

# Missional Communities

## As Described By Mike Breen

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Quotes from Mike Breen's book, Launching Missional Communities: A Field Guide, 3DM, 2010.

### **Definition of a Missional Community** (Section 1.4 of the book)

A group of anything from twenty to more than fifty people who are united, through Christian community, around a common service and witness to a particular neighbourhood or network of relationships. With a strong value on life together, the group has the express intention of seeing those the group impacts choose to start following Jesus, through this more flexible and locally incarnated expression of the church. The result often is that the group grows and ultimately multiplies into further Missional Communities. They are most often networked within larger church community (often with many other Missional Communities). These mid-sized communities, led by laity, are "lightweight and low maintenance", and most often gather formally and informally numerous times a month in the groups' missional context.

### **Missional Communities – The Headlines** (Section 1.5)

A Missional Community :

1. Is a group of between 20 and 50 people (at the most 70)
2. Can be either a new church plant or, more commonly, a sub-set of a larger gathered church
3. Centres on Jesus, helping people become and then grow as His disciples
4. Has a defining focus on reaching a particular neighbourhood or network of relationships
5. Takes place in community and often revolves around shared times of food and fun
6. Has a healthy balance of UP, IN, and OUT.
7. Does not require that members be confessing Christians to belong
8. Is unashamed about following Christ, in values and in vision
9. Conducts worship, prayer, and scripture reading as core practices (since members are disciples of Jesus)
10. Looks outward through a mixture of service and verbal witness
11. Has a common mission focus that is the key glue for the shared sense of togetherness
12. Gathers informally throughout the week not just at formal meetings
13. Includes a high value on small groups for support, challenge, and closeness in members' life together
14. Has leaders who receive on-going help, coaching and accountability
15. Has leaders who do not do everything – they facilitate and release others to serve and lead.