

Foundation/Values/Definition

I. Bible Foundation

- ◆ **Between Belief and Behavior**
 - Our beliefs influence our values. We embrace the truth.
 - Our values drive our behavior. We act on our values.
 - Normal Christianity involves belief of truth that fosters Kingdom values that are reflected in attitudes and actions.
- ◆ **The Acts Community (Acts 2:42-47)**
 - Belief in truth
 - Kingdom values exhibited
 - Experience of community
 - Engaged in making disciples
 - Society saw Jesus and responded. The church grew.
- ◆ **The Two-Winged Bird (Acts 5:42; 20:20)**
 - In Temple Court – Transcendence of God experienced
 - House-to-House – Immanence of God experienced
- ◆ **Context for the 'One Another' Passages**

II. Core Values

- ◆ **Values Underlying the Cell/Community – The Cell CODE**
 - Community – Transparent and accountable lifestyle (1 John 1:7)
 - Obedience – Hear and obey the Lord's voice (Acts 22:14-15)
 - Discipleship – Application of God's Word (James 1:22)
 - Expansion – Winning the lost to Christ (Matt 28:19-20)
- ◆ **Additional Values**
 - Prayer, the Spirit, and the Word of God
 - Destiny, Worship, Truth, Equipping, Mentoring, Vision, Creativity
 - Authority, Obedience, Order,
 - Impacting the NNN: Neighborhoods, Nashville, Nations

III. Guiding Principles

- ◆ **Jethro Principle** – Exodus 18:17-27
 - Divine ranking, under authority, that facilitates growth and sharing of the ministry load
- ◆ **Mentoring Principle** – 2 Timothy 2:2
 - Helping individuals reach their God-given destiny by multiplying their life and ministry into others, who will then do the same with others
- ◆ **Koinonia Principle** – Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Finding strength during difficult times by drawing near to God and each other

IV. Cell Definition & Characteristics

- ◆ **What is a Belmont Cell? A Belmont Cell is:**
 - A group of 8-12 adults (and their children),
 - Who meet weekly (at a convenient time for 1.5-2 hours),
 - With a Cell Leader (and a co-leader, if desired),
 - In order to process the "4 - Ws", (the basis meeting format) and
 - Be involved in 4-5 outreaches a year (a suggested 'tithe of time').

- ◆ **A Belmont Cell should:**
 - Have a Cell Intern (to share the ministry load and facilitate multiplication)
 - Have a Children's Coordinator (if there are children in the cell)
 - Have a Worship Leader
 - File a weekly report with the Cell Life Office
 - Call Referrals (or see that a member in cell calls them)
 - Set a target date for multiplication (when 12 adults attend on a regular basis), and
 - Multiply (when 14-16 adults attend on a regular basis).
- ◆ **Assumptions and Presuppositions**
 - Life is in PEOPLE, NOT in cells
 - Participating in cell life is a spiritual discipline; a means of grace; Something you do to bring you into God's presence, so that He can change you. Cell is a means of sowing to the Spirit
 - Structure hinders or helps to facilitate life or koinonia
- ◆ **Implications**
 - Belmont has chosen a small-group model for providing an initial, basic level of pasturing and nurturing.
 - Belmont desires that EVERY member be in a cell.
 - The 'why' and 'how' emerge from Belmont's values and purpose.
 - You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. However, you can salt his oats.
 - Cells provide one practical way to prepare for the harvest. Are our nets ready to receive and disciple new believers?
 - Cells are a practical way to facilitate a measure of Christian community that is directed at the larger purposes of God.
 - Ultimately, choosing to participate in cell is member's decision.
 - Value clashes values are inevitable when Kingdom values are deliberately chosen.

V. Life Application