

Christian Small Group Covenant

Below are some suggested norms and guidelines from those entering into Christian small groups.

- We begin our time together in **prayer** to help orient ourselves to God, whose Spirit we invite amongst us.
- One of the assets of our rich Anglican heritage is a deep **tolerance** for differing interpretations; accordingly, we maintain an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect for the varying perspectives and opinions we bring to the table.
- In order to ensure that all are free to express themselves, we communicate our opinions in the form of **“I” statements** and refrain from trying to change each other’s opinions or beliefs.
- What transpires during our discussion is **confidential** unless the person sharing indicates otherwise.
- We remember Paul’s charge to the Christians in Ephesus to **“bear with one another in love”** and **speak “only what is useful for building up**, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:2, 29).
- We always keep in mind the larger purpose of our activity: **to glorify God and grow ever more fully into our calling as disciples of Christ.**

Discussion Leadership

The **facilitator** is responsible for:

1. Convening and closing each discussion *on time*.
2. Making sure each session opens and closes with prayer.
3. Setting the dates and times for all meetings and communicating those dates and times – including any changes – to all group members.
4. Preparing questions in advance – or making sure someone else is assigned to do this.
5. Making sure everyone has a chance to speak, especially the introverts!

Small group members are invited to share in the leadership by offering the opening prayer, participating actively in discussions, and facilitating the group when needed.