

Bethany West Seattle | Connect Group Expectations & Covenant

Vision:

We are living in a world of much individualism, loneliness, and a longing to see and be seen by others. To that end, we hope and pray that our "Connect Groups" can meet these needs with the heart of Christ being at the center.

As a church, we believe Connect Groups will be the single best way for our attenders to; grow in their faith (we know this happens best in community), to 'do life' with friends (in the joys, in the mess, and everything in between), and to have a group of people they can depend on for prayer, accountability, and friendship.

***Sidenote:** Due to the pandemic, we know the sense of loneliness and isolation has been extremely high! With that said, Connect Groups will be important as ever. We hope these groups will be a place of hope, compassion, and love but most importantly a space where the Spirit of God will move and transform.

General Structure:

- **Connect groups meet from October 17th through June 19th** with holiday breaks - typically aligned with the school year (leader's discretion on what works best).
- Leaders have the option of meeting **every week or every-other week**.
- **Every Group meeting should include;** church announcements, prayer, your group content for spiritual growth, and a time for friendship building (i.e. icebreaker, questions, food, activity, etc).
- **Due to the pandemic,** leaders have the option to meet fully in-person, fully online, or a hybrid version that works best for you.

Format ideas:

- Bible studies/book study/video study (*must be approved by Bethany staff*)
- Community service/outreach
- Life stage focus (young adults, gender specific, couples, singles, etc)
- Neighborhood focus
- Sermon discussion

- Activity/common interest that promotes community, evangelism, and/or meaningful Christ-centered friendships (i.e. dinner groups, game nights, basket weaving, etc)
- "Dealer's choice". Please connect with staff if you want ideas!

Expectations:

- Leaders **ARE NOT** expected to do all the work in leading each session. Groups can share leading responsibilities with one another.
- Leaders **ARE** expected to facilitate their groups and be the main contact with Bethany staff. Leaders may lead discussion/activity every week or take on the responsibility of coordinating the shared responsibilities.
- **Leaders will ensure that members who sign up will be contacted within 48 hours**, welcoming them and sending important group logistics (i.e. time/place/dates).
- **Pro tip:** leaders can/should elect a different person to be in charge of group communication i.e. *sending weekly reminder emails and/or other important information to the group. Somebody with the gift of administration.*
- **Leaders are expected to take part in the life of the church.** This means regularly attending Sunday services and participating in various community building and outreach events. **It is important that groups/group leaders are not siloed**, instead they are aligned and working as part of an ecosystem for spiritual growth.
- **Be committed to your group** by leading through June, being punctual and prepared, communicating effectively, and by praying and loving each person.

Requirements:

- Certainly nobody is perfect but we hope that leaders will pursue spiritual practices, have a desire to grow in their faith in Jesus, and demonstrate Christ's love to the world.
- Be aligned with Bethany's [vision and mission](#). This includes not participating and bravely stopping gossip, slander, malice and destructive behavior against staff, leaders and participants.
- Be (or willing to become) members of Bethany Community Church
- Be willing to have healthy, loving, and honest dialogue with church leadership should any conflict arise. Church leaders commit to this as well.

*Thank you again for stepping up to this very important role in such an important time as this. We truly hope to, not simply be a "church **with** groups" but a "church **of** groups". I am confident that God will continue to use you and these groups to bring about great things for God's Kingdom. Lives will be impacted, the Spirit will move, and friendships will cultivate.*