

Sponsoring Church Application for Partnership with Ignite

Campus(es) _____

Section 1: Sponsoring Church

Church information

Church name _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (if different)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Phone _____ Cell phone _____

Name of current lead pastor _____

Year church was founded _____ Founding pastor _____

If applicable, list the preceding two pastors, phone numbers, and dates of pastorate:

Current church staff (indicate number):

Lead pastor _____ Associate pastor _____

Youth leader/pastor _____ Young adult leader/pastor _____

Worship leader/pastor _____ Other staff _____

How many miles is the church from the campus(es) you want to sponsor? _____

Section 2: References

References

Please list two individuals outside of your church who are familiar with your ministry.

1. Name _____ Title _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____

2. Name _____ Title _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____

Section 3: Mission & Vision

Purpose & vision

Please attach your church's statement of faith to this application.

What is the vision of your church?

What is your church's vision for college ministry?

What movement or denomination are you primarily related to in the greater body of Christ?

Section 4: Church Advisor

Church Advisor Information

A church advisor is someone selected by a local church to minister and give direction to an Ignite group. The advisor is the lifeblood of an Ignite group since he or she provides leadership, stability, and care for the group.

Some churches put together an advisor team, where a number of individuals fulfill the advisors' responsibilities. Other churches choose a single individual or couple to oversee the group.

There is no mold for what an advisor should look like. Successful advisors have been male, female, single, married, young adults, and empty-nesters. The important qualities are a burden and vision for reaching college students for Christ, and a willingness to put in the energy and time required.

Advisor's Role

The church advisor is primarily responsible for the spiritual leadership of the group. This includes:

- Discipling student leaders so that they will grow into reproducing spiritual leaders.
- Overseeing the teaching of the Word.
- Relational, one-on-one ministry with students.

The advisor acts as liaison between the students and the church. This entails:

- Communicating the vision and teaching of the local church to the students.
- Communicating the needs of the students to the church.

Advisor's Commitment

Church advisors will have more responsibilities at the beginning of a year than at the end. Eventually, many of the organizational needs and functions can be student-run.

It is best for church advisors to commit for 2 to 3 years (this is not a necessity, but rather an ideal). Having consistency in leadership will help maintain momentum. Students will come and go, but the advisor and church provide stability for the ministry.

The advisor will have a prominent role in shaping the meetings and activities of the Ignite group.

Advisor's Connection to Ignite

Igniting college students to passionately pursue Christ.

Church advisors will be assigned a member of the Ignite Central team who will provide ongoing training and support to help launch and lead the local Ignite group. This connection will be tailored to needs of the advisor and the sponsoring church.

Advisors should expect to meet with their Ignite Central trainer at least once every other month to assess the needs of the group, provide resources and suggestions, and helping to cast vision to grow the group. These meetings will help develop alignment between Ignite and the sponsoring church.

Is there a competent and mature leader in your church who is ready to be the advisor and spiritual overseer of the Ignite group on your campuses? Yes
 No

Possible Advisor

If yes, please complete the following information:

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell phone _____

Is this person faithful to your local church, a committed follower of Jesus Christ, and able to minister on the college campus(es) on a regular basis? Yes
 No

Section 5: Church's Commitment to Ignite

The church's commitment to Ignite Central

There are a few expectations Ignite Central has for sponsoring churches. Please answer the following questions.

Is the church willing to invest in the church advisor(s) and future advisors by helping to provide the freedom and resources necessary to be successful? Yes
 No

Ignite strives to connect with churches who share similar values and beliefs. Is the church willing to actively follow the four (4) core values of Ignite and ascribe to the Ignite doctrinal statement, both attached at the end of this application?
 Yes No

Is the church willing to stay in active communication with Ignite Central for training, vision, and collaboration? Yes No

Ignite exists to help churches reach and disciple college students. We do not *require* any yearly financial commitment from sponsoring churches. However, Ignite exists through the generosity of churches and individuals who believe in Ignite's mission. Will the church *consider* supporting Ignite financially on some sort of regular basis?

Yes No

The Ignite Retreat is held every semester as one of the primary ways to minister to students and encourage all the Ignite groups. We expect all groups to make this retreat a priority and attempt to bring as many students as possible. Will the church make these retreats a priority and communicate to Ignite Central any instance where the church is not attempting to bring students to the retreat? Yes No

At some point, all Ignite groups go through leadership changes. The advisor(s) of your group might reach a different stage of life and choose to cease being the advisor(s). We consider the Ignite group to belong to your church and not the advisor(s). If the church advisor(s) step down, will you actively search for new advisor(s)? Yes No

Ignite Central's goal is to expand the Kingdom of God on college campuses. If your college group is small/struggling, we will do everything we can to help you. However, if a group becomes inactive (no weekly meetings or advisors) for a period of one year or longer, it becomes exponentially more difficult to restart the group. Because of this, we ask that you proactively communicate with us about your intentions for your college group for the future. For example, your church may want to transition the leadership of the group to another church, and we can facilitate this transition. If there is not active communication to Ignite Central about trying to restart the group, we may consider allowing another church to use the Ignite name instead, although we will continue to assist your church to reach college students. Do you agree to this policy?

Yes No

Section 6: Ignite's Commitment to Sponsor Churches

Ignite's commitment to sponsor churches

Ignite Central is committed to assisting in the success of our sponsor churches and the groups they launch and lead. As a result, we commit to provide the following for our sponsor churches:

- Initial training to launch and lead an Ignite group
- Ongoing Church Advisor training on a monthly or every other month basis
- Access to all of our resources for free via Google Drive
- Access to the Church Advisors Facebook group
- Vision casting collaboration for the local Ignite group
- Option to assist with the Ignite Retreats and Mission Trips
- Sole sponsorship of the local Ignite group

Section 7: Comments and Signature

Is there anything else you feel Ignite Student Ministries should be aware of in considering your application?

Pastor's signature _____ Date _____

Final Checklist Before Sending

- Is the application fully completed?
- Did you review the Ignite Values and Doctrine of Faith?
- Did you attach a copy of the church's "statement of faith"?

Appendix: Ignite Mission and Values

Ignite's Mission

Ignite exists to equip churches and students to launch and lead effective and life-changing college ministries.

Ignite Values

Ignite ascribes to the idea that values should be active, not aspirational. Our values were determined based on the input of how students, churches, alumni, and partners described Ignite. If we deviate from any of these values, we are no longer Ignite.

Christ Centered

Everything we do is centered around bringing students to Christ and helping them develop a deeper relationship with Him.

Relationship Oriented

Students want to belong before they believe. Therefore, Ignite strives to create authentic gatherings where students are welcomed and encouraged to develop deep, accountable relationships with one another.

Mission Minded

We take the Great Commission seriously and challenge our members to live it out in three ways:

- Reach out to individual students with the gospel of Christ
- Change the atmosphere of the college campus in practical ways
- Engage in local and international mission trips

Equipped to Lead

Every student has a calling. Our goal is to equip students to understand their individual calling and pursues it both in and after college.

Appendix: Ignite Statement of Faith

Scriptures

God inspired the authors of Scripture by his Spirit to speak to all generations of believers, including us today. God calls us to study and meditate on the stories, songs, poems and letters found within His word so we can faithfully interpret and live out His Way as we are led by His Spirit.

God and Creation

There is one True God who is the eternally self-sufficient “I AM” and has revealed himself to us as Creator, Father, Provider and Redeemer. He was and always will be in a communal relationship with himself – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created all things good. He created humans in his image to live in fellowship with him, one another, our inner self, and creation and gave us the task of caring for his creation.

Sin and Destruction

The enemy tempted the first humans to disobey God’s command, and evil entered the story through human sin and are now a part of the world. This resulted in our relationships with God, others, ourselves, and creation being fractured, and physical and spiritual death and separation from God entering the story. This left the first humans, and us today, in desperate need of redeeming.

Jesus and Salvation

God’s plan of redemption was found in Jesus the Messiah, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, mysteriously God having become flesh to dwell among us. Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted and set captives free, proclaiming a new arrival of the Kingdom of God, and restoring our fractured world. His suffering, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection is the only means by how we are forgiven of our transgressions against God and brought into right relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God gives testimony to the truth of our salvation through Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. The Spirit empowers us with gifts, convicts, guides, comforts, counsels, and leads us into truth through a life of worship and expressing of our faith in action.

Faith with Deeds

Faith in the redemptive work of Christ will find its expression in action. The prophetic voices and letters of the Apostles found in Scripture compel us to be an advocate for the oppressed, Igniting college students to passionately pursue Christ.

marginalized and poor. What we believe should be evidenced in how we live. God cares deeply for those in need and reveals himself as a Father to the fatherless and Husband to the widow. He calls us to reach out and care for those in need.

Ordinances of the Church

The church is rooted and grounded in Christ, practicing spiritual disciplines and celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are symbolic acts that declare our belief of sharing in Christ's death so we may also share in his resurrection.

The Church

The church is a global and local expression of living out the way of Jesus through love, peace, sacrifice, and healing. The church is not a building, but the gathering together of believers who take the call to embody the resurrected Christ seriously. We are the image of Christ on the earth, and are called to go into all the world and preach the gospel through word and action.

Judgment

The day is coming when Jesus will return to judge the world, bringing an end to injustice and restoring all things to God's original intent. All will stand before him to give an account of their actions in our lives here. Those who believed in and accepted his redemptive work will enter into eternal life with him, while those who shunned his redemptive work will find themselves in eternal punishment and separation from him.

New Heaven and New Earth

God will reclaim this world and rule forever. The earth's groaning will cease and God will dwell with us here in a restored creation. On that day we will beat swords into tools for cultivating the earth, the lion will lie down with the lamb, there will be no more death and God will wipe away all our tears. Our relationships with God, others, ourselves, and creation will be whole. All will flourish as God intends.