

January, and then continued through the end of May. (Declining attendance in May led us to end CARE groups the last week of April.)

- c. The first couple of years we asked the leaders to try to end the CARE groups in April even if the members wanted to continue. Those insistent on continuing we asked that they try to meet not much more than once a month. (The reason for this was to try to break people out of cliques and get them acquainted with the goodness of making new friends every year.)
- d. We have continually held a CARE group at the church on Sunday night. CARE groups are about connecting relationships and reflecting on Scripture and our lives..
- e. CARE Group leader training this year will be the "CARE Group Leader Train Station" model of a support group discussion format once a month at 8:30am in room 405.
- f. By this August's session we will begin dividing up our active congregation into CARE groups. For the first time we will involve our CARE group leaders into the process focusing on relationships and geographic positioning.
- g. In years past we have had a CARE Group Fair on the last Sunday night of August. We will implement a similar program only if it becomes necessary.
- h. CARE Group Leaders should delegate to one of their members the job of sending weekly attendance to Dawn at tlcc@timberlakechristian.org
- i. The Deadline for people to sign up for CARE groups through the office should be two weeks before they begin. The list of names in the CARE groups should be given to the CARE Group leaders two weeks before they are to begin. (begin on the Sunday after Labor Day).

7. Website Resources:

- www.timberlakechristian.org/care_groups.htm;
- www.churchteams.com/
- www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups
- www.4churchgrowth.com/chur4130.htm



Our Scripture

"But God has {so} composed the body... {that} the members should have the same care for one another." 1 Cor. 12:24-25 (NASB)

The CARE Group's Purpose

To help families apply the truth of God's Word in everyday life and build closer relationships within our church.

T.L.C.C. C.A.R.E. Group Manual

1. What does CARE group stand for?

Connecting -
And -
Reflecting -
Experience - **Group**

2. What is a CARE group leader?

- A member of T.L.C.Church
- A person that may have the gift of leadership, evangelism, administration, or teaching
- The leader should open the door for others to discover their spiritual gifts of ministry. The leader should model boundaries for the group so others will not be afraid to try the CARE group leader role later in the year or next year.

3. What is a CARE group host?

- A member of T.L.C.Church
- A person that may have the gift of hospitality
- A person that coordinates the CARE group to provide its own refreshments.
- A CARE group host should not provide all the food nor provide the home every week for the CARE group.
- The host should open the door for others to discover their gift of hospitality.
The host should model boundaries for the group so others will not be afraid to try the CARE group host role later in the year or next year.

4. What defines success for a CARE group?

- When two or more people connect and reflect on their lives in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Some groups may evolve into a greater emphasis on...
...Bible study -
...evangelism -
...fellowship -
...ministry tasks -
...accountability -
...support for the suffering -

- You will know your CARE group has been ultimately successful when the connecting and reflecting takes place spontaneously after the meetings are over or during the week!

5. CARE Group Core Values

- Consistent emphasis should be made on praying for our church's outreach into our community.
- Sermon Based CARE groups are the preferred format. Any other topic of study should be from the list of preapproved lists of curriculum or submitted to the Elders.
- Child care will be the responsibility of each CARE group. Central students, needing Christian service opportunities, may come into the home or the church building and provide quality ministry to your youth. Call Irene for CCCB student names that have filled out a Youth Worker Application. (263.4168)
- Smaller groups are VITAL to the potential of including new individuals and families.
- Consistent meeting is VITAL to the success of developing relationships.
- CARE group leaders should share, and develop new, leadership within your group whenever opportunity is made possible.
- CARE group hosts should orchestrate (not PROVIDE all) hospitality for the group.
- CARE groups that are meeting at the TLCC facility need for the host to fill out a Facility Use Application in order to secure your meeting on the church master calendar.

6. CARE Group Organizational Principles

- In the early stages of our CARE Group design the weekly sermon "CARE sheets" were the dominant outline of study/discussion. It was this format that took our average Sunday night attendance of 70 one month to 176 the next month. Once our CARE groups began to focus on independent studies attendance began to drop.
- Initially CARE groups began the second week in September, break from the second week in December to the second week in