

TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

Connecting Resources with Ministry

Church Development Discussion Papers

TITLE: Guide for Small Group Ministry

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University Presbyterian Church is a regional congregation located in Seattle, Washington. UPC has graciously made available this information for Council's Congregational Ministry Resources. The congregation's website is www.upc.org.

Who we are

The Small Group Ministry Team is a small group of University Presbyterian Church (UPC) members and friends who have been encouraged themselves in a small group setting and are committed to providing structure and support so others will have an opportunity to grow in their journey of faith.

Vision Statement

Our goal is to promote and advocate for Christ-centered small groups at UPC to train facilitators to lead these groups. Small groups will provide opportunities for members to be nurtured in their relationship with Jesus Christ while learning with others how to live a life of spiritual integrity in the world.

To carry out our vision, we offer Small Group Workshops throughout the year. We encourage people to pray and consider starting a group. Many of us have a desire for a particular type of fellowship, or a specific need at different times in our lives. Or maybe we are feeling a pull on our hearts to be involved in an area of service. All of these are opportunities to design a small group around our heart's desires. While groups differ in many ways, they share a foundation in Christ and several basic principles.

Four types of small groups

1. Is there a particular ministry you're feeling a burden for? Start a Working Together group!
2. Would you like to meet people that enjoy the same activities you do? Start a Being Together group!
3. Are you in transition right now and looking for support? Start a Caring Together group!
4. Is there a particular topic or book you'd like to study with others? Start a Learning Together group!

There are many examples of these types of group around UPC, started by people just like you!

Workshops

The small group facilitator workshop is offered on a regular basis throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to meet and network with others who may be interested in starting a Christ-centered small group. It is a way for you to become part of the group you desire because you will be involved in its creation. The workshop is designed to give you affirmation, encouragement, support and skills to start a group. It is also appropriate for people who are interested in all aspects of small group life.

Workshop topics focus on God's call in your life and include:

- How and why God calls us into Christian community.
- The Biblical principles for small group life.
- The value of the small group covenant.
- What does Christian community really look like?
- A look at the different types of small groups and what they have in common.
- A Biblical model for leadership.
- Designing and promoting your small group.

Our Networking Board

The Small Group Networking Board is located outside of the Community Life office and is the place we continually encourage people to post a card. Cards are posted by groups looking to add new members and by people looking for a group to join. Check it out!

How to use the Networking Board – fill out a card provided for you at the Board by the Small Group Ministry Team, and return it to the Community Life office. Within a week or so you'll receive a phone call from a team member and your request will be posted for two months on the Networking Board.

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