

Rocky Mountain Ministry Network Planting Micro Churches



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. The RMMN seeks to identify 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.

A. Advantages of micro churches. There are several advantages to our Network’s embracing this model as a strategy for rural evangelism:

- 1. Micro churches can provide relational discipleship.** Because they are small and more relational in nature, micro churches can provide ongoing support, instruction, and mentoring of new believers in a safe and welcoming environment. They also make mentorship, modeling, and interactive discipleship more natural.
- 2. Micro churches can redefine healthy expectations.** Many of our churches in very small communities cannot sustain the complex functions of a church. Existing as a “church” with a dedicated facility requires them to provide fully developed worship teams, nursery, children and youth programming, and more. Existing as a micro church or home church is liberating in that it allows them to be what they already are—a slightly overgrown cell or home group. It enables them to win in the arena of inclusion, life-giving relationships, and community in a big way even though they are small.

3. Micro churches can maximize a sense of community. Within each culture, 20 seems to be the maximum number of people in a group to maintain a sense of “family.” This helps us win in smaller communities while providing a variety of ministry applications.

4. Micro churches are more persecution resistant. In looking at church history as a whole, we find that persecution, by and large, was normal while peace and tolerance was the exception. As religious liberties are slowly being taken away from established 501©3s, the micro church is small enough to be considered a gathering in a home while existing off the radar of legal, size, topic, or hostile philosophical restrictions. They also have the potential to become one of the last vehicles for discipleship the closer we get to the Second Coming of Christ.

5. Micro churches can better navigate growth barriers. While traditional congregational models must overcome obstacles of size and scope, micro churches can continue to grow without space limitations, facility expansion, and additional pastoral staff.

6. Micro churches are more cost effective. Because they meet in homes, micro churches do not have expenses related to owning, renting, and maintaining a physical facility, paying salaries, providing pastoral care, financing expensive programs, or paying health, property, and liability insurance as well as property tax, advertising, and other expenses.

7. Micro churches provide better spiritual accountability. Because micro churches are small, a person cannot be an invisible face in the crowd. A person’s values, lifestyle, and spiritual growth are more readily exposed to growth opportunities. Micro churches are also a more effective place to develop spiritual disciplines, life transformations, and mutual and organic accountability.

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. Micro churches are not dependent upon professionally trained clergy. Although we have micro churches that employ a full-time pastor, it is not required. Because they can operate as a small group, use theologically sound curriculum, and are led by a mature believer who has been tested and proven, micro churches do not require a professionally trained pastor to be successful. The leader only needs to be down-to-earth, mature, skilled in group interaction, trustworthy and accountable.



9. Micro churches have the potential to transition into a small church. All throughout history, micro churches/house churches have been used by God to establish, grow, and sustain God's Church. Every church in the New Testament started as a house church. Every micro church that is started can easily serve as a launch team when their growth and maturity warrant their becoming a district affiliated church.

B. The potential of the micro church. Micro churches can become beachheads for ministry.

- 1. Advancing church multiplication.** They can serve as a launching pad for future ministry in communities that are growing and may at some point need a more traditional congregational model. The micro church can grow, multiply, and then become a launch team for a traditional church plant.
- 2. Sustaining needed ministry.** They can be a wise alternative in declining communities whose population, economy, or prevailing demographic can no longer sustain a traditional congregational model, pastoral salary, or facility. In this case, the micro church is able to provide life-giving ministry in a community needing a Christian presence.
- 3. Providing ministry refuge.** They can serve as a spiritual well in a community that desperately needs a Christian witness. Whether it is a Mormon-dominated community in Utah, a tourist community in Colorado, an Indian reservation, or other uniquely challenged location, micro churches can provide an oasis of Christian hope, truth, and community.
- 4. Providing options.** There are some believers who are not comfortable in a formal church setting and prefer to be part of a smaller and less programed or structured community of faith.

B. Types of micro churches. A micro church can exist as any one or combination of the following.

1. **Outreach micro church.** An exploratory trial of a micro church that is driven by outreach to an impoverished rural church.
2. **PAC.** A small group that exists as a parent affiliated work under the direction of a sovereign or district affiliated rural church.
3. **District affiliated.** A small group that exists as a district affiliated micro church under the leadership and direction of the Superintendent or Presbytery.
4. **Campus.** A small group functioning as a multi-site of a suburban, subrural, or urban church supporting a small community of believers by providing at least a weekly Bible study held in that rural community.

If you would like to explore the possibility of starting a micro church in the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network, reach out to Gene Roncone at this [link](#).