

NEIGHBORHOOD FELLOWSHIPS

What Is A Neighborhood Fellowship?

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Neighborhood Fellowships are part of an effort to help the whole CSPC congregation to become "a church on mission." Defined simply, a Neighborhood Fellowship is a group of families or households that meet together at least monthly for prayer, fellowship, worship and outreach with the purpose of starting other groups like itself.

Households participating in each of the Neighborhood Fellowships will meet at a host home in their respective Neighborhood Areas. The Neighborhood Areas are boundary delineations (not necessarily reflecting subdivision boundaries) creating a community of CSPC members in proximity that facilitates in living out biblical "one anothering".

The purpose of these Neighborhood Fellowships will be to create a place where neighbors, both followers of Jesus and seekers, can: Grow in their knowledge and love for God. Grow in their knowledge and love for one another. Grow in their knowledge and love for their neighbors.

In addition to these ongoing goals, every Neighborhood Fellowship will be formed with the end goal of creating new Neighborhood

Fellowships as the Lord leads. We are hoping that with

this constant "frontier" we as a church will become more dependent on the Lord to move among us and empower us for the various types of ministry we will be entering into in the near future.

Why Have Neighborhood Fellowships?

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

God will go to any length to be in close relationship with us, His children. He has proven this by sending His Son to come and live among us, die for us, and to conquer death for us by rising from the grave. This is God on a mission: restoring an intimate relationship with us because He loves us.

God's mission was not finished with Christ's resurrection though. Just before He ascended, Christ commissioned us to continue His mission of restoring relationship with Himself by telling us that we were to go and make disciples of all nations as we went through life. Christ would now accomplish His mission by living through us, His hands and feet going with us wherever we went, till the end of the age.

Therefore, our chief means of accomplishing God's mission is to let Christ live through us wherever we go, and a tool for doing this is Neighborhood Fellowships. Within the context of Neighborhood Fellowships, we are simultaneously able to love one another as a church body, and also able to extend God's love to our neighbors within our own natural relational settings.

Often we have loved one another well within our tight-knit community of believers, and separately from that, we have attempted to evangelize through outreach events. Our

current paradigm has a disconnect, whereas Neighborhood Fellowships allow us to love each other and our neighbors around us in one setting.

How Will This Be Done?

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen."

The ministerial staff of Cedar Springs are working diligently to start, or have already started, a few initial Neighborhood Fellowships in their Neighborhood Areas. We are trusting that God will raise up other leaders that are willing and capable of starting additional Neighborhood Fellowships in other Neighborhood Areas, thus beginning a cycle that we hope will continue on and on until Knoxville is filled with Neighborhood Fellowships where people can come and bless the Lord and learn from Him, no matter where they are in their walk with Christ.

How Can One Get Involved?

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works"

It is our hope and belief that the Neighborhood Ministry will grow gradually yet steadily through strong, meaningful relationships. This will require trusting in God and patience from all, but over time we believe this ministry has the potential to change Knoxville forever!

