

Potential Shepherding Team Member,

In our ongoing desire to keep people at MLCC connected, and make sure that people are being cared for we are reaching out to ask if you would be willing to join the staff, elders, and a few others at MLCC to provide regular contact for families at MLCC.

We would like to make small enough shepherding groups that each family/individual could receive a personal call each week. If there are people more at risk, or more isolated it would be great if they were getting a couple personal calls each week. Our goal is to break this down so that no one has more than 5-7 families/individuals to call each week.

Here's an excellent template that Phil Payne developed for the first call, and could be the template for continuing calls, but hopefully after a few weeks the check-in might look a little less mechanical.

Make a personal phone call to each family/individual on your list unit each week. On that personal phone call we are asking you to:

1. Identify yourself by name and tell the person you are calling that you are calling on behalf of MLCC.
2. Acknowledge that we are living in challenging times and that as a Church we care.
3. Ask the Family unit you are calling – How they are doing? How are they feeling? Feel free to share with the person you are talking to about how you are doing/feeling.
4. Ask the Family unit you are calling if they are facing any unique challenges during this time? Maybe with work? Maybe with childcare? Groceries? Medical needs?
5. Ask the person you are talking to if there are any specific ways the Church can be helpful to them during this time? (**Please do not make any promises... ask about needs and then let them know that you will take the request back to MLCC leadership for how we will respond).
6. If appropriate and if you feel comfortable – offer to Pray for the person/family you are talking to. Take a moment on the phone call to Pray for them.
7. Thank them for the opportunity to chat with them. Let them know that we care and that we are available as a Church to help if we can.

What we are specifically asking you to do as someone at MLCC that we've identified as having spiritual maturity, as well as a heart for people, is to simply help us keep people connected and flourishing as much as possible during this challenging season.

We are not asking you to personally take on all the needs of the family/individual to which you have been assigned. If there are simple needs that arise that you could meet, that would be up to you, but otherwise we would ask you to funnel needs back to MLCC through Dayna and we can develop a plan to help.

I would really appreciate it if you would be willing to respond to this email – either to me – john@mlcc.us or Dayna – dayna@mlcc.us and let us know if you are not able to help, or if you are able to help. We don't want to make any assumptions about your time, or whether you believe this is a ministry you're able to engage, but we could surely use your help. Our deep desire during a time when the church is a bit scattered physically is to draw it closer in smaller units so we can genuinely care for the people God has entrusted to us.

Additionally if there are a couple families who are really on your heart to keep up with give us those names and we may be able to match them up on your shepherding list. But doubtless there will be individuals/families that you may be meeting for the first time via this phone call. The elders, staff, and a few others have already personally called every family/individual at MLCC and the response, and appreciation for touching base, was overwhelmingly positive.

If you have further questions feel free to contact myself or Dayna for clarification. We would like to get this implemented in the coming week.

Hope you are well, and experiencing the peace of Christ,

John

PS: Depending on how many people say yes/no to this our lists could be slightly bigger than 5 each. If you think about this, consider how many calls you could make each week and let us know that number. That could help us as we develop the lists.

JJR