

Covenant Groups Are Starting Again!

Looking for new friends, or maybe a place where you can work on your own spiritual growth while meeting more Westsiders in a small group? Then Covenant Groups are for you!

Covenant groups are a part of the ministry of Westside. Under the direction of Reverend Peg, small groups of 8-12 members meet two times each month in a congregant's home to explore topics designed to stimulate and foster individual spiritual growth, such as the Seven Principles, love, anger, reciprocity, or Jesus. Participants share thoughts and feelings about the topic, while getting to know others in a small group.

Covenant groups offer us a place where we can speak our beliefs, feelings, and faiths with the expectation that our views will be heard and respected; safe settings where individual spiritual development is accepted and nurtured. Covenant group members talk about their beliefs without judgment, advice, disagreement, or condemnation.

Our groups are a way that we can better take care of one another. People connect at a deeper level than on Sunday morning, and there is the opportunity to pursue deeper spiritual questions which in our lives we rarely take time for. These groups form the framework in which we reach out to one another in caring and support for our own spiritual growth and expression, where we can be present in each other's lives in ways that define ministry. Covenant groups offer intimacy and ultimacy: a place to recharge our souls while seeking connections to larger meaning and deeper feeling. Covenant groups can also be fun and inspiring!

Each group agrees on the way they want to be together, called a covenant, such as letting each person speak without interruption. Groups also make a covenant to our church to help in some way during the year, such as serving coffee one Sunday after service. Each group is led by a trained facilitator.

This year (2009) our covenant groups will meet from September to June.

For more information, or to sign up, call Steve Becker at 938-0274.