

Date: ____/____/____

LifeGroup Leader Application



CVC's passions include Caring Community and Equipped Leadership. That in mind, we are thrilled that you are being drawn to LifeGroup leadership!

If you are married and if you will both be part of this group, please fill out two individual applications.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Primary Email: _____ Secondary Email: _____

Birth Date: ____/____/____

Occupation/ Employer: _____

Do you have a Facebook page or other social media sites? Facebook Blog Linked In Other _____

Corresponding social media addresses: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION:

Married Single Widowed Divorced

Spouse's Name: _____

Wedding Anniversary: ____/____

Children's Names & Birthdays (if minors):

_____ -- ____/____

_____ -- ____/____

_____ -- ____/____

_____ -- ____/____

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND:

How long have you been attending Cuyahoga Valley Church? _____

Which service(s) do you normally attend: Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 9am Sunday 10:30am Sunday Noon Sunday 7:07pm

Are you a member of CVC or willing to pursue membership?

Yes Willing No

Please list the churches you have previously been affiliated with (include dates & reasons for leaving):

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND *(CONTINUED)*:

Please share your salvation experience. Attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary; but you are encouraged to keep your story to no more than 700 words. **Be as specific as possible in the following 3 areas:** (1) Before Christ: Who were you before you met Jesus? (2) Receiving Christ: What caused you to start following Jesus? (3) After receiving Christ: How has your relationship with Christ brought you new life?

What are the main areas of growth that God is developing in your life right now?

Is there currently any habitual sin in your life that could limit your effectiveness in ministry? Are there areas of struggle we can come alongside of you for or that you feel we should be aware of?

MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Are you serving in any capacity at CVC? If yes, in what area?

Have you previously held positions of leadership? Include roles either inside or outside the church (i.e. other ministries, business organizations, social or civic organizations).

If someone in your group were to ask you to explain “salvation”, how would you respond?

GROUP EXPERIENCE:

Have you ever been part of a LifeGroup as a participant or leader at CVC or any other church? If yes, please describe what you enjoy(ed) most about being part of a group.

What motivates you to apply for LifeGroup leadership at this time?

What challenges do you anticipate facing as a LifeGroup leader?

What spiritual gifts/strengths do you possess that will benefit you as a LifeGroup leader? Please explain.

LEADER COMMITMENTS:

Have you read and do you endorse, both in belief & practice, CVC's "Statement of Faith"?

Yes No

Do you affirm the vision of CVC, and agree to cooperate with those that God has called into leadership at CVC?

Yes No

Have you read and do you agree to the expectations and priorities listed on the "LifeGroup Clarity Guide"?

Yes No Yes, with questions/concerns

Please explain

Do you recognize that spiritual leadership brings additional responsibility to model Christ-like character and love to those under your care?

Yes No

Name _____ Date _____

After completing and signing this application, please be sure to return only pages 1-4 to:
Dean Siley, Pastor of Community Life.

CVC Statement of Faith



The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, without error in its original writings.

There is only one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully divine and fully human. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed authentic miracles, died in the place of sinners to pay for their sins, rose bodily from the grave, and works as mediator in heaven.

Spiritual life given by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for the salvation of man. His ministry includes indwelling the believer enabling him to live a godly life.

Although man was created in the image of God, he sinned causing physical death and separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and those who reach moral responsibility exercise their sinful nature in thought, word, and deed.

The sinless life, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the only basis for the salvation of all who believe. Those who receive Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior, exercising repentance and faith, are children of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ will return bodily to the earth to complete our salvation and establish His kingdom. All of the dead will experience a bodily resurrection, the believer to eternal joy with the Lord and the unbeliever to judgment and eternal punishment.

CVC Vision

Mission statement: *Inviting people to new life in Christ.*
Tag line: *Live New.*
Additional support phrase: *Everyone. Live New. Everyday.*



CVC Values – Our Passions:

Living Truth

The Bible is not a dusty and archaic relic that is irrelevant to our modern lives. God's Word is living and God's Word is truth. God's living truth pierces our hearts, teaches us and guides us. Our passion for God's living truth is demonstrated by our being able to consistently and spontaneously share what God is currently teaching us through His Word. When it comes to the Bible, we seek to learn it, pray it, sing it, live it, and share it. The Bible is foundational, authoritative, and applicable for all we do in our personal lives, in our families, in our LifeGroups, and in corporate worship. We creatively communicate and apply the eternal, infallible, and unchanging Word of God utilizing spoken word, printed materials, music, the arts, and media. We long to see the power of the living truth evident in the lives of all who make CVC their church home.

Hebrews 4:12; James 1:22; II Timothy 3:16-17; John 6:68; John 14:21; John 17:17; Isaiah 40:8; Isaiah 55:10-11; Jeremiah 15:15

God Dependence

Our human nature drives us to be self-sufficient. The largest obstacle to us experiencing new life in Christ is ourselves. We need to be dependent on God and not on anybody or anything else, including ourselves. Our passion for God dependence is demonstrated by an observable and real trust in God, primarily evidenced by consistent and spontaneous prayer.

When a problem is to be solved or a decision is to be made, we go to God first rather than making a decision and then asking Him to bless what we already decided to do on our own. We acknowledge that apart from Christ we can accomplish nothing. Our lives, our families, and our ministries are fueled by prayer. If we trust in humans, we get what humans can do; but if we trust in God, we will get what God can do.

Being God dependent means that our pride bows to humility; our worry yields to trust; and our stress is overcome by joy. We experience peace in the face of turbulence and the unknown. As Jesus comes through for us in ways that defy human explanation, all credit, praise and glory go to God, in both the good and difficult times.

John 15:4-5; Philippians 4:6-7; II Chronicles 20:12; Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 118:8; Psalm 127:1; James 1:5; I Thessalonians 5:17

Caring Community

Most people have experienced being part of a group, club or team, but not everyone has experienced a true caring community. Our passion for caring community is demonstrated by our desire that every believer at CVC lives in authentic community that is rooted in Christ and grounded in love.

Believers at CVC connect face-to-face and life-on-life in small groups called LifeGroups. The goal of these small groups are to cultivate deep and meaningful relationships that are centered around God's Word, prayer, spiritual growth, genuine care and a heart to serve Christ. We believe that growth happens best

when we are in community, not in isolation. God did not design us to do life alone. We remember the classic illustration: If you take one log out of a fireplace where the fire is burning brightly, it goes out pretty quickly. But if you put it back in the fireplace with the other logs, they all help each other burn together brightly. This is why we are intentional about building small communities of people who will learn together, care for one another, pray for each other and serve together.

Our desire is that loving relationships permeate every aspect of church life at CVC. We believe that spiritual friendships are vital for healthy spiritual development and maturity. When we face life's problems, we have a caring group of people around us supporting us, praying for us, encouraging us, visiting us, and challenging us toward growth, maturity and new life in Christ.

Hebrews 10:24-25; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-27; Philippians 2:3-4; I Thessalonians 2:8; Colossians 3:16; Matthew 22:37-40; I John 3:16-18

Linked Generations

Some churches are laser-focused on reaching one particular generation. Not CVC. We are committed to intergenerational connectedness in our relationships, families, ministries, and discipleship. We consciously evaluate how many generations are present at our gatherings. We want to see a cross section of all generations at CVC. We value the creativity, relevance, and energy of our youth as much as we value the wisdom, stability, and experience of our elders. If we aren't intentional about linking the generations, we will experience a natural drift toward preferences that will divide our church, stunt our growth, shorten our longevity, and dilute our effectiveness.

Our passion for Linked Generations is demonstrated by cultivating mentoring relationships through both upward and downward investments in each others' lives as well as striving for intergenerational presence in all of our ministry venues. The younger generations crave the wisdom of their elders and are hungry for mentors in their lives. Teens are influencing children. Young adults are impacting teens. Older adults are investing in younger adults. As we follow Christ, we grab the hand of someone who's a generation above who will pour into our lives and we grab the hands of the generation below, pouring into them. We believe this discipleship dynamic must be developed at home first and then ripple out into other life relationships.

If someone were able to take a picture of Jesus teaching a crowd from the gospels, it would be intergenerational. We would see moms holding babies, dads holding hands with little kids, young singles, middle-aged people, grandparents and older folks with frail bodies. Generations would gather together to listen to and serve Jesus. Why should the church look any different today?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:4-7; Psalm 71:18; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 145:4; Luke 1:50; Titus 2:1-8; Isaiah 61:4

Equipped Leadership

Jesus invited His disciples into a three year intensive internship to become spiritual leaders. That's the model He's given for us to follow. If you are a follower of Christ, you have signed up, not for a three year internship, but for a life-long internship to be an equipped, spiritual leader.

Many people have a misunderstanding that the church staff exclusively does all the heavy lifting when it comes to spiritual leadership. But the Bible teaches that the role of the staff is to equip every believer to minister in some leadership capacity. The CVC staff has embraced our responsibility to train you to fulfill the ministry God created you for in your home, relationships, workplace, community and world.

CVC has been and is still is a church that identifies, equips, mobilizes, releases and encourages people toward leadership. Our desire is for everyone to serve God and others by leveraging their influence and God-given spiritual gifts for the kingdom of Jesus Christ. We want to convert the untapped leadership potential that exists in every attendee and member of CVC into an army of capable, humble and passionate servant leaders. Our passion for equipped leadership is demonstrated by our intentional and relational efforts to equip leaders through LifeGroups, huddles, and training events.

Ephesians 4:11-12; II Timothy 2:2; Colossians 1:28-29; I Peter 4:10-11; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 27:17; Luke 6:39-40

Missional Living

We follow Jesus, the One who came to this planet as a missionary. He left heaven and clothed Himself in human flesh. Why? To have an impact on people who were outsiders, who didn't know about God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us. We all have relationships with people who are far from God. We have a missionary mandate to reach them for Christ.

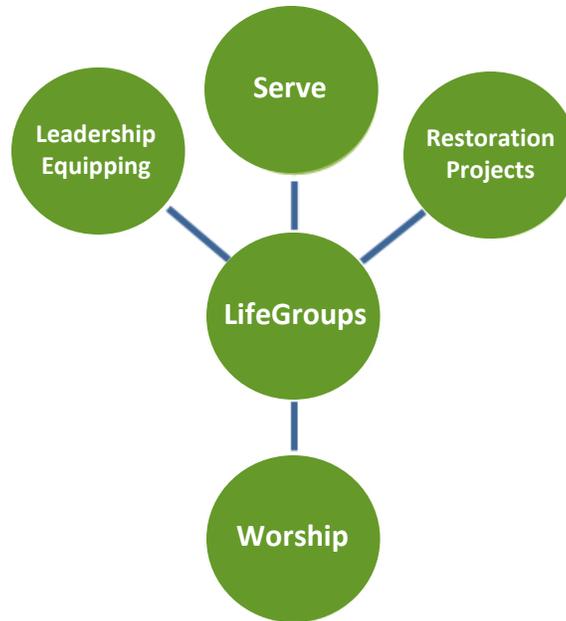
Our passion for missional living at CVC is demonstrated by our dedication to be missionaries cleverly disguised as (fill in the blank- teachers, sales associates, carpenters, homemakers, coaches, nurses, lawyers, electricians, doctors, painters, etc). We are people that see ourselves as God's agents of restoration in the relationships and community around us. We take missional ownership for reaching those in our circle of influence. We cry out to God, "This is my neighborhood, my floor at work, my worksite, my city to reach for Christ."

We reject the temptation to be nice, neutral, normal people. Instead, we are radical and revolutionary about living on mission for Christ. We want to actually change the world and restore the broken. That's why we focus on building bridges of friendship to reach our family members, our neighbors, and our communities. That's why we practice servant evangelism by doing good deeds to create good will so we can share the good news. That's why we pray, "God, I want to be used by You in some conversation. Open the door for me to speak to someone about Christ and give me the courage to walk through it." That's why we use our resources to serve, bless and reach out to those who don't know Christ.

Lost people matter to God, and therefore, they matter to us. We want the life God has given us to be abundantly fruitful for His kingdom. We want to not only go to heaven, but take as many people with us as we possibly can.

John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, Luke 10:2; I Peter 3:15; Matthew 5:16; I Corinthians 9:19-23; II Corinthians 5:17-21

Strategy Diagram:



Strategy:

We believe spiritual growth happens when a person develops a rhythm of being in a **Worship** Environment (weekly), a **LifeGroup** Environment (weekly or bi-weekly) and a **Serve** Environment (weekly, bi-weekly). Further growth happens through participation in **Restoration Efforts** (small or large scale projects to bring physical, emotional and spiritual restoration to the world around us) and **Leadership Equipping** ('huddles' and equipping events that produce greater levels of discipleship and leadership).

Measures –Fruit of New Life (profile of a disciple being developed here at CVC):

- 1- Beloved Child
- 2- Self-feeder
- 3- Servant
- 4- Investor
- 5- Discipler
- 6- Missionary

Beloved Child

Rather than living with guilt, fear, and doubt, as Beloved Children we have the confidence and assurance that comes from having God as our Father. We live in light of God's grace – forgiven, adopted, and accepted. We have assurance of our salvation. Peace, contentment, and joy characterize our lives rather than worry and anxiety. We know that our worth is not based on our religious performance but on the love, grace, and acceptance of Christ. For this reason, we delight in spending time with our Father in a Quiet Time that includes time in the Word of God and in prayer. Knowing that we are unconditionally loved by God means that we can freely give love to family members and others without expecting anything in return.

Self-Feeder

When we grow in maturity, we aren't dependent on others for spiritual nourishment. As self-feeders, we learn how to read the Bible and pray as a part of our daily lives. We attend church services expectantly and experience intimacy with God as a result. We can identify times when God has spoken to us through His Word. We learn to value scripture memory. We have developed doctrinal purity and a biblical worldview as we gain a greater knowledge of God's Word. We develop personal spiritual growth plans that reflect a commitment to lifelong learning. We reflect on life biblically and learn to see life's circumstances through God's eyes.

Servant

As followers of Christ, we develop a desire to serve rather than be served. We understand what the Bible says about spiritual gifts and we, therefore, use our gifts to serve in the life of the church. We see people through the eyes of Jesus and go out of our way to show love to others in everyday life. We understand the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit and depend on God's Spirit rather than self-effort for accomplishing goals. We seek to abide in Christ for fruitful service. As a result, we find a sense of purpose in life because we have learned to meet the needs of others.

Investor

As we grow in Christ, we recognize that what we treasure is a reflection of our heart. We grow in our desire to be givers, not takers. We overcome a consumer mentality and grow in an eternal perspective. We learn to be good stewards of our time, our talent, and our treasure. We steward our bodies through healthy habits – exercise, rest, recreation, and eating in moderation. We hold loosely onto material things and give away possession to help others. We financially support the ministry of the church cheerfully and expectantly. We take risks that require faith. Our desire is to expand God's kingdom through our personal investment of time, talent, and treasure.

Discipler

Jesus longs for His followers to have an impact on others. Since we have experienced growth in our new life in Christ, we long to see other believers experience that growth, too. We connect with a LifeGroup that challenges, teaches, exhorts, and encourages. We learn how to build authentic relationships with people. We experience spiritual friendships for the purpose of mentoring and accountability. We seek to lead others spiritually – to reproduce our relationship with Christ in the lives of those who are less mature. We can confidently say, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ."

Missionary

We recognize that as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so He is sending us. We know how to maintain friendships with those who are far from God so we can share Christ with them. We regularly find volunteer opportunities to serve the last and the least locally, regionally, and globally. We are always ready to share the story of how Jesus has restored our lives. We pray for those who are without Christ. We know how to defend our faith and how to engage in spiritual warfare. We see ourselves as "missionaries cleverly disguised..." We can communicate our faith with cultural and racial sensitivity. We lead people to put their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

LifeGroup Clarity Guide



LifeGroup Definition:

A small group, usually 8-12 people, that gathers regularly and intentionally to pursue the fruit of new life.

LifeGroup Description:

LifeGroups are a vehicle by which our adults, students and children actively journey toward greater spiritual growth and authentic Christ-centered relationships.

We passionately believe that every person at CVC should live in authentic community that is rooted in Christ, grounded in God's Word and established in love. Believers at CVC regularly gather face-to-face in small groups known as "LifeGroups" where they can cultivate safe, meaningful and spiritual friendships. We believe that growth happens best when we are in community--not in isolation--so that when we face life's problems, we have a group of people around us praying for us, encouraging us, checking in on us, visiting us, and challenging us toward spiritual growth and maturity.

(Hebrews 10:24-25; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-27; Philippians 2:3-4; I Thessalonians 2:8; Colossians 3:16; Matthew 22:37-40; I John 3:16-18)

LifeGroup Dynamics:

LifeGroups are an environment that people relationally experience our church's six Passions, sometimes known as "Values": Living Truth, God Dependence, Caring Community, Linked Generations, Equipped Leadership and Missional Living (see the CVC Vision Guide). These six passions define the way we relate to one another and carry out our mission. They capture our uniqueness, define how we serve together and help define the personality of CVC.

If a LifeGroup is successfully living out our Passions, then when the people in that community think "LifeGroup", they will think: growth, discipleship, community, life on life learning, care, support, hospitality, encouragement, accountability, organic relationships, authentic friendships, a safe and disarming environment, service, Bible, prayer, the power and presence of God.

LifeGroup Formation

Ideally, LifeGroups form organically through natural relationships, but we are aware that oftentimes CVC will need to provide opportunities to develop new relational connections through special meetings or groups. Some LifeGroups will gel and some will not. It's ok if they don't. We will encourage people to stick it out and then try another group until they feel a fit.

LifeGroup Structure:

LifeGroups will have various compositions, primarily based on age, stage of life, geographical location, interests and needs. Most groups will be either an affinity group or a mixed group. We encourage and promote intergenerational groups.

LifeGroup Leaders:

LifeGroup leaders are individuals who answer the call to be a shepherd, teacher, mentor, leader, caregiver, discipler and facilitator for their LifeGroup. It is an exhilarating honor to step into the role of a shepherd in God's Kingdom. We encourage LifeGroup leaders to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider this role of leadership, looking to Jesus as their model for learning how to shepherd their group well. *(John 10:14-15; Psalm 23:1-3; Mark 6:34-35; Isaiah 41:11; 1 Peter 2:24-25; Hebrew 13:20-21; 1 Peter 5:1-4)*

LifeGroup Leader Selection:

Aspiring LifeGroup leaders step forward and volunteer themselves or they are identified and invited into leadership by a current LifeGroup leader that is willing to incubate them and then launch them. They can also be identified by church leaders or other members of the church and invited into a group leader training process (TBD but will include either incubation in a LifeGroup or participating in a CVC LifeGroup equipping group or class designed to train leaders and launch them.)

LifeGroup Leader Equipping:

- **Weekly:** Wednesday of each week, a leadership tip, devotional or vision suggestion will be sent out. These will typically include insights, links, and blog postings from our own CVC staff as well as various voices in the fields of spiritual growth, leadership and small group ministry.
- **Weekly:** Sermon Based Study Guides (Sunday)
- **Monthly:** A link to a podcast (audio) or vodcast (video) related to vision, leadership, small group dynamics or other helpful content will be emailed around the 25th of each month. These will usually be an interview with Chad Allen and another CVC staff person or ministry leader.
- **Semi-Annual:** One-on-one meeting with a staff person from the Community Life ministry area (Dean Siley, Dale Piscura, Leigh-Ann Brisbin)
- **Quarterly:** Church-wide leadership training
- Fruit of New Life Assessment Tool

LifeGroup Schedule:

LifeGroups meet weekly or bi-weekly on a tri-mester system (spring, summer and fall semesters ranging from 12-16 weeks long). **Each Trimester we desire to have a clear start date (on ramp) and a clear finish date (off ramp).** This allows group members the opportunity to enter or exit a new group.

At the beginning of each Trimester each group will have the opportunity to gain new members if they have open space. If the group is 12 or larger, the LifeGroup leaders will be encouraged not to add new members to the group because of the challenges and limitations that larger groups bring. Each LifeGroup Leader is encouraged to pursue training up new leaders to launch new groups if their LifeGroup gets too big.

LifeGroup Locations:

Homes, church, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Where they gather is not the emphasis, the spiritual growth \that is accomplished when they meet is. Having a consistent location encourages regular group attendance.

LifeGroup Material:

Preferably sermon-based study guide. We believe that syncing the church through a shared study promotes more cohesion, strength and community within the church at large. The study guide is provided online, emailed to leaders, or available at the info center. Ideally it is best to have group members fill out the study guide in advance and then come prepared to share their answers at LifeGroup. We will not exclusively use the sermon-based study guide and are ok with groups selecting their own material. We prefer that any material used by a CVC LifeGroup leader is approved by the Pastor of Community Life first.

LifeGroups with children:

With our passion to link generations, the presence of children for a LifeGroup will occur often, but we also know that the presence of children can create unique needs for a group. Here are several options that families with children can consider.

LifeGroups with children (continued):

- (A) Have them as part of group.
- (B) Adults within the group take turns providing care for children each week onsite.
- (C) Have/hire older teens to care for younger kids onsite.
- (D) Hire someone outside the group to care for them on or offsite.
- (D) Each family is responsible for providing own care for kids offsite.
- (E) In some cases, church provides childcare for LifeGroups meeting on campus.

***Note:** We encourage something to engage the kids in learning during LifeGroup, not just seeking out childcare.