

Introduction to Ministry Teams

At Akron Mennonite Church (AMC), we want to develop structures that encourage ownership and ministry rather than consumption and entitlement. Our vision at Akron Mennonite Church is of all members actively engaged in ministry responding to their gifts and to the calling of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that our work as individuals in the community should be about realizing a “Godly vocation” not performing a task. In the spirit of Ephesians 4, we want to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called” wherever that calling is heard and responded to.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. John 15:16

We believe that when we exercise our gifts in the context of the community, they multiply exponentially. Additionally, we believe that we need the help of the community in understanding the intersection of our gifts, our values, our passions, and our mission fields. While the gifts we have are personal, they have been given to us for a corporate purpose and they can only be maximized when they function in unity with others.

We believe that one of the primary roles of leadership is to “prepare God’s people for works of service” (Ephesians 4), to equip and train others to increase the bearing of fruit.

The creation of a Ministry Team structure is a response to the realization that we are living in a time of dynamic change and we are discovering that static structures do not facilitate mission in dynamic times. The opportunity of Mission Teams is to more effectively connect the calls and passions of our members with the needs of our community across the street and around the world. Our hope is that the Ministry Team structure will help facilitate Christ’s transforming power to continually re-shape our work together.

It is expected that all Ministry Team’s work will fit within the following Mission and Vision Statements...

AMC Mission Statement

We, the Akron Mennonite Church, are a community of believers responding to God’s love. We accept the Scriptures as our guide for faith and life. We believe in God the Creator, in Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior, and in the Holy Spirit, God’s presence among us. We commit ourselves to being a model of Christ-likeness in a broken world. All of our ministries are offered to the congregation and others as invitation to faith and service.

AMC Vision Statement

Akron Mennonite Church will be fully engaged in God’s mission in a broken world as we are called, equipped and sent by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in life. Shaped by the gifts and vision of our members, we will keep Christ and church at the center of our lives as we reach out to neighbors near and far and witness to the world around us through an Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of faith.

When we operate in our call we tap into an energy that flows and says “I am made for this.”

Mennonite Church USA Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God’s healing and hope flow through us to the world.

As the Father sent me, so I send you.
John 20:21

A Ministry Team Start-up Guide

Akron Mennonite Church

Winter, 2004

Frequently Asked Questions about Ministry Teams

What is a Ministry Team?

A free-forming small group of two or more people responding to the call of the Holy Spirit to minister to a need in our church, our community, or our world. The group is bound by a shared sense of ministry and by a shared sense of the mission of Akron Mennonite Church.

Where and how do Ministry Teams originate?

Ministry originates in the hearts and passions of any member who can find a few others who share the same passion. At AMC, we want to make room for those ministries that are grown and sustained in the hearts of our members. AMC leadership serves to nurture and support callings that support the mission of the congregation.

Where does the compassion of Christ in you intersect the brokenness of the world?

What are the criteria for starting a Ministry Team?

1. A Ministry Team must have a champion, someone that is passionate about a cause and willing to provide leadership.
2. It must be at least two people from two separate households.
3. The Ministry Team must be accountable to and connected to the leadership structure at AMC.

Is there money available to assist in the start-up of a team?

Yes, AMC sets aside a certain percentage of its budget each year to assist Ministry Teams in their start-up. A member of the Ministry Team Committee will assist you in developing a budget for your Ministry Team.

What is the Ministry Team Committee and what is its role?

The Ministry Team Committee is a standing committee appointed by the Church Council that acts as a resource for Ministry Teams. Their overarching goal is to provide orientation and training for Ministry Teams. This includes:

1. Assisting Ministry Teams in the process of developing the *Ministry Team Charter*.
2. Offering training for Ministry Team leaders and members.
3. Allocating funds to Ministry Teams.
4. Consulting on an on-going basis with Church Council and the Leadership Coordinating Committee about Committee and Ministry Team organization.
5. On-going development of ways to integrate the gifts and visions of AMC members with needs across the street and around the world.
6. Regular reporting to the Church Council and the congregation on the status of Ministry Teams.

Our call is discovered at the intersection of our gifts, our values, our passions, and our mission fields.

What is the process for starting a Ministry Team?

1. Contact a member of the *Ministry Team Committee* and alert them about your interest in starting a Ministry Team.
2. A Ministry Team Committee member will guide you through a process that will help you organize your thoughts and prepare a Ministry Team Charter and Budget.
3. The Charter will be reviewed by the Ministry Team Committee to determine if it fits within the overall mission and Vision of AMC and determine if money is available (if needed) to fund the project.
4. If approval is granted by the Ministry Team Committee the Ministry Team work can begin.
5. Annually on their anniversary, Ministry Teams will be asked to complete a self-evaluation that they will submit to the Ministry Team Committee. At this point they can also apply for additional funds if needed.

If the fear of failure were removed and you could do one thing to build the Kingdom of God, what would it be?

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