

Coker UMC

Love God + Serve Others + Change the World

At Coker UMC we know that all want to be in community. In order to do that, we need to be a church that helps all feel connected. Churches, in general, can be hard to navigate which makes people feel alone in the crowd or without clear next steps. We believe all deserve to be welcomed, seen, known, and walked with. Since 1883, we have been helping people connect into life-giving community, and 2021 will be no different....

Here at Coker we have a place for you to belong and a plan for you to grow deep in Jesus Christ.

Connecting New People into Meaningful Community

Our online outreach efforts invite people to connect with Coker one of three ways.

1. To access a free book if they sign up to be on our e-mail list, adding them to the e-mail list allows us to interact with them and keep them up-to-date on happenings in the church.
2. To get in touch with a Connections Expert (which is like a Church-Concierges who will help answer any questions and help direct to next steps)
3. To attend Connecting at Coker

What Next?

4. After connecting with Coker each person will be told who their Community Leader is....
5. And everyone will be invited to take a Discipleship Pathway Assessment...
6. Their connections experts will stay with them until they are more immersed into Coker

Connecting ALL People (New & Seasoned) into Meaningful Community

THE PLACE

Thanks to a volunteer in the church, we have a way to categorize our Coker-folks into community areas in San Antonio. We are mapping out 5 areas in San Antonio. If you look at the slide show presentation on Coker.org/PlaceAndPlan, you will see a map of San Antonio. We will be using 281 and 1604 as our dividers to form into 4 community groups (and will divide one of those groups in the more dense area closer to Coker, into two groups which will equal 5 in-person groups total). We will also have one online community group since we have a lot of folks who have been worshipping with us online from all over the city, nation, and world. Each group will have a community leader, a prayer & concerns coordinator, a meal-train coordinator, an event coordinator, and a new member outreach contact. The groups will begin with a kick-off event in the fall of 2021 and then host quarterly community gatherings. It is our hope that you will grow in community with one another. We will be in prayer over each community group as they form- and we feel the Holy Spirit will also draw together smaller dinner groups, or groups centered around a study of the Bible (or from Right Now Media), etc. The groups can also let their group leader know when there is a need within the group that the church can speak into (prayer requests, outreach initiatives, meal-trains, etc). When the groups meet, simply join in fellowship and possibly ask the question, "How is it with your soul?" then let meaningful conversations happen, and Christian community grow.

THE PLAN

We are assembling a team of disciple-makers and launching a discipleship assessment tool for all at Coker. The assessment tool will indicate strengths and areas for growth in several areas of discipleship. Once someone takes the assessment, the results will be sent along to a Disciple-Maker who will then set up an appointment to review results. The Disciple-maker will lay out next steps for spiritual growth which may include: classes at Coker, classes online via RightNow Media, certain books to read, prayer prompts, or ways to engage in volunteer efforts or community outreach. The Disciple-makers will meet with the disciple quarterly to check progress. At the end of the year, the disciple will take a self-evaluation to check progress and guide steps for the following years.

How can I Help?

Pray on where God is calling you to be a part of this master-plan. We need help in the following areas....

Connections Expert, Qty: 10: Because churches can be tough to navigate for someone who is new, Coker provides Connections Experts. The connections expert serves as a church-concierges, if you will, and they hold the hand of the new person until the person is more connected at Coker. A Connections Expert can communicate via email, phone, or in-person to answer any questions a new person may have, and make any introductions the new person may need. They will be knowledgeable in happenings and ministries of the church. At least one Connections Experts will plan to attend Connecting at Coker to personally meet new people and continue to walk with that person as they meet others within Coker. The Connections Experts will meet, monthly, with the Communications Director so they are aware of upcoming happenings, and with the Guest Services Lay Leader so they are aware of new visitors. The Connections Expert will continue to point new people to the Discipleship Pathway Assessment and to their Community Leader.

Community Leaders, Qty 6: A Community Leader will be in charge of a geographic area and will be given a list of all who currently attend Coker and live within that area. The Community Leader will work with a team of volunteers and receive funds from the church to plan a quarterly gathering for the Coker attendees, neighbors, and guests in their area. The Community Leader will regularly check in with those in their area (via phone, email, or in-person) and will communicate any needs to the Coker staff and church ministry leads. They will also receive communications from Coker that can be sent out to those in their area. When new people are introduced to Coker, the Community Leader will reach out, introduce themselves, and welcome the new person into community. The Community Leader will assemble a sub-team consisting of 1) a prayer & concerns coordinator, 2) a meal-train coordinator, 3) an event coordinator, and 4) a new member outreach contact.

Disciple Makers, Qty 25: Disciple Makers are gifted in walking with and growing disciples of Jesus Christ. The Disciple Makers will work directly with the Adult Discipleship Pastor who will lead them as they lead others. The Disciple Makers will receive a copy of the Disciple's Discipleship Assessment and meet with the Disciple to talk about future steps, places to serve, pray directives, and Bible Studies to engage in. The Disciple Makers will check-in quarterly with their Disciples, and will send a yearly self-evaluation to the disciples so that disciples can continue their walk and growth.

Sign-Up to Volunteer online at: Coker.org/PlaceAndPlan

Timeline

April 14th, 1 PM- Meeting with Church Programming Staff

April 28th, 6:30 PM- Meeting with Church Leaders

May 1st-May 21st- Assemble team of volunteers: Connections Experts, Community Leaders, and Disciple-Makers

May 24th-June 25th- Train Volunteers

July 4th-Aug 15th- Launch Discipleship Assessment for Pilot Group

July 11th- Connecting at Coker

Aug 15th-Sept 15th- Discipleship Plans for Pilot Group

August 22nd- Connecting at Coker (Back-to-School) (Discipleship plans for new-comers...)

Sept 8th- Connecting at Coker (Discipleship plans for new-comers...)

Sept 15th- Fall Bible Studies Begin

Sept 19th- Connecting at Coker

Sept 19th-Oct 20th- Community Launch and Gatherings happening (at various dates/times TBD)

Ongoing... Discipleship plans for new comers as they come in, quarterly discipleship check-ins, quarterly community gatherings, etc.

Questions?

You can sign-up to volunteer online at Coker.org/PlaceAndPlan and direct questions and comments to:

Pastor Damon Relder – Drelder@coker.org

Richard Garrett - 70rgarrett@gmail.com

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11 NIV