

LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IKON COMMUNITY CHURCH

I. IKON COMMUNITY CHURCH - CORE VALUES

GRACE

WORD

The Bible is God's story of his work in redeeming, renewing and restoring all things, which culminated in the work of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday gathering is committed to passionate, intelligent, Gospel-centered teaching.

WORSHIP

Worship is active as we glorify God by singing and speaking God's truths about him back to him. Worship is passive as we experience the grace and power of God. We seek to create a Sunday worship environment of joyful expression and reverent awe through singing Gospel-centered songs, baptism, and weekly communion.

COMMUNITY

God takes pleasure in reconciling all things back to Himself. This includes broken race relations, socio-economic barriers and general apathy toward neighbors like us. We want the real life of our church to be more than just Sundays. We desire for the life of our church to be day to day, home to home, life on life shaped around celebration and conversation.

CELEBRATION

We desire to practice hospitality not just with one another, but with any that welcome our friendship - spiritual seekers and spiritual misfits, the downtrodden, and those considered hopelessly lost. There is something to celebrate every day, and we desire to break bread and share stories with glad and thankful hearts.

CONVERSATION

Authentic life and authentic relationships include sharing, laughing, and crying together. In doing life together, there will be times where we have to confess or lovingly confront each other with truth about sin, lack of belief, or inability to massage and apply the Gospel into areas of our lives.

RENEWAL

Renewal involves the recovery of Biblical purposes for family-building, work, and stewardship. In a fallen world, the work of renewal also involves helping to alleviate the

effects of sin in the world. This means that we join God not only in the renewal of humans souls, but the renewal of broken systems.

JUSTICE

Our heart posture toward our community will be focused on working for justice for the poor, oppressed, marginalized, and disenfranchised, as well as those whose lives are characterized by severely limited opportunities and resources.

CREATIVITY

Frederick Buechner is well-known for saying, “The place God calls you is where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” We desire to be a church that helps people discover their calling and be released back to the public square to both cultivate and create cultural goods in a way that image God well. Our goal is to use our cultural influence, ability, and capital to help East Lake, as well as Dekalb County, to look as close as the city to come on this side of eternity.

II. STRATEGIC MISSIONAL PRIORITIES

The strategical missional priorities for Ikon Community Church are derived from the three core values: Grace, Community, Renewal.

PRIORITY OF GRACE

Ikon desires to support local and global ministries and missionaries who are:

- Passionately committed to God.
- Personally grounded in the Word.
- Striving to live a life defined by the radical grace offered through Jesus Christ.
- Serving out of their call and desire to be participants in God’s work of redeeming, renewing, and restoring all things.
- Strategically seeking to spread the Gospel through their work.
- Theologically similar to Ikon Community Church.

PRIORITY OF COMMUNITY

Ikon desires to support local and global ministries and missionaries who are:

- Working to be involved in relationships that intentionally seek to bring about reconciliation (i.e. racial, socio-economic, religious, political, etc.).
- Actively seeking out those who are spiritually lost, downtrodden, or confused.
- Placing value upon having a level of engagement in authentic Christian community in their own lives.
- Actively cultivating healthy relationships with members of the community where they live and work.

PRIORITY OF RENEWAL

Ikon desires to support local and global ministries and missionaries who are:

- Actively engaging in work that involves helping to alleviate the systemic effects of sin in the world.
- Working toward justice for the poor, oppressed, marginalized, and disenfranchised, as well as those whose lives are characterized by limited opportunities and resources.
- Seeking to be used by God to help transform the brokenness of our communities and cultures into signposts of a beautiful future reality.
- Actively pursuing long-term developmental relationships and goals as their standard operation and intentionally approaching relief work as temporary when necessary (due to natural disasters, political conflict, etc.).
- Laboring to enhance the role and dignity of those native to the contexts in which they serve by empowering community-led initiatives (rather than providing needs-based relief or outcomes dependent on outside resources).
- Sensitive to the contexts and cultures in which they are engaged.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

The Ikon Community Development Team shall consist of 5-7 members. One member is the Ikon Community Church staff member with oversight of the Community Development Team (Executive Ministry Director). Each member is approved by Ikon Community Church leadership.

EXPECTATIONS OF TEAM MEMBERS

It is expected that the members of the Ikon Community Development Team will:

- Attend the meetings (2-4 meetings/year).
- Be actively involved in making decisions regarding candidates for Ikon support and engagement (this may include interviews with potential candidates).
- Assist in acting as a liaison between ministries and missionaries supported by Ikon and the members of Ikon by building connections, communicating information, and strategizing and planning as needed.
- Assist in encouraging ministries and missionaries supported and engaged by Ikon.
- Commit to praying for ministries and missionaries supported and engaged by Ikon.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MEMBERS

- **Finances:** Adhere to a missions budget, oversee its implementation throughout the year, and recommend changes in support for ministries and missionaries as needed.
- **Evaluate:** Review the effectiveness of supported ministries and missionaries and their congruence with Ikon's Strategic Missional Priorities on a yearly basis, and make adjustments as needed.
- **Liaison:** Act as a liaison between Ikon Community Church, its supported ministries and missionaries, and the congregation. Receive and consider valid input from members of the congregation in relation to areas involving ministries and missions.

IV. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCES

BUDGET GUIDELINES

- Each year a budget will be formulated (calendar year: September-August).
- Any special projects or unique opportunities for funding will be allowed as approved by the discretion of the Community Development team and the leadership of Ikon.
- Ikon Community Church will strive to support active members of Ikon on their short-term endeavors if their work is in alignment with Ikon's Strategic Missional Priorities.. The level of support will be decided on a case-by-case basis after the potential short-term missionary has presented the Ikon Community Development Team with a written description of his/her financial need and mission plan.
- Monetary support of ministries and missionaries will be sent to the sponsoring agency on an agreed upon regular basis.

V. EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

PROCESS FOR POTENTIAL NEW CANDIDATES

Ministries and missionaries (local or global) that seek support from Ikon Community Church are responsible for submitting full and detailed information to the Ikon Community Development Team regarding their current and/or proposed work.

Potential partners with Ikon Community Church will be assessed by the team through the following process:

1. Ministry or missionary candidate is assessed through Ikon's Strategic Missional Priorities.
2. If the candidate is in alignment with Ikon's Strategic Missional Priorities, he or she is then interviewed (in person, phone, or email) by a member of the team.
3. The candidate is presented to the members of the team. The team must vote on and approve the candidate.
4. The team presents proposed annual support plan (financial and/or volunteer) to the Ikon leadership for final approval.

VI. RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERSHIPS

LONG-TERM SUPPORT

Ministries and missionaries who are on long-term support (with Ikon Community Church as one of their supporters) should:

- Be aware that their support from Ikon Community Church will be reassessed each year to determine if they are in alignment with Ikon's Strategical Missional Priorities.
- Missionaries should have support of a home (sending) church (if it is not Ikon).
- Be serving under a healthy and established agency or church.
- Be willing to spend the time necessary to develop a meaningful relationship with Ikon Community Church.
- Communicate prayer needs to the Ikon Community Development Team.

SHORT-TERM SUPPORT

Those seeking short-term support with Ikon Community Church should:

- Be an active attendee of Ikon Community Church demonstrated by participation in the ministry of the church.
- Present the Ikon Community Development Team with a summary of their short-term ministry plans which includes:
 - Date, place, and nature of missionary work.
 - Brief testimony of the Lord leading them to this short-term ministry.
 - Total cost and anticipated plan for raising it.
 - Brief description of mission agency or sending church.
 - Plan for cultural preparedness and the benefits of the ministry and work to the community.
- Submit a short-term ministry plan to the Ikon Community Development Team at least three months prior to the trip.
- Be willing to communicate with the team following the trip.
- Communicate prayer needs to the team.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF IKON COMMUNITY CHURCH TO ITS MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARIES

- To pray faithfully for the ministry or missionary.
- To communicate regularly with the ministry or missionary (at least quarterly).
- To promote and communicate the work of the ministry or missionary within the church.
- To send the money promised for support in a timely fashion.
- To encourage the ministry or missionary in their work, families, and personal lives.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY TO IKON COMMUNITY CHURCH

- To communicate regularly with Ikon Community Church (at least quarterly).
- To inform the Ikon Community Development Team of any significant changes in ministry as soon as it is known.
- To provide the necessary information to the Ikon Community Development Team on a yearly basis for re-assessment.
- To spend time with Ikon Community Church as opportunity arises.
- To inquire about funds in relation to Ikon's support directly to members of the Ikon Community Development Team.
- To work toward developing an encouraging relationship with Ikon Community Church.

AT THE CENTER OF ALL WE DO IS NOT A PLACE, OR A PROJECT, BUT A PERSON: JESUS.