

Multicultural Considerations...

1. The dictionary defines multiculturalism as being “*the preservation of different cultures or cultural identities within a unified society.*” It invites someone to be fully oneself, while unapologetically and actively celebrating their difference.

What do you think the difference is between “multi-coloured or multi-ethnic” and “multicultural?”

2. Read Revelation 7:9-12. The Bible goes to great lengths to describe the diversity of those around God’s throne. Why do you think that was so important to include in this picture of heaven?

3. Biblical scholar James D.G. Dunn has described the New Testament as “unity in diversity.” How can you imagine a multicultural church being described the same way? What could it look like? What would it do? How could it affect worship? Leadership? Teaching? Evangelism? Discipleship?

4. Because multiculturalism is much more than simple “tolerance,” a multicultural church will be about more than multiple skin tone membership. A church will be about the intentional engagement of cultures. How could you seek to celebrate, encourage, accommodate and even engage the different cultures of people at GCC?

5. When we do not fully understand another’s culture, we make mistakes. Simple. If we are going to engage in multi-cultural church life, then we are going to hurt somebody's feelings, or at least have your feelings hurt. But apologies and forgiveness should flow quickly as well.

Describe a time when you unintentionally hurt or offended another person by not understanding their culture. Or perhaps you were the one offended. What happened? What new understanding did you gain? How did you learn this new understanding? What happened relationally between you and the other?

6. Being a multicultural church will take a lot of listening in order to understand each other. Often, what we think we are saying and what the other is hearing can be quite different. At the end of the day, the responsibility for communicating well is at the source AND at the hearer, but each of us can only focus on the source (since that is you).

What can you do to help yourself better understand someone from a different culture, language and accent? How many times can you say “pardon me” before sounding rude 😊?

7. A multicultural church acts as a taste of heaven, a sign of God’s kingdom on earth now, and a draw into his family and reign. It attracts and invites others to join in God’s reign. Let’s dream a little.... What are three wishes you would love to see for GCC to be or do as a multicultural church and sign of God’s kingdom?