

## Connections Outline

### 1. Session 1: What is a Church

- a. A Fellowship - *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* (Acts 2:42, ESV)
- b. A Family - *“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”* (Ephesians 2:18–19, ESV)
- c. A Body - *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,”* (Romans 12:4, ESV)
- d. A Flock - *“He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.””* (John 21:16, ESV) , *“shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;”* (1 Peter 5:2, ESV)

### Session 1 Questions

- i. What is your church experience? What examples of Fellowship/Family/Body/Flock do you relate to?
- ii. What types of actions/behaviors build unity and what types of actions/behaviors create conflict?
- iii. How can you be part of the Church?

## 2. Session 2: What a Church Does

- e. Connecting All Generations to Jesus
- f. Like Lego blocks, each of us is better when we are connected.
- g. The moment we connect we begin to make something
- h. Connecting at MCCC is about Making Disciples
  - i. Connecting enables us to
    - 1. Make Friends
    - 2. Make Memories
    - 3. Make larger community efforts
    - 4. Make a difference
  - ii. Most importantly, we Make Disciples
    - 1. A Disciple is someone who chooses to learn
    - 2. A Disciple is someone who chooses to follow
  - iii. We connect because God commands us to Make Disciples
- i. We believe that Connection is Best when it is Multi-Generational
- j. We believe the Strength of that Connection is in Jesus

### Session 2 Questions

- i. What 'generation' do you consider yourself? Does this generation have any distinct traits?
- ii. How do you like to learn? Describe a time you had to teach others and what it took for them to finally put it into practice.
- iii. Which purpose(s) motivates you: Making Friends, Memories, Community, Service and/or lasting Difference?

### 3. Session 3: How a Church Unites

- k. Common Salvation (explanation of the Gospel)
- l. Common Practice (ordinances)
  - i. Baptism by Immersion
  - ii. The Lord's Supper
- m. Common Polity
  - i. The church's leadership structure
    - 1. Congregational foundations
    - 2. Elder led, not Elder run
  - ii. The church's covenant – what we agree to do for one another
  - iii. The church's constitution – what we agree to follow for those outside of our fellowship

#### Session 3 Questions

- i. Go around the room: Explain the Gospel? Can you agree on key verses or ideas?
- ii. Describe your decision to be saved (testimony) and/or to be baptized? Do you still have the same motivations as in those moments?
- iii. How do you prepare to participate in the Lord's Supper?
- iv. Have you read your church's covenant/constitution and what elements stick out to you or could be clarified?

#### 4. Session 4: Church Identity

*“John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.””* (Luke 9:49–50, ESV)

A. We don’t have to be the same

B. Centering in on Identity

a. Non-Negotiables or Core Values

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,”* (Ephesians 2:19–20, ESV)

*“that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,”* (2 Peter 3:2, ESV)

b. Interpretations

c. Preferences

#### Session 4 Questions

i. What are the six Core Values of MCCC?

Revolving on Christ

Reliant on Scripture

Redeemed by Grace

Rejoicing in Community

Resolved to Grow

Reaching Others

ii. Describe the Core Value you struggle to understand or regularly live out. What makes it a non-negotiable?

iii. Why do we find so much conflict over Preferences when they are the lowest priority?

Bonus: Draw an Identity ‘Bullseye’ with the three concentric rings of i) Core Values, ii) Interpretations, and iii) Preferences – feel free to fill in the rings with your group from a shared perspective of MCCC. [You may find some differences of perspective and preference.]

## 5. Session 5: What a Church Values (part 1 of 3)

Our values define us. They take us from an impression to sharpness and clarity. What we've mentioned about the church and how we connect in the matter of unity creates the outline of our function, but our values sharpen the image

### n. Where we find Authority - **Reliant On Scripture**

- i. The need for Authority. *"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 21:25, ESV)
- ii. The Power of Authority - *"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,"* (John 5:39, ESV)
- iii. The Quality of the Authority - *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16–17, ESV)
- iv.

### o. Where we place our Focus - **Revolving On Christ**

- i. Jesus is the focus of the Bible because He's God - *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."* (Luke 24:27, ESV)
- ii. Jesus is our focus because of His unique place in our faith - *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12, ESV)
- iii. Jesus is our focus by His command - *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)

### Session 5 Questions

- i. Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture or a book of the Bible that you find yourself going back to frequently? What elements are you learning to be reliant on?
- ii. Describe a difficult time when you needed the truth of the Bible or Christ's power.
- iii. Who are the people in your life that need Jesus? How can you regularly commit them to prayer?

## 6. Session 6: What a Church Values (part 2 of 3)

### p. Where We Find Unity – **Redeemed By Grace**

#### i. A Singular Salvation – the great equalizer

*“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4–6, ESV)*

#### ii. A Common Forgiveness – the great restorer

*“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1, ESV)*

### q. Where We find Security – **Rejoicing in Community**

#### i. 59 commandments for one another in the New Testament

#### ii. While worship in the OT is national and individual, NT worship requires the community of the church

## Session 6 Questions

- i. What are events in your past, or practices you have now, that you appreciate having grace for? Do you find yourself judging others for the same things?
- ii. How do you go about forgiving someone else? Have you had to help someone else with forgiveness?
- iii. What church activities/ministries result in rejoicing together? If you don't feel joyful, what can you do?

## 7. Session 7: What a Church Values (part 3 of 3)

### r. Where we Find Strength – Resolved to Grow

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”* (2 Peter 3:18, ESV)

*“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”* (2 Timothy 2:2, ESV)

### s. Where we Find Others – Reaching Others

#### Session 7 Questions

- i. Evaluate your spiritual journey – at what time(s) did you see significant growth – any areas that took a long-term perspective to see?
- ii. Who in your life now or in the future can help you learn and practice a faithful response to God?
- iii. Who reached out to you to explain the Gospel? Where has the Holy Spirit been leading you to reach others?

## 8. Session 8: How to Partner with Marsh Corner



## 9. Session 8: What Makes MCCC Different