



Rocky Mountain Ministry Network Planting Rural Micro Churches

A micro-church is a small, simple, and mission-focused Christian community that typically meets in homes, community spaces, or other informal settings. It is often led by lay leaders rather than full-time clergy and emphasizes relational discipleship, worship, and outreach—especially in underserved or hard-to-reach areas.

The RMMN seeks to identify communities that are promising opportunities for a micro churches and then seek to establish works and partnerships with existing churches that will oversee these works in those communities. In this document we address the advantages, potential, and kinds of micro-churches.

Key Characteristics of a Micro-Church

A micro church is a small community of believers (between 3-40 people) who meet regularly in a home (or other venue) to study God’s Word, establish life-giving relationships, build a sense of community, grow in faith, reach their community, and plant other micro churches.

- 1. Small in Size.** Usually 20–30 people, fostering deeper relationships and personal accountability.
- 2. Mission-Oriented.** Each micro-church typically has a specific mission focus, such as a neighborhood, workplace, people group, or issue (e.g., recovery, youth, the homeless).
- 3. Decentralized Structure.** Unlike traditional churches with large buildings and programs, micro-churches operate independently or as part of a network, without centralized control.
- 4. Simple and Reproducible.** Minimal infrastructure makes it easier to multiply micro-churches in new areas, especially in rural, urban, or international mission fields.
- 5. Spiritually Formative.** They often emphasize prayer, Scripture, spiritual gifts, and communal growth in an intimate setting.
- 6. Leadership by Ordinary People.** Leaders are often bivocational (working other jobs) and may be trained locally or online rather than through formal seminary education.

Micro-Churches: A Strategic Advantages for Rural Ministry

Embracing the micro-church model isn't just a trend—it's a Spirit-empowered strategy perfectly suited for rural communities. Here's why our Network believes in its potential to multiply the gospel across Colorado, Utah, and beyond:

- 1. Relational discipleship comes naturally.** Because of their smaller size, micro-churches create safe, close-knit environments where mentorship, life-on-life discipleship, and spiritual growth thrive. New believers receive personal attention, and leaders can model faith in authentic, everyday ways.
- 2. Redefines what "success" looks like.** In many small towns, sustaining a traditional church structure with buildings, staff, and full programs just isn't realistic. Micro-churches free these communities from unrealistic expectations and empower them to win where it matters most—relationships, inclusion, and real spiritual life.
- 3. Strengthens genuine community.** Sociologists have long noted that groups of around 20 people are the sweet spot for real connection. In a micro-church, everyone knows your name—and your story. This creates a family-like atmosphere that's hard to replicate in larger settings.
- 4. More resilient in times of persecution.** Throughout church history, the underground, house-based model has flourished under pressure. Micro-churches operate under the radar, with less exposure to oppressive legal or societal restrictions. They are simple, agile, and resilient—well-suited for a world where spiritual freedoms may be tested and even suppressed.
- 5. Breaks through growth barriers.** Traditional churches often hit walls with space, staffing, or facility costs. Micro-churches avoid these barriers. They can multiply organically—growing by sending rather than building—and adapt quickly to community needs.
- 6. Radically cost-effective.** Micro-churches typically meet in homes or simple spaces, eliminating overhead costs like rent, mortgages, insurance, staff salaries, or expensive programs. This frees up resources for mission, outreach, and direct ministry.
- 7. Creates space for real accountability.** There's no hiding in a micro-church. With smaller gatherings comes greater visibility, which naturally fosters accountability, spiritual growth, and life transformation. People are known, cared for, and challenged to grow.



Micro churches can empower rural churches to win in the arena of inclusion, life-giving relationships, and community in a big way even though they are small.

8. **Led by everyday disciples, not just professionals.** You don't need a seminary degree to lead a micro-church. What's needed is spiritual maturity, character, relational skills, and a heart for people. With the support of sound curriculum and coaching, everyday believers can step into leadership and make a big impact.
9. **A launchpad for the future.** Micro-churches can grow, multiply, and mature into full congregations when the time is right. In fact, every church in the New Testament started as a house church. This model remains one of the most biblical, adaptable, and effective ways to establish lasting ministry in any community.

Bottom line? Micro-churches are a powerful, practical, and Spirit-led tool to reach the unreached, disciple believers, and bring the Kingdom of God into places where traditional models simply can't go. They're not a lesser version of church—they're a faithful expression of it.

Micro-Churches as Ministry Beachheads

Micro-churches aren't just small gatherings—they're strategic starting points for Kingdom expansion. In the right hands and hearts, they can become powerful "beachheads" for ministry in hard-to-reach, underserved, or transitional communities. Here's how:

1. **Fueling church multiplication.** Micro-churches can lay the groundwork for long-term growth. In communities poised for future development, they serve as a launch pad—gathering people, building momentum, and eventually forming a team ready to plant a more traditional church when the time is right.
2. **Sustaining ministry in declining communities.** In places where shrinking populations or limited resources can't support a full-scale church, micro-churches offer a wise and sustainable alternative. They bring vibrant, life-giving ministry to communities that still need a strong Christian presence—even without a building or paid pastor.
3. **Creating a refuge for faith.** Micro-churches can become lifelines in spiritually dry or challenging environments. Whether in a predominantly Mormon area in Utah, a seasonal tourist town in Colorado, or a Native American reservation, these gatherings offer a refuge—bringing hope, truth, and authentic Christian community to those who need it most.
4. **Meeting people where they are.** Not everyone connects with formal church structures. Some believers thrive in smaller, more relational, and less programmed expressions of faith. Micro-churches offer a flexible and welcoming space for those who seek something simpler and more personal.

In every setting—whether pioneering, sustaining, rescuing, or adapting—micro-churches are frontline expressions of the gospel. They are proof that God doesn't need a big building to do big things.

Types of Micro-Churches

Micro-churches can take on different forms depending on their purpose, structure, location, and relationship to other churches. Below are the most common expressions within the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network. A micro-church may fall into one or more of these categories:

- 1. Outreach micro-church.** This is a missional expression of church—often launched as an exploratory effort to serve and revitalize a struggling or underserved rural community. These micro-churches are typically focused on outreach and relationship-building.
- 2. PAC (Parent Affiliated Church).** A micro-church that functions under the spiritual and administrative covering of a sovereign or district-affiliated church. It shares leadership, vision, and support with its parent church while operating as an extension in a nearby community.
- 3. District-Affiliated micro-church.** These micro-churches are directly affiliated with and overseen by the District. They function with the support and accountability of District leadership and are often planted in areas with little or no existing Spirit-filled presence.
- 4. Campus micro-church.** This model serves as a rural campus of a larger suburban or urban church. It usually involves a small group of believers in a rural setting gathering weekly for Bible study and discipleship, while receiving spiritual and resource support from the sending church.

Each model offers unique opportunities to reach communities in meaningful and sustainable ways. The structure you choose depends on your context, vision, and the relationships already in place. Let us help you discover which one fits your calling best!

Exploring the Possibility of Planting a Micro-Church

If you feel called to plant a micro-church through the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network, we're here to walk that journey with you. Here's how to take the next steps:

- 1. Start the conversation.** The first step is to connect with the Network Superintendent. Whether you're an individual or an existing church exploring a new work, we'd love to hear your heart. To schedule a conversation, email us at rconcone@rmdc.org.
- 2. Share your vision.** After your initial conversation, you may be invited to complete an online application to help us better understand your calling, context, and readiness. This is your opportunity to share your vision, plan, and heart for the community. Access the application at [this link](#).

- 3. Regional input.** Once your application is submitted, the Superintendent will consult with local and regional leaders who may be impacted by the new micro-church to ensure support, alignment, and strategic placement.
- 4. Presbytery review.** Finally, your proposal will be brought before the Network Presbytery. They will prayerfully consider your application and decide whether to approve, hold for further discussion, or decline at this time.

We're excited to explore what God might be birthing through you and are committed to walking with you every step of the way.