

## Small Group Member Agreement

Hello, and we are glad you are here! Small group participation is a vital part of the walk of faith. John Wesley, whom the United Methodist Church names as its founder, believed that conversational sharing between believers is a “means of grace” – in other words, that God is uniquely at work when believers gather together in small groups to share their lives, study, support one another, and pray for each other. We hope this agreement equips you to have the best small group experience possible.

**Resurrection Small Groups are communities of people ranging in size from 5-15 people who meet regularly (most meet weekly or bi-weekly for 60-90 min) for connection and spiritual growth.** Likewise, at Resurrection, our purpose is “to build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians.” As members of this small group, we live out that purpose through our commitment to the following values:

1. Acceptance: We will cultivate an environment that encourages honesty and openness about our lives, and we will not judge other members for the things they share.
2. Confidentiality: We will not share outside the group what was shared inside the group except when absolutely necessary for personal safety.
3. Support: We will root for the other members of this group, whether that be the development of their spiritual life, professional life, or personal life. Even – especially – when our opinions differ.
4. Contribution: We will contribute to the group. This means allowing our participation to be a priority, thoughtfully listening and responding to our fellow group members, and sharing in the work of culture-making at Resurrection. If we have ideas, we will share them. When opportunities for engagement arise, we will try to engage.
5. Respect: We will listen to each other, be mindful of the impact of our words, and share the metaphorical microphone so that all can speak.
6. Spiritual Growth and Accountability: Our involvement is about more than fun or socialization. Those things are great! But we will strive to *grow spiritually* with our time together and hold one another accountable to the Christian life.

## Guidance for Participation

A group builds trust when it feels safe for everyone to have a chance to talk, and when people get to know each other. Likewise,

- a sense of belonging happens when everyone feels like their words matter
- comments that are thoughtful but brief can encourage others to talk
- balanced participation is a goal, but not mandatory - some participants rely on other group members to keep the conversation going
- early on as a group forms, sometimes waiting to speak a second time until everyone has had a chance to talk is helpful.

Or maybe your concern is, “What if I *don’t* want to speak about this particular topic?” You **always** have permission to take a pass! Sharing is not required or forced. Never feel embarrassed to take a pass, and give grace to those who do so.

*Group leaders may have a one-on-one conversation if a member of a group is not meeting these guidelines for the sake of graceful accountability and Christian growth. These guidelines help us live out our purpose to become deeply committed Christians.*

## Meeting Plan

- We will meet on (day of the week) \_\_\_\_\_.
- We will meet every \_\_\_ 1 week \_\_\_ 2 weeks from \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_ (time of day). Weekly meetings are recommended for new groups. Consider taking a one-week break between studies.
- We commit to meeting from (date) \_\_\_\_\_ to (date) \_\_\_\_\_. At the end of that time, we will review this agreement, and each person will have the opportunity to renew or withdraw from their commitment to this group.
- The place(s) where we will meet is/are:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Child-care arrangements (if needed) will be:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Duration and Review

We encourage new groups to agree to meet with one another for a **six-month** term. At the end of six months, members are free to look for additional group options at Resurrection or decide to keep meeting with one another. Our hope is that you have a great experience and will want to stay together, though we understand you may choose differently.

We encourage all existing groups to **review this document every year** for their continued benefit.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions or concerns, you can reach out to your group leader or Pastor Justin Schoolcraft at [justin.schoolcraft@cor.org](mailto:justin.schoolcraft@cor.org).