

Community Group Leader Application

Thank you for your interest in being a New Horizon Community Group leader!

Community Groups are one of the twin pillars of New Horizon. We believe that life change happens optimally in the context of a Community Group. GroupLife is our primary path to discipleship and discipleship happens best when we are spending time with others who are seeking this same goal. Community Groups provide people with the opportunity to **CONNECT** with others, **GROW** in their relationship with Christ, and **SERVE** others in **COMMUNITY**. Our Community Group leaders create environments for people to develop and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as disciples. Our leaders play a pivotal role in helping us lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

Since our Community Group leaders play such an important role, we take great care when enlisting them. Please read through the information below to better understand the role of a leader, qualifications, and expectations. If, after consideration, you are interested in pursuing Community Group leadership, please follow the instructions to complete the group leader application.

Role of a Community Group Leader

Community Group leaders are responsible for: creating an environment where group members connect deeply with one another; growing in their walk with the Lord; caring for each other; providing opportunities to serve inside New Horizon and also in the community; and developing new leaders. Leaders are successful when they are personally growing in their intimacy with God and are giving away their responsibilities in order to grow others. Community Group leaders are supported by GroupLife Coaches and the GroupLife Team.

Qualifications

- Have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ (preferably for two years or more)
- Recognize the Bible as the authority for their lives
- Have Community Group experience (preferably)
- Be a member of New Horizon Methodist Church (preferably)
- Have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to lead a group

Expectations

- Lead the group by facilitating the group meeting, monitoring its health and duration, and promoting participation among group members
- Commit to engage in leadership development opportunities provided by the church
- Identify and develop a qualified apprentice and embrace apprentice leader development as a measure of success
- For Couple's Community Groups both husband and wife actively participate in all group leadership activities

Our Guiding Principles

- Spiritual seekers matter to God so they matter to us. *Heart for Others.*
- Personal prayer is the key to spiritual and societal renewal. *Heart for Prayer.*
- The Bible is culturally relevant and personally transforming for modern people. *Heart for Scripture.*

- Every follower of Christ is a minister of Christ. *Heart for Serving.*
- Authentic faith in Christ is expressed in personal witness and social activism. *Heart for Mission.*
- Whole-hearted devotion to Christ is normal for the believer. *Heart for God.*
- Life-change happens optimally in the context of a Community Group. *Heart for Community Groups.*
- Excellence honors God and inspires people. *Heart for Excellence.*

Leadership Agreement

By stepping into a leadership role you are stepping into a position of authority. Those you lead will watch you closely and take what you say seriously, and we think that is a good thing! Leaders should be role models. The challenge is that being a role model is all-encompassing.

As a role model, your lifestyle is part of the equation. How you present yourself on Sunday should be consistent with who you are the remainder of the week.

In the past, that was all that needed to be said. There was consensus around what constituted consistency between a relationship with Jesus and life in general. As culture has changed, however, there is a need to be more specific. The three issues that surface the most have to do with sexual relations, substance abuse, and social media.

The last thing we want to do is put you in a position where you feel pressure to teach, represent, or appear to give assent to a view on one of these subjects that you do not personally embrace. So on these three subjects here is what we expect volunteers to communicate and model.

Regarding Sexual Behavior

We believe the scripture teaches that sex was created by God as an expression of intimacy between a man and a woman within the context of marriage. Volunteers who embrace lifestyles or behaviors that conflict with this teaching will eventually find themselves having to pretend to be something they are not or believe something they don't. In an effort to protect you from a potentially awkward situation, we ask the following:

- If you are involved in a sexual relationship and are not married, we ask that you not lead a Community Group at this time.
- In the spirit of being a good role model, if you are single and living with a member of the opposite sex, we ask that you not lead at this time. We do not want to put you in the awkward position of having to explain your arrangement if members of your group visit your home.
- If you are married and have recently been involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage we ask that you not lead at this time.
- Our standards for personal purity extend to the regular viewing of pornographic material. If that is a current area of struggle, we ask that you not lead until you are experiencing significant freedom in this area.

Regarding Substance Abuse

If you have a history of alcohol or drug abuse, this might be something God uses in a positive way to influence others to go in a different direction. If you feel that this is part of your journey, we would love to talk with you further. While we might disagree on the timing of your involvement, we don't want to miss an opportunity to partner with what God is up to in your life.

- If you have been arrested for or convicted of an alcohol or drug-related offense in the past twelve months, we ask that you not lead at this time.
- If you have used marijuana or any other illegal substance during the past 12 months, we ask that you not lead at this time.
- If consuming alcohol to the point of being unable to drive or to the point of it being illegal for you to drive yourself home is a regular part of your weekend or weeknight routine, we ask that you not lead at this time.

Regarding Social Media

The people we lead judge the credibility of our message by the content of our lives. Substance abuse and the sexual integrity are but two areas they'll watch; our financial stewardship, the way we engage with politics, our social media practices, how we treat our families, and the way we respond to crises are some of the other things they'll notice.

The participants in your group *will* visit your Facebook page. If you blog or maintain a Twitter account, some in your group will opt to keep up with you through these mediums as well. While social media can be a great connection tool, it also serves as a window into your life beyond your ministry involvement. In light of that, we ask that you leverage social media with your group participants in mind. We realize this is a judgment call.

Thank You!