

## IPODs

"At the heart of our discipleship culture is a desire not just to create converts—but to create disciples that seek to live like Jesus did. So we want to train regular, ordinary people to be leaders, to listen to the voice of God and respond. The people they train in turn train others and so “make disciples who make disciples” and we become good “fishers of men”. We want to introduce a new vehicle to HBC that will “help move us all in the same direction” – the IPOD.

**Intentional** - it's a gathering that is a high priority where you focus on the 2 main components of being a good disciple, living like Jesus (Character); learning to do what Jesus did (Competence/Skills).

**Place**- you are invited into this gathering and it is a privilege to be here, with 4/5 others you are guided by a leader who is going to invest in you and help you develop.

**Of** - you will need to invest something of yourself into this e.g. honesty and openness.

**Discipleship** - here you will receive investment, training, information, imitation and accountability (in other words...discipleship!)

We want to be crystal clear: our primary motivation is to move the key people the Lord has given us at HBC to become better disciples! It is for current and/or future leaders. The people accepting an invitation into an IPOD should know they are expected to lead something or they have an expectation that they will start leading something. All leaders at HBC will be required to be in an IPOD. There is a simple formula here: you cannot be released as a leader unless you are prepared to be held accountable.

One of the key phrases that has emerged alongside the IPOD is 'Low Control High Accountability'. This means 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 these new missional communities of HBC need to be deeply accountable for their character and the way in which they lead. The IPOD gives a context for missional leaders to be transparent about what God is doing in their personal lives, within a community of peers.

3 primary themes you will explore in an IPOD are:

1. Recognising and using the “kairos moments” in life as opportunities of learning and growth by going around the learning circle.
2. Listening to and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit to help you discern and reflect on 2 questions each time you meet: What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about that?
3. The UP/IN/OUT dimensions of your life and being willing to work on all 3 as you follow Jesus.

## Missional Communities across HBC and Chester

### Information Leaflet



## Statement of Intent

In the autumn of 2015 we intend to launch Missional Communities (MC) officially as an organised vehicle within HBC, recognising that over the past 12/18 months we have been running with some experimental expressions of mission and MC's. We believe the vehicle of a MC will help us move towards the fulfilment of our vision as a church. We hope 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.

## Who can lead a Missional Community?

To lead an MC we are looking for individuals who are growing and developing in the following 5 areas:

**Character:** Humility, servant hearted, trustworthy, loyal, teachable, submitted to Jesus

**Chemistry/Call:** Committed & connected to family of HBC; Acts 2: 42; Phil 2: 1-4

**Competence/Skills:** Do you have necessary skills or are you willing to learn? What do you need to do the job?

**Capacity/Commitment:** To the vision, values and vehicles of HBC; willingness to grow personally, give time, willing to be in an IPOD that expresses accountability/encouragement to & from HBC leadership.

**Charisma:** Recognition that you are an influencer or potential influencer of others for both good and bad.

We are not looking for perfection but we are looking for those who are making progress in the call to be a disciple i.e. someone who is learning to be like Jesus and learning to do what Jesus could do and wants to help make more disciples!

## We have 4 non-negotiables for starting/leading a Missional Community at HBC:

- The leader(s) establish a core team of 6 adults including themselves who are at the heart of the Missional Community (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

The goal of these changes is that we catch some fish; we make disciples and we can measure the growth by measuring both the quality and the quantity of disciples at HBC.

These changes will be within the organised elements of HBC although we will continue to encourage organic elements of life. These organised vehicles will be formed on the basis of "low control and high accountability" from and to the HBC leadership and centre.

## What is a Missional Community?

A Missional Community is an extended family of relationships, centred around Jesus, who go and make disciples amongst a specific group of people.

There are 5 key ingredients that make up a MC (Acts 2: 41-47):

### Friendship

Authentic community occurs, so people can belong before they believe, and will experience an extended family atmosphere and share resources.

### Focus

There is a common missional vision to a specific group of people (this is a 'who', not a 'what') e.g. a specific neighbourhood or network of relationships. This is the glue that holds the MC together.

### Fun

Everyone gets to contribute in every area and has fun on the way

### Food

Eating together is a primary activity of the community

### Fired Up

There us a sense of excitement and adventure as we seek to live our lives filled & empowered by the Holy Spirit as individuals, families and friends.

### To summarise:

- A MC is a group of 15 to 30+ people (these numbers include both adults and children) It can start smaller but always needs a core of 6.
- The group's focus is defined by a missional vision to a specific neighbourhood or network of relationships
- It is a disciple-making culture.
- There is an expectation of multiplication from day 1; thus team is built, and everyone gets to contribute
- The group has a rhythm of a healthy mixture of Up, In and Out  
Up = Creative worship + prayer + bible  
In = Eating + "One anothering" i.e. putting into practice the one another statements in Paul's letters  
Out = Demonstrating the works of Jesus as we serve, as we are 'naturally supernatural' and we declare the words of Jesus.
- Small groups will naturally form as sub-sets of missional communities, particularly as we do one anothering properly. They could follow the pattern of Discipleship Cells.

Check our this link for more information about what you can do in a MC:  
[www.alexabsalom.com/10-things-to-do-in-a-missional-community](http://www.alexabsalom.com/10-things-to-do-in-a-missional-community)

## We believe that this language and clarity will help as:

An explanation of how we understand missional communities

A basis for how we train leaders

A structure for accountability for leaders

A diagnostic tool when groups or leaders hit problems