

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church

Small Group Guide

There are 2 categories of small groups: Bible/Book Studies & Covenant Groups. Below you will find the definition, purpose and guidelines for each.

Bible/Book Study: a group that studies a specific book of the Bible and/or Biblical life-application materials.

****Prior to beginning a new group, the leader(s) should meet with the Director of Christian Education or church-appointed staff member of small groups.***

*Bible studies are educational small groups, open to anyone who desires to participate. When a new study is being introduced, the leader should ensure that information is published in as many venues as possible (bulletin, newsletter, Sunday School classes, social media if possible, etc.)

*A specific length of time should be determined, i.e. "six-week study". Dates, time and location should be pre-determined and included in announcement of the study.

*Bible studies may be exclusive to one gender or age group (i.e. Women's Study, Youth Bible Study, etc.).

*Leaders should give ample time for anyone interested to register and pay for materials (if applicable).

Covenant Group: a place for accountability, mutual encouragement and spiritual growth.

****Prior to beginning a new group, the leader(s) should meet with the Director of Christian Education or church-appointed staff member of small groups.***

*A covenant group should include 6-14 people.

*Covenant groups should have a start and end date, pre-determined by the leader. These groups typically last 8-12 months.

*When forming a covenant group, the leader should announce meeting dates, time and location, and implement a sign-up process until the desired number of participants has been reached, after which, no new members are accepted. This process allows the confidential and personal nature of the group to be upheld.

* A goal of all covenant groups is multiplication and once a group has reached their pre-set timespan, designated members are encouraged to form new covenant groups.

*Regular attendance is paramount because of the deep relationships formed. Leaders should establish a supportive, encouraging environment where mutual accountability and spiritual growth take place. In addition, members should feel comfortable sharing experiences and insights in ways that reveal their faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

*Care should be given so that the group does not become separated from the church or deemed by others to be secretive or exclusive.