

## **Vision for Sports Ministry 2016-17**

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Sports have their basis in a divinely given impulse to play and deserve a rightful place in Christian living. People play sports primarily for the love of the game, the thrill of competition, and the sense of community that comes from participation. When played and watched in faithfulness to God, sports occupy a legitimate place as part of the created world and help express our relationship to God and to one another. Furthermore, the world of sports also provides an opportunity for us to support one another and foster a greater sense of community, and reach out to those who have yet to hear the gospel.

With that being said, this year's sports ministry will aim to explore two specific themes: REST and UNITY.

### **REST**

***Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31)***

University students often find themselves buried in assignments, essays, studying, and other school-oriented tasks. This constantly leads to a lack of rest physically, mentally, and sometimes even spiritually.

Different types of people are able to find rest through different methods, for example, some may do so by listening to music or playing video games. Certainly, some people also find rest through sports. By setting stress and hectic workloads aside, sports can promote physical health and encourage the stewardship of our bodies. Like aesthetic endeavors, sport can remind us that God is the source of all strength, grace, and beauty of movement. It focuses our attention on the reality of God and our humanness in special ways offering formative experiences in which God communes with us.

### **UNITY**

***There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)***

In 1st Corinthians, Paul states that the body is made in the image of God. Physically, humans are made with multiple body parts. And the game of sports is a reminder to appreciate the body that is given by God, and how crucial it is to daily living. Collectively, God gives a different gift to every person, and they unite as one body to serve one purpose - to glorify His Kingdom. The importance of unity can be found when people recognize that while each person serves a different role in the game, they are all equally important to the team.

Furthermore, this ministry hopes to reach out to people by demonstrating the gospel in a unique way. It is a delight to invite everyone to participate, regardless of his or her faith, personality, and athletic ability. With a positive attitude and good team spirit, it is the goal of the ministry to provide the space and time to foster a community where everyone can experience God's creation in a special way.