

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why do I need to be in community at CPC?

You don't. However, when you come to faith in Christ you are *already* in community. You are in fellowship with the Father, Son, and Spirit by virtue of becoming a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are also in fellowship with all those who belong to Christ (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, etc.).

We live in a culture that emphasizes individuality and fragments us from others. We typically follow our careers and move far away from family. We are encouraged by modern technology to live in isolation from others as we listen to our iPods, watch movies on our individual DVD players or video phones, and work on our laptops even while we are traveling. We are created to be part of community, but we live as individuals and remain isolated from one another.

Even in churches we frequently prize anonymity. Ecclesiastes 4:10 points out that we need others to know us, and they need us to know them. If our only contact with other believers is a worship service of 200 or more people, we simply don't have the depth of relationship we need with brothers and sisters to know them. Even in Adult Middle Hour classes we can't develop the type of relationship where we know one another well enough to live the connected lives that the Bible calls us to live.

At CPC we want to help you to live your life in ways that are balanced with your new identity in Christ (Ephesians 4:1) so that you live intentionally and with integrity. In order to help you live as part of the body of Christ we not only provide corporate worship and education, we also work hard to provide opportunity to participate in groups that allow for greater communication and honesty.

What are Home Fellowship Groups?

Home Fellowship Groups are communities where we encourage folks at CPC to live out "one another" commands. They are also where the first line of pastoral care is experienced. The people in your HFG will know you better than the rest of the congregation.

We are working to provide support and encouragement for the leaders of the various kinds of communities at CPC (Bible studies, support groups, Home Fellowship Groups, etc.). We encourage the leaders of these groups to work with their members to:

1. use their gifts in ministry,
2. to share deeply in each other's lives and to build each other up in Christ, and
3. to look beyond themselves as they do ministry in order to fulfill the great commission and to make disciples.

How do I learn about Home Fellowship Groups?

There are many ways to learn about HFG's at CPC: Talk to the people around you in Sunday morning service and ask about their HFG. Pick up an HFG Brochure in the lobby and read about when and where the different HFG's meet and what they are studying. Give one of the HFG leaders a call from the brochure and explore visiting one or more groups. Call the one of the elders leading the HFG ministry in session's HFG Leadership Committee (Larry Clifford, Wayne Koch, David Scheerer, or Jim Wilmot). Call the church office and talk to one of the administrative assistants or one of the pastoral staff who can also provide more information on HFG's. In addition to all these ways to learn more about HFG's, CPC usually conducts an annual open enrollment period each fall which serves as a kick-off event for existing HFG's and as a launching for new HFG's.

What happens when I "sign up"? Am I making a commitment to join a group?

If you sign up during the fall open enrollment, you are simply expressing an interest in visiting that HFG with the goal of finding out if it is a good fit. You can visit as many groups as it takes to find the one that you believe will best encourage you to grow spiritually and where you can use your gifts in ministry. Although each HFG leader is committed to serving in this ministry through the entire school year, you are only committing yourself to visiting one or several HFG's and to seek the Lord's will for you as to whether to become a member of a group at this time.

If you miss the fall kick-off registration do not despair! You can visit a HFG at any time and see if it might be a community where you can grow and use your gifts.

What if the group I visit isn't a good fit?

Look over the list of groups to find another group to visit. You can find a complete list on our congregational web page, or you can talk with Larry Clifford or any of the elders on the HFG Leadership committee (Larry Clifford, Wayne Koch, David Scheerer, and Jim Wilmot). We have groups that meet on various days of the week, have various demographics, and study various topics. Our goal is to have a group that will be a good fit for everyone who attends CPC. We realize that your participation in groups is something between you and Jesus. We can encourage and provide opportunities. You have to determine which groups are a fit and where God is calling you to plug in.

Why have an annual "open enrollment"?

We anticipate that folks will want to get involved in a community. This open enrollment will hopefully express a welcome to the folks who want to get involved.

Open enrollment will also give folks already in an existing HFG an opportunity to evaluate their group involvement each year. If the group has grown too large, this also provides an opportunity to form two groups from one.

How do I go about starting a CPC Home Fellowship Group?

We are glad you asked. We are on the lookout for new leaders who sense God's call to use their gifts of leadership in our community ministry. There are some steps to take as you move into leadership:

1. You must be a member of CPC to lead a group here.
2. You need to talk with one of the elders on the Home Fellowship Group Leadership Committee (Larry Clifford, Wayne Koch, David Scheerer, or Jim Wilmot) to discuss your experience and your thoughts on the group you hope to lead.
3. After these discussions, the committee will help you recruit members and determine the logistics of your group (day of week, topic of study, location, child care [if needed], etc.).
4. The HFG Leadership Committee will continue to support you with one-on-one meetings as desired and with quarterly ministry meetings with all the HFG Leaders.