

Leading A Small Group @ Christ Community

Heart: *Who We Envision the Small Group Leader Being*

- ♥ Has a heart for God and is growing in their personal relationship with Christ
- ♥ Is seeking to become increasingly responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading in their life and ministry.
- ♥ Is committed to the Cause, Vision and Values of our CCC Small Group Ministry.
- ♥ Is involved in the life of CCC on a consistent basis. Until the Small Group Leader becomes a Partner of CCC, they must affirm their support of "What We Believe" (contained in a brochure outlining CCC's statement of faith, mission, vision and values).*
- ♥ Is available to invest the time it will take to create a safe environment for people to grow in their relationship with God and with one another. Unless otherwise agreed-upon, we anticipate that this will be a time commitment of twelve months and roughly 3-4 hours per group meeting (including the time involved in leading the group).
- ♥ Is a team player who enjoys people.
- ♥ Is a learner ... eager to grow as a follower of Christ and as a leader.



Head: *What We Envision the Small Group Leader Knowing*

- ♥ As a starting point, grasps the basics of group dynamics and small group ministry at CCC.
- ♥ On an ongoing basis, is growing in spiritual formation and in small group leadership skills.
- ♥ The specifics related to their unique small group venue (Care, Connecting, Focus, Young Adults, Women, Men, etc.), and the role their group plays within this ministry.
- ♥ The pathways for receiving leadership support, guidance and encouragement from pastoral staff and small group Shepherds.

Hand: *What We Envision the Small Group Leader Doing*

- ♥ **Spiritual Formation**
 - Will set his or her spiritual formation in Christ as a ministry priority.
 - Will guide individual group members and the group as a whole in their spiritual formation.
 - Will help the group make curriculum choices and Bible studies to encourage their spiritual formation.
 - Will encourage group members to discover and utilize their spiritual gifts in the life of the group, the CCC family and the community.
 - Will encourage group members with leadership abilities to consider a role in small group leadership.
- ♥ **Relationships**
 - Will empower the group to care for one another and have periodic relationship-building social gatherings at least once every 3-4 months.
 - Will encourage the group to serve together in meaningful ways.
 - Will mobilize the group for ministry at times when practical support is needed, such as providing meals in times of illness/bereavement, pooling finances/resources, and other venues of assistance to communicate the one-anothers of life in Christ's body as seen in Acts 2:42-47. This may also involve being a link to a broader network of assistance through the Life Support

Ministry (Caring Connection Funds, Meals Ministry, etc.), or community networks such as the Faith Community Service Fund or 211 Line.

- Will be attentive to relational issues among group members that may develop, serving as needed to encourage healthy resolution.

♥ **Group Dynamics**

- Will contact people assigned to their Small Group, establishing the basics of getting started and growing together as a group (day, time, location, etc.).
- Will help assimilate new people into the life of the group.
- Will lead small group meetings, including prayer, sharing, and a study of God's Word.
- Will foster a safe and confidential environment for sharing, mutual ministry and spiritual formation, frequently reminding the group of the importance of confidentiality and respect in their relationships with one another.
- On a periodic basis, will help the group take it's pulse and assess how things are going.
- Will lead the group in praying for God's "next steps" in their life as a group, including the possibility of launching a new group.
- Will help individual group members determine if the group is a good "fit" for them, or if they wish to join or launch another Small Group. Will help individual group members transition into other groups or launch a group if they desire.

♥ **Logistics**

- Will help the group become involved in all-church and ministry-specific events and directions.
- Will participate in meetings designed for leadership equipping, networking and encouragement.
- Will read and respond to all correspondence and e-mails sent.
- Will provide information and feedback to the Pastors, Shepherds, and Church Office staff as requested in a timely manner.

Help: *Ways In Which We Envision Supporting Each Small Group Leader*

- We will consistently and persistently communicate the core value of small groups in the life of Christ Community, and the significant role of each small group leader.
- We will provide orientation/equipping in the foundations of small group ministry, enabling each leader to begin his/her ministry with a basic understanding of small group ministry and leadership. A part of this equipping will involve providing a framework for the role of groups at Christ Community, and helpful ministry resources.
- We will provide each leader with a Shepherd who will serve as a personal resource and source of encouragement, support, guidance and information on an ongoing basis.
- We will provide opportunities for ongoing leadership development and networking with other small group leaders.
- We will provide opportunities for promoting groups through publications and events.
- The Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries and Adult Ministries Associate will provide assistance to each leader and Shepherd in the process of birthing new groups, managing group lifecycle issues, and enfolded new people into the life of the group. A part of this will involve regular e-communications, including the names of people interested in joining a small group.

*** If not already a Partner, we expect that the Small Group Leader will become involved in the Partnership Journey within six months.**