

Renewal Groups

Groups Leader guidance

2023/2024 season



Why groups

Groups help people to become a connected, growing and healthy community. Groups are where we care for each other, grow in our faith and reach out to serve our church and our communities.

We know one size doesn't fit all, which is why our groups are all different. People are drawn together by shared interests or goals, and there is a place for everybody.

Find your people.

Five foundations

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.

Our collectives

All our groups fit into one of six categories that we call 'collectives'. Collectives make it easy for you to find the group you'd like to be a part of.

Collectives create opportunities for groups to come together for events - such as all the family groups meeting for a picnic, or cultural groups getting together for an international celebration.

Life Groups

From the young to young at heart, covering all ages and stages.

Support Groups

A safe space for support through the ups and downs of life.

Workplace Groups

Connecting professionals; helping you in your sphere of influence.

Outreach Groups

Serving our community, having fun and helping those around us.

Growth Groups

Growing faith by digging deeper into the Bible and life's big questions.

Interest Groups

Enjoying sport, leisure and creative hobbies with like-minded people.



Our collectives

Life Groups

Women
Men
Senior Adults
Young Adults
Mixed Adults
Family

Growth Groups

New Believers
Prayer
Bible Study
Leadership Development

Support Groups

Bereavement
Lifestyle & Wellbeing
Parenting
Relationship

Outreach Groups

Community
Cultural

Interest Groups

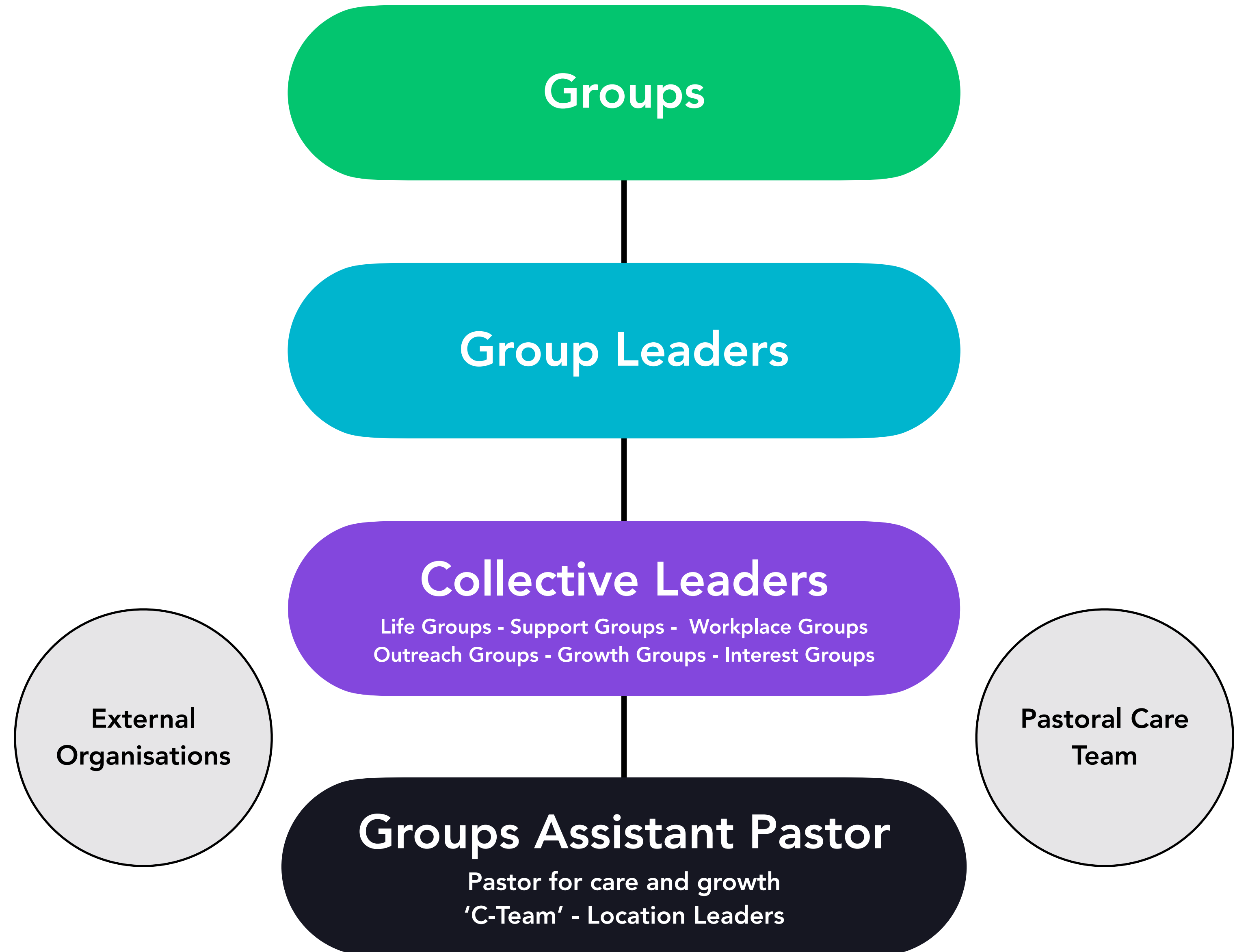
Sports
Leisure
Creative

Workplace Groups

Business
Health Care
Education

Structure

- A Group Leader supports their individual group.
- A set of Groups is then brought together as a Collective.
- Each Collective has a team of Collective 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.



Group leaders

At the core of Renewal are 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
- Ability to use and update Church suite

Tasks

- Support your group throughout the season from September - July
- Keep in regular contact with your Collective leaders, replying to emails, attending check ins etc. Attend meetings for all group leaders (twice each season)
- Update Church Suite with attendance
- Groups hub - Watch the Risk awareness, Confidentiality and Visiting principles on renewalcc.com/hub. Go through the five foundations training on the hub, and view other guidance as needed.
- Watch out for the weekly email and communicate key messages to your group (could be email, WhatsApp or during a meeting)
- Promote and encourage groups to be involved in wider church life as part of outreach activity for example Collective events, helping hands and toy offering. Share your group stories and testimonies with the Groups Assistant Pastor so that we can continue to tell others about all that God is doing in our groups.

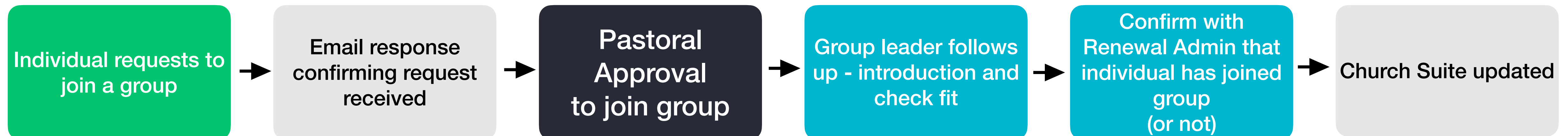
Group leaders

Process - When someone wants to join a group

- Pastoral Leadership
- Renewal Admin
- Group Leader

1. An enquiry is made through the website (groups page) using the sign up button. (Only groups that have capacity are open for sign ups.)
2. The person sending the enquiry then gets an automated response saying that their request has been received and we will be in contact shortly.
3. The requests goes for Pastoral Approval the following Tuesday after the request is received.
4. Once approved, Renewal groups admin emails the group leaders on a Tuesday with the names and contact details of the request.
5. The group leaders contact the enquirer, ideally by phoning (within the same week). Share expectations, see if the group is a good fit and if all is well, share details of the next meeting date, the venue and timings and adding and welcoming them to a WhatsApp group if this is being used.
6. Group Leaders need to email/phone Groups admin (groups@renewalcc.com) to change the status of the members from 'pending' to 'active' and remove them from the 'flow'. The flow is part of our administrative process to make sure we do not miss any requests being made on any front to Renewal. (It may take a couple of weeks for a person to confirm they want to stay with that group.)

Note - It is possible to send emails to your group members using ChurchSuite. However, lots of group leads set up a WhatsApp (or similar) group to keep in touch with their group members via text.



Collective leaders

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
- Ability to use and update Church Suite

Tasks

Collectives are led by a team of people each taking a different focus - Vision, Admin and Pastoral. Where there is a collective with less than 3 team members, the roles are shared across the team.

Collective leadership team

Vision

- Explore opportunities for new groups and new leaders
- Develop Collective Events
- Support communication to be involved with the life of the church
- Support collective team

Admin

- Understand how to use Church Suite
- Check attendance every 2 weeks
- Work closely with Renewal Admin team for support
- Support collective team

Pastoral

- Check in monthly with group leaders
- Awareness of pastoral care processes and support available
- Support pastoral care referrals
- Support collective team

Check in as a collective team every other month
Keep Karen informed of progress

As a team - Action and follow up any requests for people to join a group in your Collective.

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

Useful information

- renewalcc.com/hub - all areas of the Renewal Hub
- renewalcc.com/hub/pastoralcare - Start here for key pastoral care information and where to go if you need further support
- renewalcc.com/hub/groups - Group information including guidance, Church Suite guides and a copy of the groups brochure
- groups@renewalcc.com - Renewal groups admin email address
- **Church office** - 0121 711 7300
- **Anna Appleby - Groups Admin** - Works Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Karen van der Poll - Groups Assistant Pastor** - 07736 917 883 - kvanderpoll@renewalcc.com