



Volunteer & Contribute

OUR PHILOSOPHY:

We believe **every person in our church is an active contributor to the life of our community**. Attendance at our services, connecting with another, participating in a small group, volunteering with a team, and hundreds of other ways in which Sparkers engage are all valued aspects of the life and experience of Spark.

As such, we **equally value everyone's humanity, presence, and contribution**, no matter how big or how small.

Volunteer teams are commissioned to assist with the operations of the church, and team members are involved because their specific gifts, talents, abilities, and capabilities **match with the needs** of the community.

OUR VOLUNTEER CULTURE:

- **Community-Centered.** (Not “work-centered.”)
- **Sacrificial and Selfless.** (Though not “destructive.”)
- **Sustainable.** (Not “straining.”)
- **Life-giving.** (Not “crushing.”)

Community-Centered is about recognizing that our work has an ultimate end, and that is **the care we have for the people**. We are ultimately attending to what our community experiences. This means

that “intrinsically exclusionary” values (such as “perfection,” “opulence” and in some cases “excellence”) cannot be our values because those high-levels leave certain people out by definition. It is our goal to leverage values that help people feel included.

In addition, by serving with one another, **bond of connection are formed** that enhance your connection to the community. We believe serving together is an important aspect of becoming more connected with the church.

Sacrificial and Selfless is to keep our focus on others, not on ourselves. Being a part of the community means many moments of self-sacrifice for the care of the community. **Giving up a part of who we are** is what it means to serve, and we do so without expectation of accolades or public honor. We truly do serve **with humility**.

Sustainable is both a **personal** and an **ecological** value, caring for the individual, but also creating an environment where the entire church is cared for. As the duties of our work will persist indefinitely, our energies and resource allocations cannot. We must continually ensure our systems can persist without depletion.

Sustainability is also predicated on the assumption that as a community, we truly do have enough, that we persistently operate out of a view of **“abundance”** (rather than “scarcity”) in the life of our church.

Life-giving is about recognizing that all of these aspects of service provide a sense of purpose, value, and even pleasure, knowing that our energies and efforts have yielded something positive in the world. Through this kind of service, volunteers both **give and receive life** in and through their contributions.

In addition, there are several characteristics of Spark that we consider central to our identity, and volunteers in their respective capacities are asked to embody these characteristics in their involvement with service, and in the life of our community.

- **Radical Welcome.** Sparkers feel that they can “come as they are,”

- **Embrace the question.** All sincere questions, about any and all subjects are embraced with respect. All questioners are also honored and respected in their questioning.
- **Committed to The Way of Jesus.** This is not just our mission statement, it is our actual mission; our purpose, our reason for existence (our raison d'être).
- **Being human.** Sparkers engage faith through the lens of humanity, with the full scope of emotions and experiences that make us human.

OUR TEAMS:

- Small/Bible/Book Group Leaders
- Children's Ministry Teams
- Board/Pastors (Volunteers)
- Hospitality
- Prayer Team
- Rescue Team
- Service Hosts
- Greeters / Welcome
- Setup/Tear Down
- Band/Music/Worship/Audio
- Zoom Hosting

We look forward to developing other teams as our church evolves.

OUR SYSTEMS:

- **"Planning Center Online" (PCO)** is the name of the administration software we are using. It is a comprehensive tool by which all of our operations can be centralized and connected.
- Volunteers are asked to **communicate**. We want to eliminate ignorance as much as possible regarding everything in our teams. Written or electronic avenues are preferred (verbals have a tendency to be forgotten). Emails, texts, and "accepting" or "declining" on PCO are all acceptable avenues of communication.
- Volunteers need to be **"assigned"** to particular teams to operate the sign-up sheet. However, the term should not communicate to you

that you can't do anything else, or that you're "stuck." It's simply **the terminology of administrative functionality**.

- Our goal is to be planned at least **two months in advance**.
- **We will feed you!**

OUR GRATITUDE:

**THANK YOU for BEING
our church!**