



Peace of Christ Church

A COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

New Grace Group Formation

Grace Groups are small groups that meet together regularly and are a part of the bigger picture of spiritual formation at Grace Baptist Church. Spiritual formation is the process of being shaped according to the image of Christ by the gracious working of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of the world (Companions in Christ Training). At Grace, we are aware that “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.” (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 1881-1955). Our spiritual formation opportunities aim to help us let go of society’s compartmentalization of body and spirit.

Our small group experience is designed with this in mind. We are spiritual beings who are trying to identify the sacred moments of everyday, ordinary life. In Grace Groups, we seek to grow together through intimate community with one another for the betterment of the world. Grace groups reflect this desire through the integration of contemplative elements, thoughtful discussion and study, mission-oriented activities in the community and consistent fellowship with one another. These experiences flow into the bigger stream of spiritual formation at Grace.

We recognize that our eclectic and ever-growing body has various needs and preferences within a small group experience. Because of this, we offer the freedom for congregants to create new Grace Group opportunities as needed. Ultimately, each new Grace Group will have a different character shaped by the people and experiences of the group. In this sense, there is much freedom that comes with the

creation of a new group. However, there are some general markers that serve as guidelines for those interested in the formation of a new group. They are:

1. The group has a leader responsible for facilitating the logistics of the group. This leader must serve on the Spiritual Formation Team.
2. The group has at least 5 people.
3. The group meets a need that was lacking in other Grace Groups.
4. The group regularly incorporates contemplative elements, prayer and fellowship - all markers of the culture at Grace.
5. The group keeps the mission, vision and core values of Grace in mind as they plan and meet together.

Please email Aurelia (aurelia@gracewilco.com) if you are interested in beginning the Grace Group formation process.