



We're glad you're interested in becoming a group leader at Community of Hope!

Small groups are an integral part of what we do as a church. We believe that life change occurs as we are growing in a relationship with Christ, and this happens best in community with others who are also seeking this same goal. Our groups provide an opportunity to grow spiritually in the context of genuine, supportive friendships as the group meets regularly for Bible discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Our group leaders play a pivotal role in helping us achieve our mission to grow fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ!

Since our group leaders play such an important role in our church, 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 group leadership, please follow the instructions below to complete the Group Leader Application. Once we receive your application, we will contact you for an interview. Should you have questions regarding any of the following information, please contact Kathy Copan, our Executive Discipleship Director, at 561-753-8883 or kathy@communityofhope.church.

Role of a Group Leader

Group leaders are responsible to create an atmosphere of Christian community, facilitate the group Bible discussion and prayer time, and encourage caring and friendship among group members. Leaders don't need to know all the answers or be a Bible expert. We are available to support you, answer questions, and help you choose Bible study curriculum for your group.

Qualifications:

- Have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ (preferably for two years or more)
- Recognize the Bible as the authority for our lives
- Be a COH Partner who regularly attends our services and is supportive of our church's leadership, mission, beliefs, and culture
- Have experience participating in a Community Group (preferably)
- Have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to lead a group
- Have character consistent with biblical standards, especially those in Galatians 5:16-26. This includes:
 - Living within God's standards for sexuality, having no sexual relations outside the boundaries of a one-man-one-woman marriage
 - Not misusing alcohol or drugs or living in addiction to anything, including pornography
 - Not prone to unwholesome language, violence or abusive behavior.
- Live in line with the standards expressed in Community of Hope's Ministry Leadership Ethos Statement.

Expectations:

- Lead the group by facilitating the group meeting, monitoring its health, and encouraging participation of group members.
- Foster a warm atmosphere where each group member feels safe, respected, and cared for, and where spiritual growth can take place. Encourage group members to care for and pray for each other.
- Maintain regular communication with our Executive Discipleship Director or other Discipleship Staff regarding the health of your group, the curriculum you will study, who is attending, etc.
- Cooperate with the vision and plans our church leadership has for groups.
- Commit to attend and engage in leadership development opportunities provided by the church.

Interested? Please begin the application process on the next page.

Community of Hope Ministry Leadership Ethos Statement

Leadership in a local church is a great privilege and a solemn responsibility. No believer is perfect, we're all in process. However, Scripture lays out some additional qualifications for ministry leaders and indicates that there will be stricter judgment for those who teach and lead (James 3:1). Because a ministry leader is a model to others, it is especially important to live in a way that is worthy of following. All of us in the Body of Christ may at times need to give up our own rights out of love and sensitivity to others (Romans 14:7-15:3), but this especially applies to leaders.

1) Love Jesus

- You've given your life to Jesus Christ in faith and seek to please Him living under His Lordship. You have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus (preferably for two years or more).

2) Love people

- You recognize that all people are created in the image of God and have sacred worth. Thus, you recognize all people are valuable to God and He places a high priority on people treating one another with love and respect. You reflect God's deep love for humanity in how you deal with people.
- You relate to others without disdain based on race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, social status, or disabilities.
- You try to emulate how Jesus related to all persons as described in John 1:14 by treating all people in a manner "full of grace and truth" – meaning you simultaneously welcome all persons without compromising scriptural truths.
- In matters of belief you are committed to unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and in all things showing charity (love). So, when you disagree with another, you do it in love.

3) Love Scripture

- You recognize the Bible as the authority over our lives.
- You regularly read the Bible devotionally.

4) Exhibit character consistent with biblical standards, especially Galatians 5:16-26

- You are pursuing growth towards a Christ-like character and the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).
- You are living within God's standards for sexuality, which include having no sexual relations outside of the boundaries of a one-man-one-woman marriage relationship.
- You are not misusing alcohol or drugs or living in addiction to anything, including alcohol, drugs, or pornography.
- You are not violent or abusive.
- You are not prone to unwholesome language.
- You are humble, open and teachable

5) Committed to Community of Hope's mission and culture:

- You are a "partner" of Community of Hope.
- You regularly attend our worship services.
- You regularly give a percentage of you income.
- You hold beliefs consistent with the teaching of our church.
- Your actions and attitude reflect the culture and atmosphere of Community of Hope, including:
 - Lost people matter to God, so they matter also to us. You support our mission to be a church where people who are disinterested in Jesus Christ feel welcome and enjoy being here.
 - The church is a place where broken people find healing. We're not a museum for saints. We're a hospital for sinner.
 - It's God's kindness that leads people to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
 - Full devotion to Christ is not just for an elite few. Every believer should be growing towards it.
 - Political affiliation is a non-essential. We avoid political discussions for the sake of the Gospel
- You live consistent with your partnership vows: avoiding gossip, and engaging in honest conversations with people as needed to preserve a spirit of unity.
- You support the decisions and plans of our church leadership.
- You willingly place yourself and your ministry under the authority of our church leadership.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

CONFIDENTIAL

Background Check Authorization

Print Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Former Name(s) and Dates Used: _____

Current Address Since: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/State)

Previous Address From: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/State)

Previous Address From: _____
(Mo/Yr) (Street) (City) (Zip/State)

Social Security Number: _____ DOB: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Drivers License Number/State: _____

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I hereby authorize _____ and its designated agents and representatives to conduct a comprehensive review of my background causing a consumer report and/or an investigative consumer report to be generated for employment and/or volunteer purposes. I understand that the scope of the consumer report/ investigative consumer report may include, but is not limited to the following areas: verification of social security number; credit reports, current and previous residences; employment history, education background, character references; drug testing, civil and criminal history records from any criminal justice agency in any or all federal, state, county jurisdictions; driving records, birth records, and any other public records.

I further authorize any individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency to divulge any and all information, verbal or written, pertaining to me, to _____ or its agents. I further authorize the complete release of any records or data pertaining to me which the individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency may have, to include information or data received from other sources. _____ and its designated agents and representatives shall maintain all information received from this authorization in a confidential manner in order to protect the applicants personal information, including, but not limited to, addresses, social security numbers, and dates of birth.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notice to California, Minnesota and Oklahoma Residents:
Please check the box below if you wish to receive a copy of a consumer report that is requested.
 I wish to receive a copy of any Background Check Report on me that is requested.