Covenant Discipleship Groups Are...

- up to 7 persons who meet for one hour each week.
- guided by a covenant they write, shaped by the General Rule of Discipleship.
- where Christians give a weekly account of how they have witnessed Jesus Christ in the world and followed his teachings, guided by the group’s covenant.
- where Christians help one another become more dependable disciples of Jesus Christ.
- a proven and effective way of nurturing and identifying leaders in discipleship the church needs to live out its mission with Christ in the world.

The General Rule of Discipleship...

helps Covenant Discipleship group members to practice a balanced and varied discipleship. The General Rule is a contemporary restatement of The General Rules John Wesley developed for the Methodist societies in 1742. It is simple and elegant:

“To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

A Covenant Discipleship group writes their own covenant together. The covenant is shaped by the General Rule of Discipleship. It serves as the agenda for the weekly one-hour meeting.

Recommended Resources

Accountable Discipleship: Living in God’s Household by Steven W. Manskar
Provides Biblical, theological, and historic foundations for Covenant Discipleship.

A Disciple’s Journal by Steven W. Manskar
Designed for use by Covenant Discipleship group members, the book is a guide for daily prayer, Bible reading, and discipleship shaped by the General Rule of Discipleship.

Disciples Making Disciples: A Guide for Covenant Discipleship Groups and Class Leaders by Steven W. Manskar
Provides information needed to organize the ministry, form groups, write a covenant, lead a meeting, and support groups so they can help the congregation live out its mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship With Youth by Chris Wilterdink
Resources pastors, youth leaders, and youth groups with information and planning materials related to Covenant Discipleship and accountability practices.

Growing Everyday Disciples: Covenant Discipleship With Children by Melanie C. Gordon, Susan Groseclose & Gayle Quay
Connects children with one another, their adult leaders, and Jesus through mutual accountability and support for following his teachings in the world through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

To Learn More...

Visit the web site at: www.UMCdisscipleship.org/covenantdiscipleship

Contact the Director of Wesleyan Leadership:
cdgroups@umcdiscipleship.org
(877) 899-2780, ext. 1765 (toll free)
A disciple is a person who allows his or her life to be conformed to the life of a beloved teacher. A disciple seeks to become like the teacher. Disciples of Jesus Christ are people who align their own desires, goals, and habits with the desires, goals, and habits of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul describes the goal of discipleship in Philippians 2:5, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

Groups are Discipleship Incubators.

It takes a Christ-centered community of love and forgiveness to make disciples.

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:

“... love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Disciples obey this new commandment when they meet regularly in small groups. They pray for one another, the church, and the world. They also give an account of how they have walked with Jesus in the world since they last met. The group works together to help one another become more dependable and mature disciples of Jesus Christ, as well as leaders who disciple others and help the church live out its mission for the transformation of the world.