

## Connecting Circles Ministry – Project Summary

The Connecting Circles Ministry; i.e., small group ministry, at Mesquite United Methodist Church was begun in 2018. The genesis of the project spawned from participation in the Vital Congregation Initiative in 2014

With the United Methodist Church definition of vital congregations in mind the Connecting Circles ministry was developed.

*Vital congregations are:*

- *Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people*
- *Places where disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit*
- *Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries*

### Ministry Vision

The stated Connecting Circles Ministry vision is ***“to encourage and enable the people of the Mesquite United Methodist Church to come together in small group fellowship, sharing God’s love with one another and with the community, so that each person will experience the life changing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives as they grow in faith and discipleship.*”**

### Planning Process

We began in September 2018 by organizing a planning team tasked with developing a process for establishing a small group ministry at MUMC. The team met monthly through the Fall developing a timeline with a target launch date of January 2019.

The team explored and identified the types of groups to be offered. Based on the belief that similar interests create strong relationships, circles were established on the criteria of “common interests”. With that in mind, we began to organize a variety of Connecting Circles and identify potential leaders.

Based on Acts 2: 46-47 we developed a theme and logo for the ministry:



***Connecting Circles - Connecting Each Other***

*Acts 2: 46-47*

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved.*

Next we developed a flyer (Attachment #1) to “advertise” the ministry and purchased a Small Group Ministry video that we showed on Sunday morning. In November 2018 the Connecting Circles Ministry was introduced in MUMC’s monthly newsletter, *The Cross and Flame*. Through the newsletter and Sunday morning announcements we invited members of the congregation to suggest potential circles and to consider leading a circle of their choice. During this time, a circle grew spontaneously from an interest for a Ukelele group. Today this circle is one of the most popular circles with 16 members. They meet weekly and perform locally.

### **A Successful Connecting Circles Launch**

On January 2019 Connecting Circles “rolled out” its ministry with the launch of the following twelve circles: *Beginnings (newcomers), Bridge, Cultural Events (Theater), Dining, Eclectic Christians, Friends and Faith (a bible study), Hand, Foot and Knee games, Hiking, Men’s Bible Study, Prayer Warriors, Singles Serving and Ukelele*. We had one hundred and five total signups, although a few people signed up for more than one circle.

A few weeks after the launch, one more circle was proposed and established: *The Chosen Circle - Seniors Helping Seniors* is designed to offer services such as changing smoke alarm batteries, light bulbs, air filters, and other simple chores to members of the congregation who are housebound or unable to reach and/or climb ladders due to injury or age.

Each circle chooses the time and place to meet. Some meet weekly, others meet monthly, all meet with the goal to:

**Love one another –Care for one another –**

**Pray for one another – Share the love of God**

MUMC is pleased with the success of the Connecting Circles Ministry and anticipates many more years of encouraging and enabling the people of the Mesquite United Methodist Church to come together in small group fellowship, sharing God’s love with one another and with the community, with every participant experiencing the life changing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives as they grow in faith and discipleship.



## ***Connecting Circles - Connecting Each Other***

*Acts 2: 46-47*

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved.*

Connecting Circles are small groups of people in the Mesquite United Methodist Church organized around shared interests. Through the sharing of common interests and fellowship, Connecting Circle participants experience the life changing power of the Holy Spirit in their lives as they grow deeper in faith and discipleship.

Each circle determines when, where and how often to meet. Enrollment for Connecting Circles takes place on Sunday mornings.

### **Everyone is invited to participate!**

If you have a special interest you would like to share and you would like to consider forming a circle, contact the office or Linda Reid at 408-234-0561 or [cruisinreid@gmail.com](mailto:cruisinreid@gmail.com)

**Imagine what it would feel like to be encouraged midweek by a circle of people you enjoy, while exploring common interests.**

**JOIN A CONNECTING CIRCLE TODAY –  
EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS OF FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE!**