

Dear Church Family,

We thought it might be helpful to share the rationale as to why we are proposing to move to a rotating rhythm of utilizing our At Home Liturgy every other Sunday, and meeting in small groups on alternate Sundays. As a quick recap, the idea we are asking you to consider is meeting every other Sunday with a small group – like a home church – to do Bible study and prayer, implementing a Gospel Tool that is being developed by Pastor Dave, Pastor Gina and Stephanie. The sermon on the alternate Sundays would tie into what is being covered in the small groups. So, these small groups would gather twice a month (either in person or online) for intentional discipleship, teaching and equipping, so that each member of GAC might be better able to advance the kingdom of God and proclaim the Gospel with increasing effectiveness and clarity.

You may be wondering why a rotating rhythm is being proposed, as opposed to maintaining our weekly At Home Liturgy and adding small group meetings to our existing schedule, twice per month. For those of you who were present for the family gathering this past Wednesday, this will be a review of the rationale shared by the pastors.

1. When Pastor Dave, Pastor Gina, and Annah Blake came together in their quarterly leadership meeting to seek the Lord's guidance as to where He was directing Gold Avenue Church during this COVID season, He began to bubble up an idea as they prayed. So, they are

simply trying to be faithful to share the guidance they received at that time, as they received it.

2. There are some members of our church family who, for any number of reasons, have not been engaging in the weekly At Home Liturgy. Particularly for these individuals, regathering on alternate Sundays in small groups will help to reestablish a sabbath routine.

3. There is a longing on the hearts of many to reconnect with GAC family members. Meeting in small groups could actually lead to more frequent connections – connections that we would likely be able to maintain in spite of COVID complications and increasing turbulence in our country and world.

4. Early Christians used a house church structure to meet on Sabbaths. Proposing this new format is a good stretch to our definition of gathering for worship as the church, even if it is different than what we have ever known.

5. The weekly At Home Liturgy and sermon are very time consuming for the entire team to produce each week. They feel that maintaining that workload while at the same time adding and supporting an additional full church discipleship ministry, particularly with generating the Gospel Tool, would create a workload that would be very difficult to sustain.

We remain very interested in your feedback on all of this. Your voice is important! If you have not yet filled out the [survey](#) which was sent out via email this past Friday, please do so by this Friday, September 4.

In Christ,

Nancy Van Noord, Acting Admin Elder Chair