

WHAT IS A MICRO CHURCH?

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Definitions may vary depending on your background, so before simply defining a micro church, let's clarify *what* (or *who*) a church is. First of all, we need to realize the reference to "church" as found in Scripture is of a people (not a building), and at the individual level, this "called-out" people are followers of Jesus known as **disciples**.

DISCIPLE = someone who is pursuing Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and committed to the mission of Jesus

The term "church" comes from a translation of the Greek word **Ekklesia** (*Latin: ecclesia*), meaning "a called-out assembly or gathering". *Ekklesia* is mentioned 118 times throughout the New Testament, and is most often (all but five times) describing followers of Jesus gathering together. It is also worthy to point out the **Church** can also be viewed from two primary perspectives; the *Universal Church* or the *local church*.

The **universal church** consists of everyone, worldwide, who is pursuing Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. This is the big picture view of the *Body of Christ* (as described by Paul¹; every single spiritually adopted son and daughter of God.

The **local church**, like Northstar Pulaski on the other hand, is a community of people who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who are committed to gather regularly for worship, teaching, fellowship, and prayer², while living on mission to make disciples of all people. This is done under the authority of Jesus as the ultimate head of the Church, as well as under the authority of Biblically qualified leadership. There is not just one specific local church in any one area, necessarily. There are many local churches in larger cities.

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:12–13 - [12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

² Acts 2:42–47 - [42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Most often, the *Ekklesia* is used in reference to the local assembly or church (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 11:8; Galatians 1).

The question, then, is what are the irreducible set of values that identify Ekklesia as being set apart for the glory and mission of God? These values, what we call the ***ekklesial minimum***, are what a church (local or otherwise) must contain in her DNA to effectively function for the purpose she was created.



For micro churches within the Northstar Pulaski network, this ekklesial minimum is anchored by **Jesus** ↻ **Mission** ↻ **Community**

Wherever and whenever this ekklesial minimum is functioning in balance, we see the church of Jesus Christ living out its purpose

WE DEFINE A MICRO CHURCH, THEN, AS A CALLED OUT PEOPLE, TRANSFORMED BY JESUS, WHO ARE LIVING ON MISSION IN COMMUNITY