



# HOUSE FIRES

## House Fires Organizational Structure and Vision Document

Western States Conference  
Global Methodist Church

### Background and Vision

House Fires are the Western States Conference's response to the call of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), designed to ignite a revival of Spirit-filled faith communities across the region. Modeled after the early church in Acts 2, these gatherings prioritize discipleship, worship, sacraments, and mission, creating spaces where believers can grow in faith and share God's love with their neighbors.

Rooted in Wesleyan theology, House Fires embody John Wesley's focus on discipleship through intentional communities. Wesley's method of small group gatherings, centered on accountability, scripture, and service, serves as the foundation of this initiative. We believe that God's Spirit calls each House Fire to fulfill its purpose, whether that means growing in size and numbers or deepening the spiritual lives of a few faithful members.

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### Levels of House Fires

House Fires can begin at any level based on the needs, growth, and milestones achieved by the group. Each level builds on key Wesleyan principles of grace, discipleship, and connection.

## 0. Gathering Kindle Phase

*"Before a fire can burn, the kindle must be gathered."*

The *Gathering Kindle Phase* is the earliest stage of a House Fire, where individuals sense a call to form a faith community but have not yet begun meeting. This phase is about prayer, discernment, and preparation—gathering the necessary elements to spark and ignite a movement of faith.

### Key Elements of the Gathering Kindle Phase:

- **Prayer and Discernment:** Those feeling led to start a House Fire spend time in prayer, seeking God's direction. They may also invite others to pray with them for guidance.
  - **Exploring the Vision:** Potential facilitators learn about the House Fires model, its Wesleyan foundation, and its mission of discipleship, worship, sacraments, and outreach.
  - **Connecting with Leadership:** Those interested in starting a House Fire reach out to a House Fire Coordinator to discuss the vision, receive encouragement, and access initial resources.
  - **Inviting Others:** Facilitators begin having conversations with potential participants, inviting them to explore the idea of forming a House Fire together.
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## 1. Spark Phase

*"It only takes a spark to get a fire going!"*

The Spark Phase represents the initial stage where the foundation for the House Fire is established. This phase emphasizes preparation, support, and guidance.

### Key Elements of the Spark Phase:

- The facilitator connects with the **House Fire Coordinator** for support and guidance.
- A local **ordained Elder** is assigned to provide occasional sacraments (as feasible based on geographic limitations).
- The facilitator develops a plan for the first gathering, which may include inviting participants and securing a meeting space.
- The House Fire Coordinator provides resources, answers questions, and offers ongoing support.

This phase reflects **prevenient grace**, the work of God preparing the way before transformation begins.

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## 2. Ember Phase

*"An ember holds the promise of more to come."*

The Ember Phase begins once the group has started to gather. At this stage, gatherings may occur monthly or biweekly, focusing on consistency and nurturing faith in a relational, Spirit-led environment.

### Key Elements of the Ember Phase:

- Regular gatherings (monthly, biweekly, or flexible as needed).
- Groups watch **recorded messages** and discuss **study questions** together.
- Participants deepen their understanding of scripture and prayer through fellowship.

This phase reflects **justifying grace**, as participants begin to experience the transforming work of God in their lives.

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## 3. Living Flame Phase

*"A living flame burns brightly, illuminating and warming those around it."*

In the Living Flame Phase, the House Fire has grown in faith and consistency, meeting weekly and actively engaging in the work of the Kingdom.

### Key Elements of the Living Flame Phase:

- Weekly gatherings with increased participation.
- Intentional **invitation and outreach** to others.
- Recorded or live messages, worship music, and singing during gatherings.
- **Participation in sacraments** with oversight from an Elder.
- Engagement in **connectional giving** and **mission activities** beyond the gatherings.
- Discussions about **multiplication** to start new House Fires.

This phase reflects **sanctifying grace**, where believers are empowered to grow in holiness and service to others.

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## 4. Radiant Phase

*"A radiant fire lights the way for others, spreading warmth and light far and wide."*

In the Radiant Phase, the House Fire displays the fruit of making disciples and multiplication. The group is deeply engaged in spiritual growth, mission, and community-building activities.

### Key Elements of the Radiant Phase:

- Strong, established weekly worship with **regular sacramental participation**.
- **A member of the group** or a designated leader regularly shares the message.
- Worship includes **music and singing** with active participation.
- The group supports **Bible studies** and other gatherings beyond worship.
- **Mission activities** and **connectional involvement** are central to the group's life.
- The House Fire is actively **multiplying**, planting new House Fires and mentoring new leaders.

In this phase, the group reflects **entire sanctification**, striving for maturity in faith and the spread of the Gospel.

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### Guiding Principles

It is important to emphasize that all levels of House Fires are equally valid. Not every House Fire will progress through all the phases, and that is perfectly acceptable. Some groups may remain small, focused primarily on deepening the faith of their members. Others may grow and multiply. **God calls each House Fire according to His purpose**, and all are essential to the mission of making disciples and transforming the world.

Our structure provides **guardrails, not rigid rules**. Flexibility and Spirit-led guidance are key to ensuring that each House Fire can flourish in its unique context.

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### Leadership and Support Structure

- **House Fire Coordinators:** Provide training, resources, and ongoing support to facilitators.
- **Ordained Elders:** Offer pastoral oversight, administer sacraments, and provide spiritual guidance.
- **Conference Connection:** Each House Fire is encouraged to participate in Conference events and activities, maintaining unity with the broader Global Methodist movement.

## **Accountability**

In the spirit of mutual encouragement and growth, every House Fire leader will participate in a process designed to provide support and foster accountability. This includes an initial conversation with a member of our leadership team to discuss the vision and purpose of House Fires, ensuring alignment with our shared mission. Leaders will also complete a standard background check as part of our commitment to creating safe, trustworthy communities.

Additionally, leaders will be invited to sign a House Fire Covenant with the Western States Conference. This covenant is not about rigid rules but rather a shared commitment to walk together in faith. It includes embracing the doctrinal standards of the Global Methodist Church, which center on loving God, making disciples, and living out scriptural holiness. Leaders also agree to participate in regular covenant gatherings with other House Fire leaders—times of sharing, encouragement, and collaboration as we continue growing in faith and multiplying this movement.

This process ensures that every House Fire is nurtured in a healthy, Spirit-filled environment where both leaders and participants can thrive.

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## **Next Steps**

If you feel called to start a House Fire, begin with prayer. Ask for God's discernment and direction. Then, contact our House Fire Coordinator to start your journey. We are here to walk alongside you, equipping and supporting you as you answer God's call to ignite the fire of revival in your community.