

INCREASING COMMUNITY

God created human beings and then he said, *“It is not good for man to be alone.”* We are created for community. The church is referred to in scripture as the body of Christ and Acts 2 describes how that community should function. We are like a family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

However, when a church gets to a certain size it is difficult to establish and sustain community. In a large church, like ECRC that worships 800+ people at two different services, it can be hard to maintain a sense of community.

In an effort to improve our sense of community and hospitality we are establishing a **“Section Leader”** concept. We are creatures of habit and, for the most part, we sit in the same vicinity of our sanctuary every week. We are dividing our sanctuary into sections and each section will have a Section Leader and an elder who will partner to facilitate community and hospitality. Section Leaders and elders will “get to know” the people who regularly sit in their section, establish relationships with them and facilitate community in the section. They will encourage involvement in spiritual growth, ministry and also facilitate a sense of belonging.

Sections will also allow us to better identify people who are new to our church and make sure they are welcomed, have their questions answered and help them to navigate our ministry. This will help us to be a more hospitable community for those who are new.

The work of Section Leaders and elders may not be that noticeable to you. Their work is relational and organic. It is not to be programmatic. You can’t program community. However, you can devise mechanisms that will try to facilitate community.

We believe this concept has unlimited potential for positive benefits for our ministry now and in the future. Please pray for the work of our section leaders and elders.