

CONNECTION AND CARE MINISTERS

Our care pastors at Resurrection are called to offer support, care, and encouragement to those in our community. However, offering care is a much bigger task than can or should be done with pastors alone. We have been blessed to be able to partner with **Connection and Care Ministers (CCMS)**, congregants who feel called to offer support to the community, to offer incredible care to our congregation. These **CCMs** have been equipped and empowered to provide support in many different capacities; including, but not limited to - hospital visits, telephone calls, one-on-one conversations, offering support to grieving families, emotional wellness support, and proactively seeking to encourage and care for those seeking prayer. **CCMs** work directly with a team of pastors alongside other CCMs to serve those worshipping in our community as well as those outside of our community who are connected via our support programs. It truly is one of the most incredible witnesses of how God can work through others to change the lives of those experiencing difficulties.

If you are interested in being a Connection and Care Minister, please complete and return this application to your Location or Connection and Care Pastor, see names below. The training requirements and additional studies are detailed in this application.

Applications can be sent directly to your Location or Connection and Care Pastor.

Blue Springs: Penny.Ellwood@cor.org

Brookside: Wendy.Chrostek@cor.org

Downtown: Anne.Williams@cor.org

Leawood: Hyemi.Jones@cor.org

Overland Park: Joshua.Clough@cor.org

West: Chris.Holliday@cor.org

Online: Ashley.Morgankirk@cor.org

Recovery: Tom.Langhofer@cor.org

Silver Link: Emily.Stirewalt@cor.org

REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

I. Biblical and theological requirements:

1. Because Connection and Care Ministers will be partnering with pastors to offer some of the care previously done only by our pastors, it is important that these persons have basic theological and biblical training. CCMs are strongly encouraged to complete at least one year of Disciple Bible Study.

If Disciple has not been completed, an alternative option would include the following:

- Participation in a "Getting to Know Your Bible" study or other extensive study of Scripture (please provide explanation in application).
- Read Making Sense of the Bible and discuss with a pastor.
- Involvement in a group that is aiding in your spiritual growth.

2. We ask that CCMs know and can support Resurrection's values and perspectives articulated in the following links. You do not have to agree with every part of each statement, but as a leader at Resurrection we expect that you would represent these values to our congregants.
 - LGBTQ+ inclusion ([View Here](#))
 - Vision for Racial Justice ([View Here](#))
 - Understanding of Scripture ([View Here](#))

II. Required Training:

1. All Connection and Care Ministers will be required to complete the ***Connection and Care Ministers Training Course***. This course covers information on Theology, Visitation, Boundaries, Listening, Prayer, Grief, Silver Link, Recovery & Deployment.
2. CCMs will also be required to be certified through The United Methodist Church's Safe Gatherings training. This course can be taken online at www.safegatherings.com.

III. Other Requirements:

1. Our ideal desire is that Connection and Care Ministers have been active members of the Church of the Resurrection for **three years**. However, we also recognize that we have new and growing locations, and this may not be possible. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of pastoral staff at Resurrection. For consideration we ask that you connect with an appointed pastor at Resurrection and attach a reference to this application.
2. They must be fulfilling our 5 membership expectations: (Worship) Attending worship each weekend except when sick or out of town, (Study) actively pursuing growth in the Christian life through participation in a small group or some other form of Christian discipleship, (Serve) serving God with their time in the ministry of the church, (Give) giving financially in proportion to one's income with the tithe being the goal & (Share) sharing your faith with others through words and actions.
3. CCMs are required to agree to and sign the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection Volunteer Leader Covenant. [View Here](#) As leaders, we set the tone and pace for the entire congregation. We shape the heart, character and life of this Christian community. For this reason, it is vital that we walk the Christian walk. Spiritually healthy leaders will produce a spiritually healthy church. The following covenant was developed to guide our life together as leaders. We use these standards to hold ourselves accountable to pursuing the Christian life. And in so doing, we recognize that it is God's grace which calls forth our faithful response and it is God's grace which brings such transformation in our lives.

We are excited that you feel God calling you to serve in this way and look forward to having an opportunity to hear your story.

Applicant Contact and Membership Information

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Date of
Membership:

Safe
Gatherings:

(Dates to be confirmed with church database)

Areas of involvement at Resurrection, a United Methodist Church

PRESENT INVOLVEMENTS:

PAST INVOLVEMENTS:

Areas of involvement in a previous church, profession, or volunteer capacity

PREVIOUS CHURCH:

PROFESSION:

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER:

Date Courses Completed:

LIST DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY OR OTHER CLASSES, STUDIES, TRAINING:

Please Respond to the Following:

1. WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A CONNECTION AND CARE MINISTER?

Please Respond to the Following:

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DEEPLY COMMITTED CHRISTIAN (OR DISCIPLE)?

3. DO YOU PRACTICE ANY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

4. EXPLAIN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF GRACE.

Please Respond to the Following Questions:

5. WRITE A ONE-PAGE SPIRITUAL (OR FAITH) AUTOBIOGRAPHY

VOLUNTEER LEADER COVENANT

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection *Leaders are among those who fulfill the biblical roles of elders and deacons, shepherds and teachers. In the New Testament, leaders were held to high standards. Paul set forth attributes for leaders who were to live “above reproach.” Peter, likewise, challenged leaders to be “examples to the flock.” As leaders, we set the pace by modeling the Christian life for our congregation and help shape the heart and character of this church. It is vital for leaders at Resurrection to walk the Christian walk because spiritually healthy leaders produce a spiritually healthy church.*

Who We Are

Our Purpose: to build a Christian Community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians.

Our Vision: to be used by God to change lives, renew churches, and transform the world.

Our Journey: knowing, loving and serving God.

We are a United Methodist congregation, and our leaders uphold our heritage by pursuing ministry in keeping with our tradition. We seek to be orthodox in faith, generous in spirit, broadminded, passionately devoted to Christ, and wholly surrendered to God. We strive for personal holiness and inviting people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. We also pursue social holiness in the public sphere by addressing key issues of our time so that our world will look more like the Kingdom of God. United Methodists are willing to ask difficult questions, take on challenging subjects and admit we don’t always have every answer.

United Methodists are “people of the Book,” whose faith is firmly rooted in and built upon the scriptures. We hold the Bible to be divinely inspired and are committed to live by its words. We also recognize the Bible was written by people who heard God in the light of their own cultural and historical circumstances. As such, we make use of scholarship and study the scriptures carefully. When we encounter theological differences among Christians, we bear in mind John Wesley’s approach, “in essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” United Methodists share a common heritage with other Christians, holding to the historic essentials of the Christian faith.

We believe the goal of the Christian life is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as you love yourself. From the beginning of the Methodist movement, we were known as “reasonable enthusiasts,” those who are both emotionally and intellectually engaged. We value passionate worship, relevant preaching, small groups to hold Christians accountable to one another, and serving those who are in need. We value spiritual disciplines and take a “methodical” approach to growing in the faith. United Methodists value the full participation of women and men, people of all backgrounds in every facet of fellowship and leadership within the church and society.

This is our heritage, and it continues to shape the Church of the Resurrection in every area of our ministry.

Leader Commitments

Three General Rules of Methodist Societies:

We continue the tradition of commitment to the “*General Rules*” John Wesley established to guide Methodists in the pursuit of *sanctification*, or what Wesley referred to as “*Christian perfection*.”

1. Avoid things that would separate us from God or bring harm to others.
2. Do good of every possible sort.
3. Pursue growth in our spiritual lives.

Leader Attributes:

Leaders embody our church's best values. These guide our hiring and evaluation and call our leaders toward a vigorous pursuit of the Christian life and effective service.

Christ Centered

- Through actions and words, shows a personal desire to know, love and serve God.
- Highly engaged in achieving the church's purpose, vision and journey.

Committed

- Produces quality work and takes personal responsibility for fulfilling commitments.
- Wholeheartedly serves others and cultivates the leadership of volunteers.

Courageous

- Approaches challenges with optimism, flexibility and creativity.
- Initiates and engages productively in difficult conversations, when needed.

Compassionate

- Encouraging, humble, and gracious, even when under stress.
- Shows respect and consideration for those within and beyond his/her immediate team.

Continually Improving

- Sets high expectations and proactively improves ministry and self.
- Actively seeks and responds positively to constructive feedback.

Church Engagement:

Leaders set the pace of commitment for the church. As such, we commit to fulfill and exceed the membership expectations at Resurrection.

- ***Worship*** Attend each weekend, in person whenever possible.
- ***Grow*** Commit to personal spiritual growth and small group participation.
- ***Serve*** Volunteer both inside and outside the walls of the church.
- ***Give*** Contribute financially, with the tithe being the goal.
- ***Share*** Bear witness to faith in Jesus Christ, through word and deed.

Leader Standards of Practice:

How will Resurrection's leaders live toward one another?

1. Demonstrating respect and grace
2. Accepting differences
3. Maintaining appropriate confidentiality
4. Publicly supporting other leaders, pastors and staff members
5. Going directly to the individual whenever a problem arises

How will Resurrection's Congregational Care leaders serve the church?

1. Offering care and compassion to those who are in need.
2. Regular attendance at meetings and trainings
3. Participating in meetings and trainings
4. Responding in a timely manner or communicating with a pastor or staff if you are unable to do so.
5. Positively representing our church

COVENANT:

I have read the above and am committed to living my life and pursuing ministry in a way that is consistent with these expectations, and desire to do so at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection.

Name

Date