

**Cornerstone District Pastors Gatherings  
(Shepherding Groups)  
2017-2018**

The gathering together of pastors on a regular basis has been a vital and important part of the Cornerstone district for decades and a foundational part of our Wesleyan heritage. We believe and affirm spending time together benefits our ministries as well as our personal faith journey. We acknowledge the geographical size of the district often makes gathering together difficult. Recognizing this and other impediments for gathering all the pastors together every month, the following plan is proposed for 2017 – 2018.

**We covenant to meet together as the entire district three times a year:**

November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Advent Retreat
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	District Leadership Training Day
February 1st	Pre-Lenten Retreat

**We covenant to meet with other pastors on the district in small groups in:**

October  
December  
January  
March  
April  
May

Each pastor will have the opportunity to choose to meet with a group that best meets their travel, time and other needs. It will be incumbent upon each pastor to choose and meet with some type of covenant/accountability group at least once a month.

**Group meetings will include, but are not limited to:**

- Worship and/or devotional time.
- Prayer
- Sharing – how is it with your soul?
- Discussion of a chapter or two of the book “Soul Keeping” by John Ortberg

Groups may meet during the day, in the evening, in churches or restaurants or other places in the community. It is strongly encouraged to meet in the evening at least once a quarter so that bi-vocational pastors may attend.

Groups are not limited to meeting once a month - groups are encouraged to negotiate their own schedule – please be sure you share this information with the district office.

**Shepherds**

Pastors on the district will serve as shepherds. Shepherds will be assigned to a geographical area.

**The role of the shepherd:**

- Communicate initial meeting date, time and place with all the clergy through the district web page.
- Encourage and invite participation of pastors in their geographical area.
- Check in with pastors who have not been participating and encourage them to attend.
- Make sure the group schedules the next meeting place, time and date and communicates that information with the district office. It is often beneficial for everyone if these dates are scheduled far in advance.
- Prepare to lead the discussion or assign a facilitator from the group to lead.
- Begin and end the gathering time together.

Revised 8/17/17