

# ELEMENT CHURCH: CHURCH @ HOME

**Vision** --- We exist to help guide people to experience life to its fullest, connect into meaningful relationships, and make a lasting impact.

## What is Church @ Home?

A smaller gathering of people who meet weekly in a home or alternate venue for worship, prayer, the hearing of God's Word, and fellowship. This group embodies and exemplifies the mission, vision, and values of Element Church.

Church @ Home might have people from the same small group in it, but it is different than a small group in the following ways:

1. Church @ Home is an intentional gathering of corporate worship and prayer that follows the same schedule, sermons, and sermon series of Element Church, they just meet at an alternate location with a smaller setting.
2. A Church @ Home meeting will engage with the church online content provided by Element on a weekly basis, including:
  - a. Any online announcements
  - b. An opportunity to give
  - c. Worshiping through singing
  - d. Hearing of the message
  - e. Taking communion as a part of their corporate worship at least once a month.
  - f. Responding to the Gospel invitation at the end of the service as it is presented.
3. They come under the authority of the Lead Pastor, Lead Team, and Leadership Council of Element Church, and ultimately under the authority of the Western Conference of the Evangelical Church. It is not a stand-alone church; it is an extension of Element Church.
4. A clearly defined start and end time for the "worship service." This allows for easy invitations to be made to people who are not yet apart of the home church. You may schedule fellowship time before or after the worship service, but a clearly defined start and end point is necessary to invite and involve new people into the faith community.

While you can still do most of those things at a small group, the purpose of Church @ Home is different.

## What is the purpose of Church @ Home?

- To partner with the vision of Element Church in helping people experience life, get connected, and make an impact.
- To provide a weekly “worship experience” for people who are not comfortable or able to attend the larger in-person gatherings at the church.
- To be a front door for the unchurched and de-churched people, allowing them a more relationship-based opportunity to connect into God’s community.
- To serve outside the home as a part of outreach projects and events throughout the year. These may be Element Church corporate events, or ones they choose to do on their own. Outreach funds are made available to Church @ Home sites to serve the community in tangible ways.
- If a Church @ Home is launched in another community, they will have the potential of becoming a stand-alone church plant or video campus of Element Church. (Specific development and progress goals would need to be met in order to do this.)

## Who can lead a Church @ Home?

The same expectations of a study group leader or volunteer leader at Element Church would be made of a house church leader.

They would need to be committed to pursuing spiritual health and holiness, and display signs of being committed to disciple making, servant leadership, and evangelism.

## What support is given to Church @ Home sites and leader(s)?

- The Church @ Home would be supported spiritually, relationally, and financially by the larger Element Church Community.
- Regular connection with other Church @ Home leaders to encourage, support, pray for one another and learn from one another.
- Anything the church offers to an Element member or attender would be made available to someone who attends a Church @ Home site. Remember, this is an extension of Element Church, not its own stand-alone ministry.