

## First Assembly of God looks to the future with hope and vision...

- Members of First Assembly of God find themselves at a historic crossroad. As we follow Jesus Christ, our opportunities to spread the gospel and advance the kingdom of God are extraordinary.
- We walk by faith, counting on God's power and faithfulness to fulfill His creative purpose in our lives. We rejoice in His grace, mercy, love, and seek His strength to respond to His will for us.
- We believe every Christian can help advance the kingdom of God in significant ways, according to the gifts provided by the Holy Spirit. The Lord calls His people into church fellowships so they are able to work together (Ephesians 4:16). Every Christian is called to make a difference for the kingdom of God in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Community group ministry of First Assembly is attractive because it builds upon the dynamics of the original small group—the FAMILY.
- First Assembly's Community groups help with connectedness, evangelism, outreach, inclusion and help us address many of the issues that people face today.
- Some of the benefits of community groups include:
  - Biblical model
  - Discipleship
  - Evangelism
  - Develops relationships
  - Multiplication of leadership and influence
  - Helps fulfill the overall mission of the church

*The purpose of this pamphlet is to address some of the questions you may have about joining a small group. Please feel free to contact Pastor Clark, or Traci Rupert if you still have further questions.*

## The Need for Friendships

According to some statistics, up to 60 percent of churchgoers come merely to observe. Consequently, a majority of believers never engage in personal relationships with others outside their immediate circle of friends. Yet, without those relationships, they may not grow spiritually.

Our natural tendency is to isolate ourselves by avoiding close friendships with others because of the emotional risks involved.

We became part of the family of God when we became Christians, fused into the Body of Christ, and united with other believers. Though weekly church meetings reflect this unity to a certain degree, opportunities for personal involvement are limited by logistics - so many people, so little time. We assemble for a little while, and then go home, often not gathering again until the following week.

Community groups help us fulfill the biblical mandate to "be devoted to one another in love" (Romans 12:10). In addition, they present opportunities for service that otherwise might not occur. A community group setting allows us to use our gifts more effectively because we can see specific needs around us.

Community groups typically meet once a week for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. Besides offering opportunities for friendship often lacking in the larger church family, Community groups represent a vital part of a healthy, growing church.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples." True discipleship is seen in our love toward one another.



## Community Groups at First Assembly

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## Groups Info:

- Community groups meet in homes, offices, restaurants, or in the church etc...wherever it's appropriate for that particular group to meet.
- Community groups encourage greater ministry opportunities by having flexible meeting times and varying the number of weeks each group meets.
- Community group leaders are everyday people who connect with others with shared interests.
- Community groups can be topic based, service based, study based, sermon based - anything that passionate and creative leadership wants to pursue - as long as someone is following!
- Community groups can also include gardening, bible studies, cooking, walking, hunting, baseball, and archery, as well as other possibilities.
- Community groups are supported and empowered by a coach and are designed to grow and produce new groups.
- Community groups encourage members to invite people from the community.
- Community groups exist where 3 or more people are gathered with a common purpose in Jesus' name.

## Groups Encourage:

### Community Groups Encourage:

- The following values of biblical community: (1) foster caring friendships, (2) worship God, (3) grow spiritually and (4) bring others to Christ.
- People who are seeking to know more about Christ, as well as those who want to grow in their relationship with Christ.
- Growth in Jesus Christ through connecting with others.
- Disciple-making relationships as leaders share their gifts, interests, passions, and hobbies.



- Connecting with others in a more personal way, and growing in faith in Christ.
- Intentional evangelism and discipleship.
- Gathering on a weekly basis to develop a community-rich environment in which everyone grows.

## Groups Provide:

### Community Groups Provide:

- An environment where people are encouraged and supported in the sharing of faith stories, experiences, ideas and feelings, so they are able to develop spiritually.
- Occasions to get acquainted with new friends and enjoy mutual support.
- Opportunities for friends and members of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within the church and surrounding communities.
- Lifting one's mental and spiritual horizons from the routine considerations of day-to-day life.
- Connections as a community of believers.
- Reminders that God uses people to grow people.
- Natural formations around common interests.

Each group meets at the announced time and place.  
Catalog currently being developed.