

Sojourners Small Group Agreements

Small group agreements are designed for the purpose of holding members of a group mutually accountable to the group's purpose, visions, values, and expectations—one of which is sharing the responsibilities for maintaining group life. Agreeing upfront to the elements contained within the agreement will help the group stay on track, achieve its goals, and avoid potential conflict and/or frustration. In other words, a well-crafted agreement lays an important foundation for a healthy group.

Purpose

First and foremost, groups should have a stated purpose for meeting. The primary aim for small groups at Sheridan Lutheran Church has been defined as, "To promote Christian maturity within the context of authentic community."

Vision

Small groups create an authentic environment where group members learn to know God with their heads, love God with their hearts, and serve God with their hands while experiencing Christian fellowship and accountability.

Values

Adhering to values will help to create a safe environment where people feel loved and are free to express their challenges and triumphs. Examples of values you may want to consider are:

- Confidentiality
- Acceptance
- Openness
- Mutual respect
- Honesty
- Sensitivity
- Affirmation
- Availability
- Outward focus
- Inviting
- Growing
- Shared leadership
- Accountability
- Others?: _____

Expectations

Here is where you will list the ground rules for your meetings. Logistical items might include:

- When and where you meet
- Frequency of meetings – weekly meetings are strongly encouraged
- Attendance expectations
- Refreshments
- Child care
- Ways in which you might share responsibilities (leading discussions, providing home, bringing refreshments, following up with absentees, leading prayer, etc.)

The group leader will facilitate the creation of the small group agreement and should be prepared to walk group members through the process at the first meeting.

After the group agrees on the written agreement, every member should sign and keep a personal copy. Groups should plan to review the agreement from time-to-time, such as at the end of each of the curriculum cycles, to evaluate its effectiveness.

Sojourners Small Group Agreement

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1. The purpose and vision of our group will be: *To create authentic community that produces deeply committed Christians. We will strive to create authentic relationships in our group where members are becoming theologically informed (head), spiritually transformed (heart), and are living their faith daily in the world (hands).*
2. We agree to uphold the following values:
 - Confidentiality
 - Acceptance
 - Availability
 - Growing
 - Openness
 - Mutual respect
 - Honesty
 - Outward focus
 - Shared leadership
 - Inviting
 - Sensitivity
 - Affirmation
 - Accountability
 - Others: _____
3. We will meet on _____ (day of the week).
4. We will meet every week from _____ until _____ (time of day).
5. We will meet for ___ weeks after which we will decide if we wish to continue as a group.
6. The place where we will meet is _____.
7. Group attendance is a priority. We will come prepared for the session. If we cannot attend, or if we will be late, we will call the group leader in advance.
8. Refreshments will be provided by: _____.
9. Child-care arrangements: _____.
10. We agree to share in group life responsibilities by: _____

(Examples: facilitate a lesson, follow up with absentees, lead prayer, bring refreshments...)

Signed: _____ Dated: _____