

CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CARE Group Ministry

2019-2025

C-Connect

A-Ask

R-Respond

E-Encourage

I. Introduction

Loving one another is key to distinguishing ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are commanded to love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34-35), and to do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10). Caring, godly relationships among believers are at the heart of God's purpose for the church. We glorify and express our love for Him, build Christian community, and strengthen the body of Christ when we encourage, support, and care for one another.

II. Purpose

A CARE Group (CG) Program is an active way of caring for church members, so they feel valued and an important part of the church. It provides members with a contact person in the church, and an opportunity to connect with a church officer or another caring layperson in the congregation. It also serves as an important communication link between the members and the pastor. As we grow, this becomes very important and will help our pastor and church leaders be better informed. It will also help us keep our membership rolls and church directory up to date.

III. Goals

- A. To establish a communication link with each individual or household in our church by pairing them with a CG Leader who will make contact with them at least 3 times a year, to see how they are doing, and ask if there are any needs or concerns.
- B. To help assimilate and connect new members in the church so they feel welcomed and are more likely to become engaged and stay active and involved.
- C. To reach out to absent members to let them know they are missed.
- D. To reach out to regular worshipers, but otherwise non-participating members, to encourage their involvement in the life of the church.

- E. To offer and provide support and information as needed about the ministries and ongoing activities of the church to help keep members “in the loop”.
- F. To pass on any expressed needs, questions, concerns, or prayer requests to the pastor and other church leaders to aid them in providing for the deeper spiritual needs of the congregation.

IV. Program Structure

The CG Program was implemented in two phases. Phase 1 targeted new (or relatively new members) in the congregation, and absent members (those in and out of the area). Phase 2 extended the program to the remaining members of the congregation.

The number of CG Leaders will be determined by the number of households in the church database. The “call process” will be used to identify those in the congregation who have a genuine interest in others, attend church regularly and possess the gifts needed to serve in this caring role.

CG Leaders will be assigned a small group of approximately 3-6 households. They will attend a training session with the CG coordinators where they will receive an overview of the program and helpful information and tools needed for contacting their care groups.

V. Responsibilities of a CARE Group Leader

1. To introduce yourself, establish rapport and connect with each household in your group. To confirm and update their contact/directory information if needed.
2. To contact group members at least 3 times a year and ask them how they are doing and if they have any special needs, requests or concerns. (Will need to provide your contact information and determine preferred method of contact-cell phone, home phone or email.)
3. To listen!

4. To maintain trust and confidentiality of any information that is shared with you unless given permission to pass onto others.
5. To keep a record of your contacts on the provided information sheet. (Optional)
6. To relay special needs and requests to the pastor and others if support is requested (i.e. prayer chain; hospital visit; meal train; homebound communion), so they can respond.
7. To share information about any upcoming events and encourage their participation in church activities of interest.
8. To acknowledge and greet group members at Sunday worship and other church events.
9. To follow up with your group members if you don't see them in church for a few weeks, to let them know they are missed.
10. To pray regularly for your group members and any of their concerns, as well as the success of this program.

VI. Conclusion

A CARE Group Program is a simple, organized way of expressing care for each other within the Body of Christ. It connects members of the church with a caring church officer or lay person. When a church prioritizes member care and expresses Christ-like love, compassion and interest in each person, it strengthens the ties that connect us to each other and ultimately brings us closer to God. Members feel like they are an important, vital part of the congregation and are more likely to remain active and involved.