

## Covenant Community Groups

### *What is a “Covenant Community Group”?*

A Covenant Community Group is a gathering of several couples/families for the purpose of fostering covenant relationships and community at Christ Church. The groups are designed to be for 4-8 families to allow for fellowship, prayer, and an application of God’s Word. Groups may meet in a home or at the church, subject to space availability.

### *How are they different from Shepherding Groups?*

The Shepherding Groups at Christ Church are subsections of the congregation assigned to an elder to give members and regular visitors a primary point of contact with the elders of Christ Church. As such, the Shepherding Groups focus more on geography and relationships between congregants and particular elders, and Shepherding Groups can be rather large, including ten or more families in each. Covenant Community Groups, on the other hand, have as their primary focus the relationships being built within the group, to foster deepening of those relationships, and they tend to be much smaller.

### *What will be the format of the meetings?*

The details of a meeting will be up to each Group, but the recommended format is roughly one hour and thirty minutes, divided into periods of study, prayer requests and prayer, and fellowship.

### *What will be the schedule of the meetings?*

The specific day and times of meetings will be up to each Group, but the recommended frequency is every other week, or twice per month.

### *What resources will be used?*

The initial recommended resource to be used for the study time in Groups is the Sermon Application Sheet, on which there will be application questions and topics from a previous Sunday morning sermon at Christ Church. The advantage of this resource is that it does not require much advanced preparation by the leader of a Group, and each member of a Group will already be prepared for the discussion simply by attending worship or downloading the sermon from the church website. Other Session-approved materials will be made available in various formats, including short videos from Ligonier for discussion, Tabletalk Magazine, and books suitable for use in a small group.

### *Can I try out a group before I make a long-term commitment?*

Absolutely! Covenant Community Groups will run in the Fall (starting in October), and again in the Spring (in January after a break for the holidays), with opportunities to see what format works best for you. We encourage you to give Covenant Community Groups a try in order to see the benefits that come from nurturing relationships with other believers.

### *What about children?*

Each group will decide how to incorporate children. For those with young children, we have nursery available at the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, along with Christ’s Kids and Youth Group. Otherwise, families are welcome to obtain a babysitter, to have children in the group itself, or to have a separate space in the home where the group is being held where the children could play or watch a video.

If you have additional questions, please contact Pastor Greco at the church office (281.392.0002)