pursue the creative dreams that God has put on their hearts for mission and church. Yet in this climate of expecting to say yes, leaders of those new MC's need to be deeply encouraged and accountable for their character and the way in which they lead.

## The How

So if you want to lead a MC we have 4 non-negotiables in order for the MC to be an organised vehicle within HBC:

- The leader(s) establish a core team of 6 adults including themselves who are at the heart of the MC.
- The core team builds the rhythms of the MC intentionally around the UP, IN, OUT dimensions of discipleship
- The core team commit to the missional vision of the leader(s), this will then give a focus on who you will be good news to as an MC.
- The core team will prioritise time to be in a monthly IPOD

A MC is an extended family of relationships, centred around Jesus, who go and intentionally make disciples amongst a specific group of people. The what, where, when and how a MC runs is completely decided by the Core Team recognising that the glue that holds the MC together is the missional focus.

Here is the Missional vision/focus of the MC that Andy and Sue will lead:

*'A missional community that seeks to bless our city encouraging and empowering people to be disciples of Jesus as we live, work and play across Chester.'*

Remember leading a MC doesn't need to be complicated; the key is focus and intention; it's meant to be fun and exciting; the MC is a vehicle helping us to move along the road of discipleship and mission; it's a time of experimenting and learning together; MC's will need to be ready to review with the leadership and realise its existence isn't set in stone.

## What do I/we do next?

Work through this check list?

- Do I/we have a Missional Vision/Focus? Can I express it simply? Does it sit with the wider vision of HBC?
- Are there 4/5 other friends within HBC that would be part of the Core Team to help lead the MC?
- Will we build a monthly rhythm around the pattern of Up, In and Out? Will we submit this rhythm within the wider HBC monthly rhythms?
- Will I prioritise some time to be encouraged by and accountable to HBC leaders by being involved in a monthly IPOD?

If you can say yes to these then email Andy to register your interest in leading a MC. As a leadership we are committed to encouraging, training and supporting you as you step into this new season for you and us. We will talk with and pray with you to see how to move into the next phase of preparation and be ready for the official launch of MC's in autumn 2015.