

## Interest Based Small Groups 4 Biblical Principles

**Vision:** To model Jesus's character, path, and mission to the world through approaching life and each meeting through the Great Commandment and Great Commission Principles.

### 4BP Strategy (Biblical Principles)

#### UPWARD (Worship) - LOVE GOD

**Lift UP** and worship the Lord, love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and mind.

**Why:** Great Commandment - Matthew 22:37-38

**How:** Praise, prayer and obedience to God's Word.

#### INWARD (Ministry) - LOVE EACH OTHER

**Look WITHIN** your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. (All Mankind.) Help those who are in need. Strive to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**Why:** Great Commandment - Matthew 22:39

**How:** Accept each other, respect our differences, and genuinely care for one another.

#### OUTWARD (Evangelism) - LOVE THE UNCHURCHED

**Reach OUT** and make disciples of all nations. Carry the good news of our Lord God into the world. Share this good news locally and globally.

**Why:** Great Commission - Matthew 28:19 & Hebrews 10:23-25

**How:** Through study, fellowship, prayer, sharing and social opportunities.

#### FORWARD (Discipleship) - MAKE DISCIPLES

**Go FORWARD** and reach the lost. Teach the Word as God commanded and help others become more like Christ.

**Why:** Great Commission - Matthew 28:20

**How:** Connect, teach, release, and support one another on their Christian journey.

## Interest Based Small Groups Teams

The ministry is supported by the **Interest Based Small Groups Committee** comprised of faithful servants committed to a year of service. Their service includes assisting with research and development of best practices as well as evaluating and providing feedback on the status of various Small Group Teams. **Coaches** are those in leadership who serve as mentors to the group leader providing encouragement, spiritual development, and fellowship. The foundation of a Small Group is the active participation of the lay members serving as **Small Groups Leaders**. Small Group Leaders cultivate a welcoming environment where community occurs around shared interest and passions. A leader walks with God and takes responsibility to love and influence people while seeds of faith and love grow in the lives of those they lead. The **Small Groups Director** develops, equips, and discipless Small Groups Coaches, Small Group Lay Leaders, Members and Leadership within First Mount Zion to build community while implementing systems that support our Small Groups in order to transform lives to be more like Jesus Christ. The Director oversees all groups by providing encouragement, ongoing leader training and spiritual guidance while implementing our mission to **Make the Connection, Make Disciples, and Make a Difference.**

**Small Group Name:**

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**Leader(s) Name:**

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**Contact Information:**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*First Mount Zion*  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
WORSHIP · STUDY OF THE WORD · STEWARDSHIP · SERVICE

## INTEREST BASED SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY



**“Connecting people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ”**

**Dr. Luke E. Torian, Pastor**

## What are Interest Based Small Groups?

Interest Based Small Groups are relational communities that join together and connect through like interest, fellowship, study, praise and prayer as we share our successes and bear each other's burdens while we grow together in Christ.

Each group provides an opportunity to **make the connection, make disciples and make a difference**. We encourage everyone to join a small group because this is where you will meet new people while growing in your faith.

## What happens in an Interest Based Small Group Meeting?

At First Mount Zion, our Interest Based Small Group meetings is a gathering of 15 people or less who connect with others who have a common interest or activity and engage in life giving conversation and study. We are meant to live in relationship with others, and we believe that community happens best around shared interest, gifts and passions. Regardless of the type of group, through that common interest, we seek to love God, grow in God, serve God, and share God together as a group and with others. Ultimately, Interest Based Small Groups provides a place to develop and cultivate friendships, receive encouragement and support while lives are being transformed into the image of Christ. **Participants may include First Mount Zion members, non-members, and seekers.**

## How do we fulfill our Small Groups Mission at First Mount Zion?

**Our Mission:** Make the Connection, Make Disciples, Make a Difference.

### Make the Connection

At First Mount Zion we believe each member of the body of Christ is created in His own image. We are not complete until we are in community with other believers. A church cannot be who they are and carry out that task unless they are in relationships with each other. As our church grows larger, we grow smaller. We are meant to do life together and we believe that community happens best around shared interests and passions. Join us! We have a variety of groups—from discipleship groups, sports, service, support, and book groups for all ages. There is a group for everyone, including YOU!

### Make Disciples

Regardless of the type of group, the main purpose of each one is to create a place where we can grow to become more like Jesus: to model His character, ways, and mission to the world through approaching life and each meeting through the Great Commandment and Great Commission. **(4BP Strategy Biblical Principles)**

### Make a Difference

The Great Commission was a personal instruction not a suggestion. Jesus gave His disciples these instructions. **"Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you"** **Matthew 28:19-20**. Jesus charged his followers to continue this mission while on this earth. Small groups are connecting units of the church body on a mission to share the light and love of Christ to those around them.

## When and where do we meet?

**Schedule:** Small Groups meet for two semesters each year—Fall and Spring.

### 2021 – 2024 Interest Based Semester Dates

**Fall:** October 1, 2021 — January 31, 2022

**Spring:** February 14, 2022 — June 30, 2022

**Fall:** October 7, 2022 — January 31, 2023

**Spring:** February 13, 2023 — June 30, 2023

**Fall:** October 6, 2023 ---- January 31, 2024

**Spring:** February 12, 2024 ---- June 30, 2024

Depending on the type of group, during the semester, the group may meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Through the fellowship, Small Groups are meant to bring meaning and community into your life.

**Location-** The Small Groups Director and leader of the group will collectively select a meeting place that best fits the purpose of that particular interest group.

## How can I find the date, time, and location of existing Small Group Meetings? How can I start an Interest Based Group?

\* Website: [www.fmzbc.com](http://www.fmzbc.com)

\* Visit the Leadership Desk in the Narthex

\* Read the Week-at-a-Glance in the church announcement sheet

\* View the First Mount Zion Church calendar

If you are Interested in starting a group, or if you have any questions, please contact:

Small Groups Director,  
Stephanie M. Craddock at (703) 670-0184