

# SMALL GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

## Ministry Charter

### What is Small Group Discipleship?

Jesus Himself chose to teach His own disciples in a small group of twelve men who followed Him and learned from Him as He conducted His three-year public ministry. We see the need for community and companionship as early as the book of Genesis, when God declared that “it is not good for Man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18).

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, believers met together in homes as well as in the temple courts. In Acts 2:42-47, we are told that the believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, and to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Every day they continued to meet together” and they “broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” In Hebrews we are commanded “to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Among 30 “one another” commands found in the New Testament, we are commanded to:

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| - Be at peace with each other (Mk 9:50) | - Carry one another’s burdens (Gal 6:2) |
| - Love one another (Jn 13:34)           | - Be kind to one another (Eph 4:32)     |
| - Be joined to one another (Ro 12:5)    | - Forgive one another (Eph 4:32)        |
| - Be devoted to one another (Ro 12:10)  | - Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)      |
| - Counsel one another (Ro 15:14)        | - Spur one another on (Heb 10:24)       |

As in our individual spiritual lives, the spiritual life of the small group should be focused on glorifying God in all that we do, and serving him in all things. It is important to note and stress that small groups are not only for the spiritual growth of the individual members, but also for the group as a whole to draw together and draw closer to the Lord. Every member of these covenant communities is important and has a role to play.

### What is Small Group Discipleship at Westminster Presbyterian Church?

At Westminster Presbyterian Church, our small groups are led by a trained small group leader. You can expect to find the fellowship, caring, learning, growing, and prayer that Jesus modeled with His disciples—and that His Church originally experienced. Among eight to twelve others, you will have a safe place to:

- Ask questions
- Be cared for and care for others
- Study the bible and learn to apply the truths of scripture to your life and encourage spiritual growth and maturity in the lives of your group members
- Find a ministry or mission that will use the spiritual gifts that God the Holy Spirit gives to each believer
- Pray for your needs and for the needs of others.
- Participate in rich, substantive fellowship and discussion with group members
- Hold each other accountable for personal bible study preparation and attendance.

It is intended that Small Group Discipleship activities will support the Westminster Presbyterian Church mission and the Small Group Discipleship mission.

### WPC Small Group Discipleship Mission Statement

“Through Small Group Discipleship Ministry, we will provide teaching, caring fellowship, mentoring, training, encouragement, evangelism, discipleship, accountability, service, and prayer in a corporate setting to support the Mission Statement of Westminster Church.”

#### Definitions:

Service—by showing the love of Christ in the community, we will aim to meet the needs of a family or individual, within or outside of our church family, in a practical manner that is in addition to regular small group activities.

Caring Fellowship—through developing transparent relationships, we will engage in sharing daily life struggles and joys with one another to encourage, support, pray for, and love with discretion and trust for what is shared.

Develop Leaders—with the guidance of the session and elders, leaders will be provided with materials, guidance, instruction, and curriculum to ensure each leader is adequately able to facilitate a small group, with support from a small group coordinator.

Bible Discussion—all matters of the small groups ministry will be centered around learning, growing, and practicing Biblical obedience through having the curriculum and discussion focused on the word of God.

Prayer—each small group will have a devoted time for prayer and will encourage all members to continue in an attitude of prayer for the addressed needs throughout the week.

Discipleship—with a goal of Christ-likeness, each small group member will model a devotion to personal and corporate worship through Bible teaching, developing sound doctrine, and prayer hereby facilitating progressive spiritual growth.

Evangelism—small group members will be alert to new attendees and those not of the household of faith to welcome, care for, and reach out to with the message of the gospel through the ministry of the small group.

Accountability—by growing in love for one another, we will endeavor to teach, correct, rebuke, and train members to be responsible for adequate preparation, attendance, and care within the small group in the context of the Matthew [18:15-17](#) guidelines.

We are trusting God to shepherd members of WPC and their circle of friends in the context of a caring fellowship which encourages spiritual growth and outreach through Bible discussion, worship and prayer.

The objectives of the small group ministry are

- 1) Service
- 2) Caring Fellowship
- 3) Develop Leaders
- 4) Bible discussion
- 5) Prayer
- 6) Discipleship
- 7) Evangelism
- 8) Accountability