

# WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT: GROUP CONNECTIONS



*Before meeting with the Director of Connections, please review the following:*

## REVIEW:

1. Group Agreement
2. Circle Up Starter Study

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS OR DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. What types of groups do we offer? (Community Groups, Short-Term Groups, Care, etc.)
2. How do people get connected?
3. How does GroupLink or GroupLaunch work?
4. What's the most challenging thing about connecting people into groups?
5. What's the most rewarding thing about connecting people into groups?
6. What's your process for keeping up with people who want to be in a Community Group when there isn't a GroupLink available? What if someone misses GroupLink? What happens to someone who attends GroupLink but doesn't get connected?

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## GROUP CONNECTIONS

This is the division in Adult Ministries that gets people out of rows on Sunday mornings and into circles in Community Groups. Their main responsibility is to connect group seekers. They do this primarily through GroupLink or GroupLaunch and Short-Term Groups.

## GROUPLINK/GROUPLAUNCH

Most Community Groups form at a GroupLink event (a 1.5- to 2-hour event that helps group seekers meet one another and form groups). We host these events in late January and late August. The goal is to connect five to six married couples or eight to ten individuals into Community Groups where they can pursue spiritual growth and healthy relationships.

Some of our churches are transitioning to a new model of connecting groups called "GroupLaunch" where groups form online. Be sure to discuss what model your church is following and what plans there are for any change in the future.

## HOW DO GROUPS FORM?

Groups generally form around stage of life (Married, Empty Nesters, Kids/No Kids, Single), area of town, and day of the week they meet.

## STARTER GROUPS VS. FORMATIVE GROUPS

Groups that form with preapproved leaders in place are called **Starter Groups**. At GroupLink, group seekers only commit to an 4-session group that will go through the *Circle Up p* curriculum. At the end of that time, the group decides whether to sign a Group Agreement that sets them up to continue for 12-24 months.





**Formative Groups** form without approved leaders in place. They use a specialized version of the *Circle Up* curriculum that helps them nominate a leader and begin the leadership application process. A leader must be approved by our church before that group becomes an official Community Group.

#### **WHAT ABOUT COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT DON'T FORM AT GROUPLINK OR GROUPLAUNCH?**

Some groups form organically. For example, sometimes when a group multiplies, group members invite their friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join a new group. If that group has an identified leader, they connect with us online or through their Groups Director and become a group.

#### **WHEN GROUPS LOSE MEMBERS, HOW DO THEY ADD NEW PEOPLE?**

We encourage group members to look at their existing relationships first (friends, neighbors, etc.). After that we encourage them to attend the next GroupLink/GroupLaunch.

#### **HOW DO SHORT-TERM GROUPS FIT INTO OUR GROUP CONNECTION STRATEGY?**

A Short-Term Group provides a “taste” of community. After a 4- to 8-week Short-Term Group experience, we encourage attendees to continue on as a Community Group with all or some of the members of their Short-Term Group. They can add other members at the next GroupLink/GroupLaunch as needed.