



## **A Note on Our Posture: A Loosely Held Plan**

This document represents our current understanding of the scope and direction of this ministry. It has been shaped over many months of prayer and wise counsel. At the same time, we acknowledge that our ultimate strategy will always remain one of complete dependence on God. This ministry plan is but our loosely held plan as we understand it to date. Our success will be measured by our obedience to God, leaving the results fully in His hands. We dedicate our work to the glory of the Father, build it upon the finished work and example of the Son, and leave spacious room for the Holy Spirit to guide, surprise, and lead us. May God grant us serenity, courage, and wisdom to do His will daily. Amen.

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### **I. Executive Summary**

#### **Who is the Church in Rancho Cordova?**

The Church in our city is a diverse community of believers—across congregations, ministries, nonprofits, and Christian leaders—seeking to follow Jesus and serve their neighbors. Many of these leaders and communities share a desire for unity but often operate in isolation, carrying the full weight of ministry on their own. Church in Rancho Cordova exists to help these people and communities recognize one another, build trust, and work together at a sustainable pace. Our mission is Making Disciples Together, and our vision is a Disciple-Making Network where the Church's shared life strengthens evangelism, discipleship, and mission.

**What does it look like when the Church collaborates, and what is my next step?** Collaboration at the speed of trust looks like believers praying with and for one another, and uniting around three shared priorities: Evangelism, Discipleship, and Missions. These clusters form naturally as relationships strengthen, allowing the Church to serve the city together in ways no single congregation can do alone. For now, the clearest next steps are simple: join a Prayer Drive or request a one-to-one meeting with Daniel. As clusters mature, additional pathways will be added. The website serves as a straightforward entry point into the shared life and mission of the Church in Rancho Cordova—not a program center or direct service provider, but an invitation into unity and collaboration.

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### **II. The Problem We Address**

Many congregations and ministries operate like isolated homesteads—each trying to be fully self-sustaining without support from one another. This isolation forces leaders and volunteers to carry the full weight of ministry alone, with little margin in time, relational energy, or budget.

The consequences are widespread:

- Burnout as pastors, staff, and volunteers hit capacity ceilings.
- Scarcity mindset as every need must be met internally.
- Diminished impact because churches and believers rarely benefit from shared strengths, resources, or relationships.

Households across the city feel this fragmentation as well. Without a unified Church, people struggle to find a church home, access practical help when needs arise, or participate meaningfully in advancing the Kingdom in their city.

The core issue is isolation; the solution is specialization through collaboration. This ministry exists to build the connections that allow the Church to be more effective together than any single congregation or ministry can be on its own.

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### **III. Mission, Vision, and Biblical Foundation**

#### **Mission — Making Disciples Together**

Our mission is simple and fixed: Making Disciples Together. A disciple is someone who (1) loves spending time with Jesus, (2) is being transformed by His Spirit in community, and (3) helps others experience the same. This definition keeps our work centered on real spiritual formation rather than programs or activity.

#### **Vision — A Disciple-Making Network**

Our long-term vision is a Disciple-Making Network across Rancho Cordova: congregations and ministries collaborating, sharing strengths, and showing a unified witness to the Gospel. The goal is not organizational uniformity but relational unity—leaders equipping the saints for ministry and believers across the city Making Disciples Together.

#### **Biblical Foundation — Discipleship Requires Unity**

##### **Evangelism — Unity Makes the Gospel Credible**

Jesus taught that the fruit of a community reveals whether its foundation is wise or foolish (Matthew 7:16–20), and He said the Gospel itself would be most evident by the unity of His followers (John 17:20–21). A divided Church weakens its witness, but a unified Church becomes a family worth joining. When believers from different congregations love one another, collaborate, and reconcile rather than avoid conflict, the city sees the credibility and appeal of the Kingdom. Strengthening unity strengthens evangelism.

##### **Discipleship — Spiritual Formation Requires Community**

The New Testament assumes discipleship happens in relationships. Practices like confession, forgiveness, correction, and encouragement require shared life. Hebrews 10:24–25 calls believers to “stir up one another to love and good works,” something that cannot occur in isolation. A diverse Christian community is the environment where disciples grow through shared strengths and perspectives—why “go make disciples” and “love one another” function as two sides of one command.

##### **Missions — Collaboration Multiplies Impact**

Mission in Scripture is consistently team-based. Jesus sent disciples two by two (Mark 6:7), Paul traveled with coworkers, and early churches partnered across cities. The Body has many parts (1 Corinthians 12), each carrying different strengths. No congregation embodies every part, but together the Church offers a full expression of mission. Collaboration allows ministries to specialize and reach farther than they could alone.

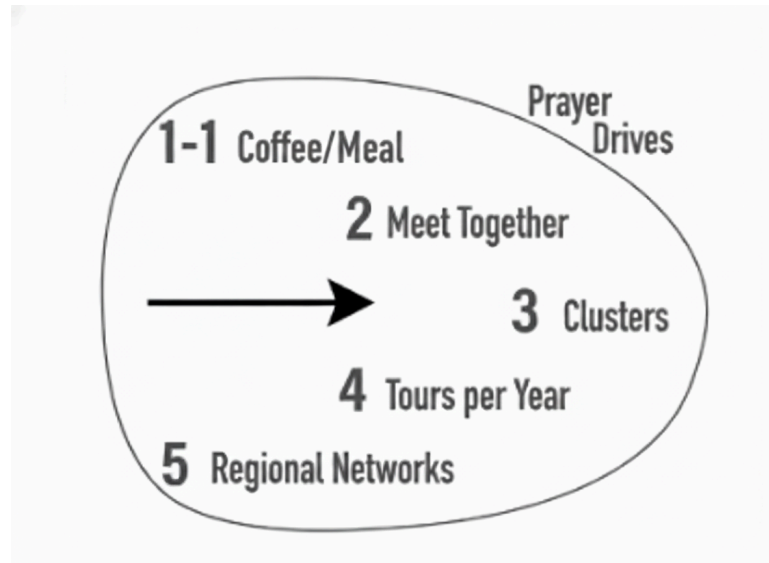
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#### IV. Ministry Architecture

Our ministry is designed to move the Church toward collaboration at the speed of trust, beginning wherever people currently are and offering multiple entry points into citywide unity. The structure is built around a simple mnemonic: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, all surrounded by Prayer Drives.

These steps are not sequential phases. They form a directional progression:

$(1 + 5) \rightarrow (2 + 4) \rightarrow (3)$ . People will enter at different points, but every movement supports the long-term vision of a “Disciple-Making Network” that is “Making Disciples Together.”



#### Prayer Drives

Prayer Drives are the preferred starting point for entering this collaborative work. Private prayer matters, but praying together while visiting other congregations, schools, parks, City Hall, and community resource organizations creates a shared perspective that cannot be gained from a distance. Many believers have never prayed on-site for other congregations or for the institutions shaping daily life in the city.

These GPS-guided audio tours help participants see parts of Rancho Cordova they may never have visited—and to revisit familiar areas with renewed vision. By pairing physical presence with focused prayer prompts, participants gain a clearer awareness of the city’s spiritual landscape and the ministries already serving within it. Jesus promised to be present when believers gather in His name (Matthew 18:20), and our prayer is that the Holy Spirit would help us see Rancho Cordova with God’s eyes, soften our hearts toward one another, and weaken the instinct toward isolation. Prayer Drives establish the posture required for unity and collaboration; in that sense, communal prayer is what *drives* this ministry forward—pun intended.

#### 1. One-to-One Leader Connections (Paired with the 5 Regional Networks)

After Prayer Drives—or independent of them—initial contact is made with leaders across the Capital-C Church. This includes far more than pastors. Church leadership encompasses:

- pastors and pastoral staff
- ministry and missions directors
- leaders of Christian nonprofits, parachurch ministries, and community resource organizations
- business owners and professionals intentionally engaging their work as Kingdom service
- lay leaders, board members, elders, and other recognized spiritual leaders

Meeting for coffee or a meal begins laying the relational trust required for any future collaboration. The purpose of these conversations is straightforward: to learn their story, pray with and for them, offer encouragement, affirm the value of their calling to the health of the Church in the city, and share the vision of a unified, disciple-making network.

## **5. Regional Network Connections (Paired with 1-1 Meetings)**

In one-to-one meetings, leaders are invited to participate in one of the five regional networks that operate in the Greater Sacramento region and organized by role—City Pastors Fellowship (senior pastors, youth pastors, and their spouses), Barnabas Group (business leaders), Leadership Connections (ministry leaders), and others.

These networks provide:

- peer support outside one's congregation or denomination
- relational safety and shared experience
- connection with others serving in similar roles

“Leadership is lonely” only when leaders are isolated. In the Sacramento region, strong networks already exist. Our role is simply to help Rancho Cordova leaders step into these relational supports.

Together, Steps 1 + 5 create the relational foundation for the rest of the architecture.

## **2. Leaders Meeting Together (Paired with the 4 Community Resource Tours)**

With prayerful consideration and once trust and genuine interest exist, local leaders are introduced to one another. These connections may involve kids’ ministry directors, Bible study leaders with similar goals, campus ministry workers at the same schools, or any others whose work naturally intersects.

These small, informal gatherings allow leaders to:

- hear each other's stories
- identify shared burdens or opportunities
- build cross-church familiarity
- explore collaboration without pressure

These are not large networking events. Just as with the one-on-one meetings, these are small and informal introductions over a shared meal.

## **4. Community Resource and Ministry Tours (Paired with 2 Leaders Meeting Together)**

As leaders meet, our ministry facilitates four Community Resource and Ministry Tours per year—roughly once per quarter to avoid overextending participants. These tours introduce leaders to the organizations that function as the practical and missional extension of the Church in the city, including both community-serving nonprofits and explicitly Christian ministry or parachurch organizations.

Examples include food distribution, addiction recovery, refugee support, ESL programs, mercy ministries, evangelistic initiatives, discipleship programs, and other specialized works that individual congregations often cannot sustain alone.

Without collaboration, each congregation must either:

- attempt to become experts in every area of need within their congregation, or
- turn people away due to insufficient capacity or knowledge.

Unity allows the Church to partner with existing organizations, enabling specialization as described in 1 Corinthians 12:15–26. Each tour includes:

- a walkthrough and SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) presented by the organization, and
- a period of prayerful reflection where participants write a personal Call to Action, if they sense one—always without obligation.

Tours reveal city needs, provide real data for decision-making, and identify natural collaboration pathways.

Together, Steps 2 + 4 help leaders understand the city and one another more clearly, setting the conditions for effective collaboration.

### **3. Ministry Clusters — Evangelism, Discipleship, and Missions**

Clusters represent the direction toward which the entire architecture moves. They form only at the speed of trust and only when believers voluntarily self-organize around shared burdens and shared strengths. This ministry does not assign, direct, or manage clusters; our role is simply to build the relational conditions in which collaboration becomes natural and sustainable. Clusters emerge when leaders are ready—not when we push.

To maintain mission focus, our collaborative work is organized into three distinct clusters:

- Evangelism — How can we reach non-believers with the Gospel together in ways that are not as effective alone?
- Discipleship — How can we strengthen disciple-making efforts for existing believers across congregations?
- Missions — How can we equip the saints for ministry more effectively by combining strengths and resources?

Clusters have full autonomy to define their goals, rhythms, and projects based on the gifts, interests, and capacities of those involved. Participation is fluid—individuals and churches may engage with one, two, or all three clusters as they are led by the Spirit.

Clusters are the structural expression of the Disciple-Making Network: individuals, congregations, and ministries collaborating, each contributing what they do best for the benefit of the whole Body.

If this ministry is to be evaluated, it should be measured by the fruit of these clusters:

- Evangelism: Are people being reached with the Gospel?
- Discipleship: Are believers growing toward maturity?
- Missions: Are the saints being equipped for ministry?

These outcomes—not attendance, activity volume, or program creation—serve as our indicators of effectiveness. And because this entire ecosystem is grounded in prayer and dependence on God, our ultimate measure of success is faithfulness to Him, trusting that He alone produces lasting fruit.

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## **V. Making the Ministry Visible Online**

The website serves as the primary entry point for understanding who the Church is in Rancho Cordova and how people can participate in its shared mission. Its purpose is to provide clarity, not volume—helping visitors quickly grasp the landscape of Christian life in the city and the next steps available to them.

## **Audience and Intent**

The website is designed for three groups:

- Believers seeking connection — to help them see the people and congregations who make up the Church in Rancho Cordova, and to identify clear next steps for involvement and growth.
- Leaders and ministries — to highlight the presence of fellow laborers across the city, reduce isolation, and make visible the relationships and opportunities that support unity and collaboration.
- Neighbors curious about the Christian community — to provide trustworthy orientation and a clear picture of what the Church looks like when its people work together in love for their city.

## **Purpose and Next Steps**

The website broadens how people understand “the Church,” portraying it not as isolated institutions but as a diverse community of believers—individuals, congregations, ministries, and organizations—following Jesus together in Rancho Cordova.

Visitors should be able to answer three questions quickly:

1. Who is the Church in Rancho Cordova?
2. What does it look like when the Church collaborates?
3. What is my next step?

For now, the primary next steps are:

- joining a Prayer Drive,
- requesting a one-to-one meeting, or
- connecting with a regional network for peer support.

As Clusters mature, additional pathways will be added. The website is not a program center or service provider—it is a simple, clear entry point into the shared life and mission of the Church in Rancho Cordova.

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## **VI. Daniel and Lisa**

Church in Rancho Cordova is stewarded by Daniel and Lisa DeRosa, who serve in complementary roles. Daniel leads the relational and structural work of the ministry—meeting with leaders, guiding Prayer Drives, connecting ministries, and building the collaborative architecture described in this plan. Lisa supports the ministry through storytelling, donor care, and hospitality rhythms that strengthen relational trust and communicate the impact of the Church working together. Both safeguard rhythms of rest, Sabbath, and marriage health, ensuring the ministry remains sustainable and faithful long term.