

# ABOUT US

Revolve Church exists to glorify God by making disciples who make disciples of all nations. Our Lord and Savior commissioned the early disciples, and, through perpetuity, us to that impossible task before ascending to the Father's right hand (Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8-11). Just ten days after his ascension, he sent the Promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, to empower all disciples to be his witnesses locally, regionally, and globally (Acts 2).

Our niche in fulfilling the Great Commission is to mobilize all disciples to hear, obey, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ and, indeed, the truth of his Word. Over the last few years, our role as a training center and mobilizing church has become clearer, and we are eagerly walking forward in this path that the Lord has laid before us.

Guiding us along that path are certain values and principles that we feel are non-negotiable for all disciples and for Revolve. These habits describe the culture that we aspire to foster within our community and embed within all disciples. They are:

- ABIDE - Developing a healthy spiritual vitality through the Word and prayer
- BUILD RELATIONSHIP - Thinking missionally about our relationships and rhythms of life
- CONNECT IN CONVERSATION - "As-You-Are-Going" Evangelism, weaving the spiritual things of life as we live our love for God "out loud"
- DISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP - Empowering people to grow and lead others to grow by encountering the accessible truth of God's Word
- EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING OTHERS - Helping others to see these values formed in their own lives so that multiplication happens on every level

Over the last year, we have established a clear pathway to train in this content, unifying our domestic and international efforts under the ABC's of Discipleship ([DiscoveringDiscipleship.com](http://DiscoveringDiscipleship.com)). In the coming year, we are hoping to push into this even more, so that there is organizational and communicative clarity in the role each of you can play in training and being released as disciple-makers.

In this year's annual report, we hope to pull back the curtain and give you some clarion insight into what God has been doing in and through Revolve Church in 2022, and what we hope to see in 2023.

It is our pleasure to co-labor alongside such a wonderful church.

The Revolve Church Elder Team

- Bill Laky (staff)
- David Macomber (staff)
- Breton Palmer
- Stephen Tecco
- Dave Walker

# The Mission

We are living in a time when the church of God in our nation, and in the world, has lost its purpose. Many churches seem to be having an identity crisis, unsure of the role that God has for them in this changing world. Are churches supposed to champion the rights of the powerless? Of course. Are they supposed to stand up against sin and call out evil? Absolutely. Should we labor for those who are oppressed and impoverished? Most certainly.

All of these tasks are good causes, and you would live an honorable life if you gave yourself to any of them wholeheartedly, but there is only one eternal cause - the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to all nations. As the author of Ecclesiastes muses in the first chapter of his wisdom literature, all of our efforts pass away with little remembrance, and there seems to be no true legacy that we can leave. Living within the New Covenant, post cross and resurrection, however, we know that the greatest legacy we can leave is people. The Apostle Paul put it this way, "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?" (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

There are indeed many important callings and tasks set before us as a people commanded to love God and our neighbor, but the commission to overcome gospel poverty through proclamation and discipleship is the greatest of all.

# The Vision

How the Great Commission is accomplished will greatly vary from church to church and mission agency to mission agency. Within the mosaic of philosophies, methodologies, and areas of focus we see the diversity that is the global church. God may, indeed, call one church to focus primarily on ministering among the homeless, the migrant, the refugee, or the soccer mom. As Paul penned to the Ephesian Church, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10)." God has prepared pathways for us to walk, and they will vary from person to person, family to family, and church to church. Praise be to God that he alone will get the glory for the marvelous tapestry that he is weaving!

Revolve's role in the unfinished task of reaching the nations grows clearer with each passing year. Just five miles from our church's office is the United States Coast Guard's Training Center (commonly called TRACEN). Within the TRACEN facility, new recruits are trained, equipped, and organized for service before being sent to various stations around the country and even the world. This process could be referred to as mobilization, which is defined as preparing and organizing troops for service.

Revolve's mission is primarily one of mobilization - to prepare the Christ's Church for disciple-making service. God has given us the privilege of functioning as a discipleship TRACEN, mobilizing our own people, local churches, regionally churches, and even mobilizing

global organizations and leaders. Mobilizing them to do what? To hear God's voice as revealed in his Word, to obey it regardless of consequences, and to share it with others. ***Revolve Church's role in the Great Commission is to mobilize all disciples (anyone God sends us) to hear, obey, and share the Good News of the Gospel.***

All this said, mission statements and vision documents can only bring a church so far. At the end of the day, what really matters is your church's culture. Let us now look at the culture we are creating at Revolve and how God is at work within it.

## ABIDE

Over the summer we did a sermon series on abiding (John 15). In this series we explored the importance of staying close to Jesus because apart from him we can do nothing. We explained that marinating in his presence, by spending meaningful time in prayer and the Word, results in fruitful ministry, indestructible joy, answers to prayer, and so much more. It isn't enough that we want to multiply disciples; we want to multiply healthy disciples! After all, cancer is a form of multiplication, and we have no desire to mobilize malignant followers!

In 2022 we offered multiple opportunities to grow in the spiritual disciplines that lead to healthy spiritual vitality. Here are just a few:

- Regular prayer times on zoom and in person
- Four corporate prayer times during the Sunday gathering
- One corporate fast
- A six-week sermon series on Abiding
- A hermeneutics class to improve Bible interpretation
- An Old Testament survey to improve Bible interpretation
- Multiple rounds of the ABC's of Discipleship (previously known as the Hub)
- Accountability among disciples, groups, and leaders

We are of the strong opinion that abiding, remaining, dwelling, drawing near, staying close, marinating with Jesus is the single most important thing in a disciple's life. Any efforts to develop a culture of evangelism or discipleship will falter without personal and corporate abiding. We will continue to bang this drum in the years to come, and will routinely offer courses, trainings, 3]and accountability to make it a reality.

Internationally, our commitment to helping people develop healthy spiritual vitality is also a core value. We have spent almost \$20,000 over the last three years smuggling Bibles and Bible resources to people in unreached nations. Please know that the money you give is not just spent on buildings and staff, but on overcoming gospel poverty and helping other believers to grow in their walks with the Lord!

# BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

In 2 Corinthians 5:17–20, the Apostle Paul wrote:

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Every disciple is a new creation and an ambassador. We cannot be one without being the other. They are part of our spiritual DNA, our identity as the people of God.

Although we know that today ambassadors can represent brands or products on social media, that is not what Paul had in mind. Throughout history an ambassador was a diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign sovereign. In our case, we are ambassadors of King Jesus and his Heavenly Kingdom sent to the Kingdom of Satan and its local manifestation. Although that may seem a little intense, this is exactly what Paul had in mind!

Ambassadors have to be aware of their surroundings and the needs of their sending nation at all times. They don't behave as ambassadors just when they are in a once-a-week meeting or at a government sanctioned event, but need to always be ready to give an answer that accurately represents the needs and desires of their home country. If they fail to do this, they would be traitors!

God has sent you as an ambassador into your relational circles (which are entirely different from my relational circles). Your circles of influence - where you live, work, learn, play, and worship - are where the Lord has commissioned you to go as an ambassador, and he wants you to think missionally about those places and relationships.

When we encourage people to build relationships, we are really encouraging them to think intentionally about every area of their lives. At the end of the day, there are really only two types of people in the world: those who need to hear the good news of the Kingdom of Jesus, and those who need to be mobilized to be healthy, obedient ambassadors of Christ. Through this lens, every relationship in your life is a missional relationship. You are either equipping someone to function as an ambassador, or you are interacting with them as an ambassador of Christ yourself. You are either mobilizing to the mission, or you are living out the mission.

As an overflow of this identity, Revolve is eager and joy-filled to send out and support missionaries all over the world. Towards the end of this booklet you will get to see a snapshot of where that money goes, and how God is using it to reach the nations. Although we are ambassadors at all times (even in Cape May County), God has given us the great blessing and

opportunity to also be his ambassadors among the nations - whether they are in Astoria, NYC or living as refugees in Germany.

## CONNECT IN INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION

Connecting in intentional conversations is all about creating a culture of decentralized evangelism. In the Great Commission, Jesus said, "Going, disciple nations..." It would be accurate to state that we should be making disciples as we are going about life as ambassadors for Christ. Evangelism doesn't only happen at Sunday service, outreach events, or summer camp bonfire chats; God's people should always be speaking about the Good News of the Kingdom as they go about life.

We are happy to report that the vast majority of baptisms that take place at Revolve don't begin at the Sunday service, but with you - God's people - sharing with neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends. Sometimes you don't even realize you are doing it, but you are actively hearing, obeying, and sharing the truth of God's Word with those around you. All we ask is that you would do so even more as the Day of the Lord draws near!

All over the world, the number one way that missionaries and churches find people who are prepared by God to hear and respond to the Gospel is through living a "hear, obey, share" lifestyle in the world around them. This is to say that people are living "out loud" their love for God as they talk with and show love to those around them.

When we are abiding in the Word and prayer each day, God's thoughts and his words are on our hearts and lips. We are eager to share an encouraging Word, utter a prayer for a friend, and talk about the Scriptures and what Jesus has done. This is the type of lifestyle described in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, where God commands his people to talk about him when they get up, when they go to sleep, when they walk around the house, and when they walk along the way.

A decentralized culture of evangelism comes from an abiding people overflowing with the goodness of God, who see the world around them as their mission field, and are open to sharing with others. This doesn't always mean sharing the gospel in its entirety! Sometimes it might be sharing a Psalm, a testimony, or a prayer, but God's ambassadors are eager to connect in loving, listening, thoughtful conversation with the world around them.

## DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. At Revolve, we are convinced that the Word does the Work, and the best thing we can do is to get people into the Word of God and let the Holy Spirit use it to transform them from the inside out!

This conviction of the Word as the primary vehicle of change, in the hands of the Spirit, resounds so loudly in our hearts at Revolve that you have often heard me, from the pulpit,

discourage the reading of books, commentaries, and study Bibles as exclusive tools for learning about God. That is not because we do not see the value in these resources (we host book clubs throughout the year!), but because we realize that they are meant to be supplements to, and not replacements for, the Word of God.

That being said, within our culture, we often rely on being spoon fed teachings about God rather than ever learning to self-feed. When you read something or listen to a lecture, there is a very limited percentage of retention (less than 20%), but if you discover or discuss something that retention level jumps to over 75%. If you pass it on to others (hear, obey, and share), you retain 95% of what you learned!

The vast majority of our time and energy as elders is spent on equipping other people with the skills necessary to hear the Word, obey the Word, and share the Word with others. Our midweek classes are often geared around this exact thing. We want you to know how to:

- Enjoy daily habits of Bible reading and journaling
- Properly interpret the Scripture
- Be confident reading the Bible with believers for discipleship
- Feel equally confident reading the Bible with those who are far from God for evangelism
- Understand clear Scripture plans for short, mid, and long term discipleship

Revolve is a church that is centered on the Word. It is the foundation for everything we say, do, and pass on to others. We do not determine our doctrine or praxis from the culture, but from the Word of God. We want to be known as a People of the Book!

This coming year, we hope to grow in clearly articulating to you those pathways and scripture journeys for discipleship if they are still fuzzy in your mind. Everyone at our church should be able to sit down with a friend and, over the course of a year, walk through relevant passages to help someone to discover the Gospel, grow with a foundational short-term discipleship plan, and mature with long-term discipleship strategy. Stay tuned for these great resources!

## Equipping and Empowering Others

In his final letter before his execution, Paul writes to his spiritual protege, Timothy, with seasoned advice. In 2 Timothy 2:2 he wrote, "...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." This is a picture of multiplicative methods and leadership development.

As talented and gifted as Paul was as a missionary and church planter, he knew that the success of the Great Commission did not rely upon his own ability, but upon the generation by generation spreading of the gospel. Simple stated, multiplication must happen at every level - disciples, leaders, local churches, and regional efforts.

This theme is consistent with all of Scripture. The physical command to "be fruitful and multiply" in Genesis 1:28 is spiritually reaffirmed in Matthew 28:18-20 when Jesus essentially tells his

followers to go out and spiritually multiply. Paul walks out this identity as a spiritual parent, calling Timothy and others his true children in the faith.

Paul labored to present everyone mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28), and maturity is inseparable from leadership development. Beyond the basics of discipleship, leadership development can broadly be broken into these key areas:

- Theological Understanding
- Clarity in God's Calling
- Ministry Competency
- Gospel Shaped Character

Each of these areas takes time and relationships to form well, especially character. At Revolve we don't just want you to be smart, we want you to be capable. Beyond that, we are mostly concerned with your character, which brings us full circle back to the core parts of abiding - hearing, obeying, and sharing in the everyday 'stuff' of life.

## IN SUMMATION

Revolve exists to glorify God by making disciples who make disciples of all nations. We do this primarily through mobilizing you to hear, obey, and share God's Word.

Practically speaking, from a place of deep, rich abiding with the Lord, we go out into our circles of influence with the eyes of an ambassador - looking for people to develop as co-laborers and seeking the lost.

We intentionally weave the truth of the gospel as we are going into our conversations so that we can see where God is working and find open doors.

Once we have identified the people in whom God wants us to invest, we open the Word of God and lead others on a journey of discovery and discipleship.

As our disciples grow and mature, we teach them to do that which we have done for them so that the process of discipleship and mobilization continues.

This is the goal of Revolve, and this is the part we will play in the Great Commission - until the whole world hears or Jesus returns. Let us ask the Lord to make us into this kind of a community.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST YEAR

## At Revolve

- Launch of the Revolve Recap Podcast, enjoyed by thousands of people every week (maybe that's an exaggeration).
- Rebranding and Streamlining of our Hub curriculum as a new ABC's of Discipleship
- We saw three people baptized and more give their lives to Jesus for the first time
- We did loads of Book Clubs and Courses, including:
  - History of the Reformation (Jan/Feb)
  - "Discipleship" Book Club (Feb/March)
  - Hermeneutics Class (March/Apr)
  - ABC's of Discipleship (Apr/May)
  - Family Book Club - What Happens When I Die? (June)
  - Sermon on the Mount Class (June)
  - "She is Called" Class (July)
  - ABC's of Discipleship (Sept)
  - Old Testament Survey (Oct/Nov/December)
- Moved from Two Mile to LCMR after two wonderful years

## In the USA

- Launch of DiscoveringDiscipleship.com, a landing page for our training and coaching content
- Two short term teams sent to New York City for evangelism trips
- Numerous coaching phone calls with missionaries, pastors, and churches from around the country
- Led a Disciple Making Movement training in New York City for Equip, a missionary training school
- Began training with four churches in Cape May County
- Began training with another church in Garwood, NJ

## Around the World

- Trained and coached leaders in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Germany and Greece, representing some of the least reached people groups on the planet
- Went on ministry trips to Czech Republic, Greece, and Germany
- Gave away almost \$200,000 (estimated)



## FINANCIAL UPDATE 2022 (Rounded to Nearest Dollar)

### Total Received

January through November	\$381,993
December UPG Offering	\$103,222
<b>TOTAL MONEYS RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$485,215</b>

### At Revolve

Staffing, Benefits (Laky, Macomber, Worthington)	\$165,411
Ministry Expenses / Supplies	\$17,125
Rent, Fees, Utilities	\$34,405
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES AT REVOLVE (Including Savings)</b>	<b>\$216,941</b>

### Local / Regional Missions and Benevolence

Christian and Alenna Vance in New York City	\$43,860
Local & Regional One Time Gifts	\$23,458

### International Missions and Church Planting

Czech Republic (Church Planting & Theological Education)	\$36,200
Germany (Refugee Workers)	\$18,261
Central Asia (Undisclosed Locations)	\$25,369
SE Asia (Undisclosed Locations)	\$31,600
One Time Donations & Expenses	\$65,130
UPG Reserves, Set aside for 2023 Unplanned Expenses	\$26,122
<b>TOTAL MISSIONS GIVEN (55.65%)</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>