

Renewal

Groups Manual

We exist to lift up the name of Jesus. From one to many.

Groups help build individual relationships.

You don't join a group, you become part of one.

Groups bring people together with shared interests and circumstances.

Ultimately, groups build up the church... from one to many.

This document provides an overview of what groups is about, how we organise our groups and what our leaders do. More information about pastoral care and support is available on our pastoral care hub.

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Our purpose for groups:

To become a connected, growing and healthy community of believers, with a shared interest or goal, who have fellowship, disciple, minister, evangelise and worship together to see Renewal move from one to many.

How?

Our groups will come in all shapes and sizes. What we do and how we meet may look different, but each group will have 5 key principles at its core:

Fellowship

Building healthy relationships with other people.

Discipleship

Growing in Christ in how we think and live.

Ministry

Discovering and using God-given gifts and abilities.

Evangelism

Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with others.

Worship

Surrendering our hearts to Christ on an ongoing basis.

An example

Dani is part of a group that meets once a fortnight. When the group gets together, they catch up on how everyone is doing and share life together - **fellowship**. They discuss the teaching they've heard at Renewal and grow in faith - **discipleship**. As a group they supported the Christmas toy offering and provided donations to support the local community - **evangelism**. During the week, when they can't meet up, they often share encouragement and Bible verses to keep focussed on God - **worship**. They've been encouraging each other to be a part of all that is going on at Renewal and to try new things - **ministry**.

Collectives

We have structured our groups into collectives

Why? Because we want to grow in relationships - firstly individually with others, then through our groups and then as collectives. Organising our collectives based on themes means we have more opportunity to meet as groups of groups - and to invite others and grow even further with what we do.

Life Groups

Support Groups

Outreach Groups

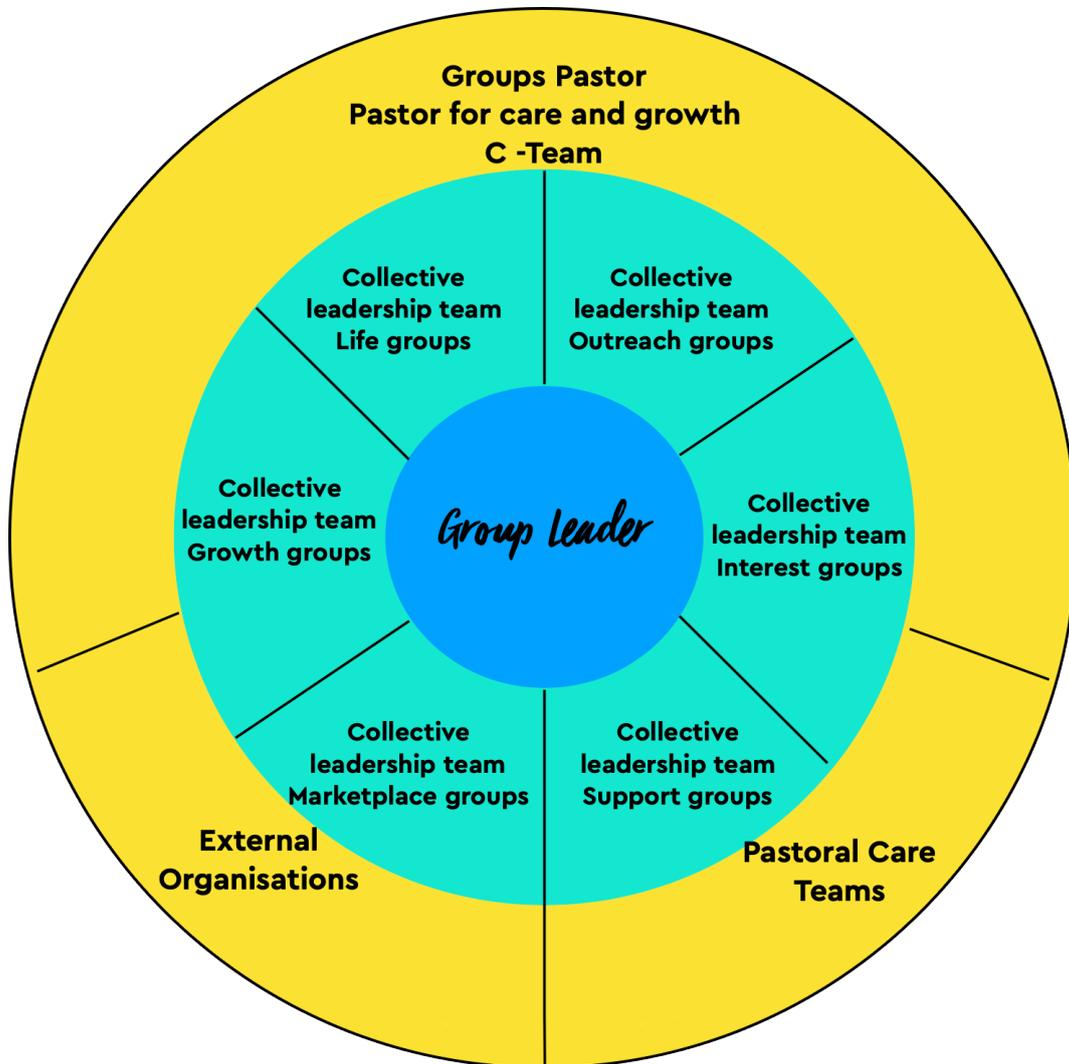
Growth Groups

Interest groups

Marketplace Groups

Groups Leadership

If you want to move fast, go alone. If you want to move far, go together.



We structure our groups based around circles of support.

- A group leader supports their individual group.
- A set of groups is then brought together as a collective.
- Each collective has a team of leaders who support the group leaders.
- The pastoral care team provide specialist support and referrals - from bereavement to listening services.
- The Assistant Groups pastor works with a C Team to oversee the model.

What do our leaders do?

Group leaders - We are a family

At the core of Renewal is our group leaders. They are the bedrock as they are the frontline leaders. The role is all about building relationships - group leaders encourage others to be a part of a group, and to contribute - not just join one.

Heart

Group leaders have a heart for people. They love to make everyone in their group feel relaxed, comfortable and valued. They desire to encourage people to grow in their faith.

Skills

- Hospitality, facilitation and encouragement.
- Communication and Listening
- Understanding the process to direct people to the appropriate levels of support
- Basic IT skills to navigate access the database and ability to use Zoom, or have a co-leader that can do so.

What does a group leader need to do?

- Support, facilitate and encourage group meetings to run well (encourage contributions from everyone, carefully manage over sharers etc)
- Incorporate the five principles into the group.
- Encourage group members to pray for each other, provide listening ears and practical help to each other.
- Develop an environment where people can grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- Identify potential leaders for future groups.
- Manage attendance (using Church Suite) so we can see who is in a group.
- Rally group members to support those going through difficulties with practical help and prayer, and refer specific needs to pastoral support.
- Celebrate life events and achievements.

Collective Leaders - We are a people

Collective Leaders, as part of a team, look after one category of groups (known as a collective). They are leaders of leaders.

Heart

Collective Leaders have a heart to see the vision at Renewal fulfilled within their collective and across the church. They desire to encourage, develop, mentor and support the group leaders and to identify new leaders.

Skills

- Communication and Listening
- Coaching
- Leadership development
- Encouraging
- Knowing own boundaries and able to direct people to appropriate levels of support
- Basic IT skills – use of Church Suite, emails etc

What does a collective leader do?

- Working as part of a team, support and manage the groups within their collective.
- Provide leadership, pastoral and administrative support to the group leaders within their collective
- Support the group leaders to embed the five principles into their groups.
- Ensure the group leaders are supported to use and manage Church Suite so we can see who is attending groups.
- Explore ideas to develop the collective further - this could be arranging an outreach event, or a get together for all groups (e.g. picnic in the park).
- Work together with Groups pastor to plan, launch and multiply groups in their Collective.
- Support group leaders with any pastoral referrals to ensure the right signposting.
- Looking to develop people as well as developing structure, within their collective.

No one person will have all of the time, capacity or skill to complete all of these strands, which is why the Collective Leaders will operate as a team, with a minimum of three people - and will also be supported themselves by the Group Pastor and C Team. Collective leadership teams are a great opportunity to model groups by being a model group in themselves.

Group Seasons

The duration of a group

We recognise that people's needs and seasons change - and we reflect this rhythm in groups.

Our groups are seasonal and run from September to July every year. This provides a break for the summer period - where we will prepare to relaunch the following September. People can choose to try a new group or explore a particular topic. Some groups can re-open after the summer break, but it provides an option for people to take a break or move to a different group.

Relationships will grow and develop in groups - which is fantastic. Although a particular group may end, we still encourage individual relationships to grow and of course we encourage you to meet and socialise over the summer break!

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1