

# Covenant Group FAQs

## **What is a Covenant Group?**

A covenant group is a type of small group ministry, in which 6-10 people meet twice a month. One of the members is a trained facilitator, and the group discusses relevant topics from a shared curriculum.

## **What is the purpose of a Covenant Group?**

Its goal is to nurture spiritual development, foster individual growth, and encourage gifts of service, which can include church tasks such as sponsoring coffee hour on Sunday mornings, carrying out Building & Grounds projects, or assisting established church committees in their specific responsibilities if requested.

## **How does a Covenant Group work?**

In each group one of the members is a trained facilitator who is responsible for presenting readings and questions associated with a given topic. The facilitator's role is not to conduct the discussion in a formal sense but rather to ensure that the discussion stays on topic and that all members have an equal opportunity to express their ideas. All members are responsible for participating in the discussion, keeping in mind our Congregational Relational Covenant.

## **What happens in a CG meeting?**

Each meeting begins with a chalice lighting and opening reading, followed by brief check-ins. According to the group's initially agreed-upon code of conduct, the members discuss the topic introduced by the facilitator. Toward the end of the meeting, at check-out time, group members have the opportunity to offer their parting thoughts. Then, after a closing reading, the chalice is extinguished. A meeting normally lasts around 1.5 hours.

## **What is my commitment if I decide to join?**

Each member promises not only to attend regularly but also to participate actively in meeting discussions, as well as to work during the year with fellow members on a service project they have identified together. Current plans are for several groups to start up in February and meet semi-monthly for the duration of the church year.

## **Why join?**

It is a wonderful way to deepen connections and develop wider service among members of our congregation and to build relationships with new members of our UUCNH community.

## **How is each Covenant Group formed?**

Starting soon, individuals can sign up to be a part of a new Covenant Group. Groups will be scheduled to meet at various times during the week, so prospective members can indicate their Day and Time preferences at sign-up. With this information, the covenant group coordinators will create each group. Spouses and partners may choose to meet together or separately.

## **How and where will each group meet?**

Because the church building is now open to small groups, Covenant Groups will resume meeting at church.