

COMPARISON CHART

	"SMALL GROUP"	"CELL CHURCH"	"HOUSE CHURCH"
<i>DEFINITION</i>	a small group of individuals meeting for a specific purpose; by definition, usually no more than 15 in number	a specific type of small group meeting to accomplish the work of a church; by definition, a part (cell) of a larger Body (cluster congregation)	usually begins as a small group, but may grow beyond that; a self-sustaining church which is usually independent and autonomous
<i>PURPOSE</i>	meets for a specific purpose (support, study, fellowship, hobby, etc.)	meets to fulfill the purposes of a church; the cell group church experience is incomplete without the cluster worship/teaching experience; seeks to replicate the <i>koinonia</i> (fellowship) of the New Testament church	meets to fulfill the purposes of a church; the house church is complete in itself; seeks to replicate the <i>koinonia</i> (fellowship) of the New Testament church
<i>ORGANIZATION & ASSOCIATION</i>	may be independent or linked to a sponsoring organization	belongs to a larger group ("cluster network") of other cell churches within a common organization, often sharing staff	independent, self-sustaining church which may or may not chose to voluntarily associate with other independent, self-sustaining house churches
<i>STRUCTURE</i>	can be "open" (allowing new members to enter at any time) or "closed" (continuing to conclusion with the same membership the group began with)	usually an "open" group which expects a significant level of commitment from those who desire to join the cell	usually an "open" group, but one which encourages a committed participation
<i>LIFESPAN</i>	usually runs for a pre-designated time, after which it may end, or begin a new pre-specified term	indefinite; designed to continue	indefinite; designed to continue
<i>GROWTH</i>	not usually concerned with growth or reproduction	designed with the intention of reproducing by multiplying itself, birthing new self-reproducing cells which will be part of the same "cluster network"	designed to grow to a specific size, at which time a new, independent, self-sustaining house church is planted

Understanding Church Planning Terms

	SYNONYM:	FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON:	ANSWERS THE QUESTION:	DEFINITION
PURPOSE	reason	<i>being</i>	Why are we here?	<i>a general and broad but brief statement of what God's church is supposed to do</i>
MISSION	task	<i>doing</i>	What are we supposed to do?	<i>a clear statement of what the church intends to accomplish</i>
VALUES	motivation	<i>understanding</i>	Why do we do what we do?	<i>a statement of constant, passionate, foundational beliefs which drive a church's mission and shape it's vision</i>
VISION	goal	<i>seeing</i>	What will things look like when we do it?	<i>a specific mental image of the desired future for your church as it accomplishes it's mission</i>