

Small Groups Ministry Overview

A. Mission

To provide an environment for growing in love through study, care, fellowship, and service.

B. Vision

Groups of eight to sixteen meeting weekly growing together in faith, hope, and love.

C. Values

- Knowledge of God’s word
- Compassion for the world
- Friendship & fellowship
- Continuing personal and corporate growth
- Open sharing of burdens & celebrations
- “Doing church” outside of FUMC’s campus
- Covenant relationship
- 6 hours of mission service each calendar year

D. Primary objectives of ministry

Primary Objective	Resources Needed	Number of People Involved	Priority
Create awareness in congregation	Articles, brochures, presentations	3-5 (plus congregation)	A
Equip leaders	People Training materials	35 - at least one per small group	A
Develop small groups	Study materials Prayer list Rooms in church or community Child care?	3-5	A
Track participation	Database	1-2	A

Priorities – A – short-term, prior to 12 months

B – mid-term, 12 to 24 months

C – long-term, longer than 24 months

Small groups – gatherings of people who meet to experience

- Open Community fellowship
- Discipleship through exploring of God’s word
- Care for each other
- Mobilization of persons to hands-on mission/ministry involvement

First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, KS

2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan

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IV. Measuring Points

- Number of small groups (Community, Discipleship, Care)
- Weekly attendance in small groups
- Percentage/number of members involved in small groups
- Number of commissioned active lay ministers
- Percentage of small group members involved in hands-on mission/ministry
- Number of members active in small groups after 1 year, 5 years

**First United Methodist Church Manhattan
Small Groups Ministry
Action Planning**

Mission – To provide an environment for growing in love through study, care, fellowship and service.

Person Responsible for Action – Growing Ministry Leader

Specific Action	Outcome	Resources Needed	Person Responsible	Completion Date
Educate the congregation on purpose and definition of small group - providing community, discipleship, care	Increasing awareness	Someone to make presentations and write articles	Growing Ministry Leader	Ongoing
Identify and train leaders for groups	Providing leadership	Gifted people Training materials	Growing Ministry Leader	ASAP
Form new small groups as need arises – with possible connection to Wednesday night service and meal	Growing followers of Christ	Study materials Weekly discussion questions based on the previous Sunday's sermon/service Meeting space Child care Storage space	Growing Ministry Leader Discussion guide writers	Ongoing
Track participation in small groups	Growing followers of Christ	Tracking system	Growing Ministry Leader	ASAP

<p>Communicate small group opportunities, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - service projects as group - special learning options - prayer requests - witness during worship 	<p>Growing followers of Christ</p>	<p>Good system for communication</p>	<p>Growing Ministry Leader</p>	<p>Monthly newsletter item; weekly e-mail to small group leaders</p>
<p>Offer Alpha at least twice per year (spring and fall), alternating time and day of week</p> <p>Alpha is an opportunity to explore our relationship with God in a relaxed, friendly small group setting over 11 weeknight sessions and one Saturday event</p>	<p>Increasing awareness of small groups Growing followers of Christ</p>	<p>DVD set and books A/V Meals Meeting space Storage space</p>	<p>Growing Ministry Leader Evangelism Committee</p>	<p>September 2010</p>

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