

Acts Group

A Proposal for Eden Road Community Church

Basics: The following is written for the consumption of the leadership of Eden Road Community Church (ERCC) and is not intended to be viewed by anyone interested in being involved in an Acts Group, either as a member or as a leader. In the interest of lifting, not creating burdens, it is recommended that only more mature leaders should be exposed to the total vision. The whole group may be shared with after the group has begun and been functioning successfully. The success of a group depends on simplicity and flexibility. Therefore a few basics should be emphasized and the goals should be reasonable and doable.

Vision: This proposal is to suggest the establishment of a home-based gathering of Christians from Eden Road Community Church (ERCC) in their own community. The members of the group would work together to be and do the vision that God has for His people as communicated in the New Testament, especially the book of Acts. This group would promote the growth in love of each of its members. As each member grows to have the character of Christ, they would know God and the Bible better, they would know themselves better and they would know each other better. They would learn to serve each other with the gifts and abilities God has given them and they would learn to reach out to those who do not know Christ. They would be more loving and effective servants and members of the larger ERCC family. Some would grow into leaders with character and faith and would eventually start other Acts groups, taking a core from the original group. Of course, our Lord will determine the actual development of the Acts group.

Purpose: God, through the Acts group, will build the character and love of each person **to glorify Him** by serving one another, others in ERCC and those outside of Christ.

Objectives: 1) The Acts group will meet together regularly, each week or two, at most. Breaks from this pattern should be determined by the group but should be short. 2) The group would base its specific functions on the needs of the members of the group. These functions, however, would regularly include the general functions of Acts 2:42: a) teaching, b) communion or breaking bread, c) fellowship or sharing in common (from meals and activities to meeting financial needs) and d) prayer. 3) The group would facilitate outreach to those outside of Christ.

Implementation/Goals: 1) A leadership team would be formed, consisting of at least one leader, preferably more, with assistants, one or more. The leaders would be responsible for conducting meetings and directing the affairs of the group, in general. The assistants would assist the leaders, according to their gifts and the necessary tasks. 2) Each group would be unique in personality and in the specific ways needs are met, based on the unique mix of individuals and their gifts. So dependence on Christ, as the Head, to direct the specifics of the group, must be learned. 3) It is recommended that meetings consist of a) teaching, in a relaxed format, b) breaking bread and authentic worship, in a simple form and c) prayer, with sharing of needs. There should always be sensitivity to new people present at a meeting but the functions and needs of the group are priority. 4) Outreach to those outside of Christ should be creatively and intentionally facilitated as personal growth occurs in the members of the group. This growth will give the outreach a life-giving quality. 5) Group members should be encouraged to take advantage of other specialized opportunities provided by ERCC and the broader Church. They may temporarily leave the fellowship of the group for these opportunities. They may leave the group permanently at any time.