

ViaCordis Network Commitments

What is ViaCordis?

ViaCordis is an apostolic network of incarnational house churches, along with evangelistically minded congregations, that work together as a missional association. ViaCordis is the entity entrusted with the oversight and resourcing of these churches.

Mission Statement

ViaCordis' mission is to start, grow and multiply healthy communities of Christ-followers in fulfillment of the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Theology

The emphasis of ViaCordis is not on a specific theology -- the Apostle's Creed will serve as the statement of faith. Beliefs around matters such as the use of spiritual gifts, manner of baptism, theology of communion, eschatology, and predestination are considered non-essentials and open to interpretation by individual believers. "In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty and in all things charity."

Core Purpose

- **Love God:** Intentionality engaging with God in the hope of transformation to be more like Jesus
- **Love Others:** Opening our lives to others and serving all people—especially the least of these—as the hands, feet and voice of Jesus
- **Make Disciples:** Walking alongside others to help them become increasingly like Jesus

Mutual Covenant Commitments

Commitment to a common mission is what ties the churches in the network together; the glue is relationship and a shared set of values and vision. We covenant together to spur one another on to live into our mission to the fullest possible degree. Although each church is self-run, we have chosen to cooperate together to create a supportive network. Our mutual commitments to one another follow:

Commitment to Be Strategic and Proactive about Fulfilling the Great Commission

- Focusing outward; committed to reach those outside the fold of faith
- Expending more energy on compassion and social justice efforts than on internal programming
- Multiplying new communities of believers
- Sending out new leaders as missionaries
- Developing and improving the DNA within the church so as to multiply healthy churches
- Ensuring inclusivity regarding race, gender, language, culture, and socio-economic background

Commitment to Practicing Incarnational, Missional Ministry

- Prioritizing an investment in people over an investment in facilities
- Developing leaders at all stages of faith
- Raising up new leaders from non-followers of Jesus
- Engaging holistic formation and disciple-making that includes life, ministry, skills, character, etc.

Commitment to Both Giving and Receiving

- Interceding for one another
- Sharing resources (legal, financial, professional) and expertise with one another
- Participating in network learning communities
- Coaching pastors and leaders
- Maintaining healthy soul care and integrated living

Annual Review

Each year, network pastors will convene, engaging a loving environment that is intended to be both encouraging and challenging, establishing a good trajectory for the following year. We will:

- Gather to celebrate what God has done
- Encourage one another
- Pray for one another
- Hold one another accountable
- Take stock of needs and resources
- Perform a ministry and leadership audit
- Engage in strategic planning for the next year

Reciprocal Promises: ViaCordis to Local Churches

- Provide a spiritual covering for house churches
- Provide financial, accounting and legal resources (e.g. tax deductible giving, donor receipts, etc.)
- Provide oversight in crisis situations, ethical dilemmas, or disciplinary issues
- Provide licensing and commissioning of pastors (sponsoring legal entity)
- Provide coaching for pastors (via individual coaching and/or coaching networks)
- Provide connections with other house churches that leverage each other's strengths
- Provide training resources (seminars, online resources, etc.)
- Provide strategic surveys, coaching and training resources (seminars, online resources, etc.)
- Provide professional resources as needed (e.g. legal/ethical counsel; organizational development/management training; IT resources/consulting; professionally-advised policies/procedures/forms; legal/financial development updates)
- Provide enhanced negotiating/purchasing power (e.g. medical, dental and retirement plans)
- Provide access to resources otherwise unavailable to a local congregation (e.g. LIFEscan processing to foster greater protection for our children)

Reciprocal Promises: Local Churches to ViaCordis Network

- Hold and teach the essential doctrines of Christianity, as listed in the Apostle's Creed
- Plant new communities of Christ followers
- Submit to accountability relative to ViaCordis' commitments
- Share resources, leaders, and expertise to start and grow new communities of Christ-followers
- Partner with one another when needs arise beyond the ability of each isolated house church
- Support one another and partner to accomplish ViaCordis' mission
- Maintain honesty, integrity and devotion to soul care
- Intercede for one another, praying that God would accomplish His will in and through ViaCordis
- Financially support ViaCordis as able so as to increase missional resources and coaching
- Guard against mission-drift, competitive mindsets, ministry isolation, reduced redemptive potential, duplication of efforts and affiliated waste of Kingdom resources