

Group Leader Handbook

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Confidentiality and Groups

As Foothills, groups are extensions of the congregation's ministry.

The ministry team is here to support you in offering care and support to the people in your group.

Confidentiality means that you will keep private anything that is shared, unless you have the person's express permission to share it.

Confidentiality does not mean that you are bound to keep harmful or oppressive secrets, or that you do not have access to support if you are concerned about someone in your group.

If you are concerned about the well being of someone in your group, or if something is going on that doesn't feel right, it's appropriate to turn to a minister for support. As religious professionals serving the congregation, the ministry team can be considered within the circle of confidentiality of your group.

As you share relevant, necessary information with the ministry so that we can offer support to someone in our community, the ministers will keep this information confidential.

Clergy are mandated reporters, which means that any instances of child/elder abuse, intent to harm self or others, will be reported to law enforcement.

Caring Needs & Group Leadership

Life can be hard. Whether you are dealing with family struggles, mental health, addiction, parenting, or grief, our Caring Network is here for you. Reaching out for support or recognition can be difficult, so we try to make it as easy as possible. Our caring team is here to help. Email caring@foothillsuu.org, call 970-493-5906 or click the button below

[Request for Care, Prayers, or Support](#)

<https://foothillsuu.org/caring/>

Using Planning Center Groups

The Basics of PCO Groups

Planning Center Groups is an online application that will help you manage your members, plan events, take attendance, and share resources.

You can manage your group in one of two places:

1. On the Church Center App. [Download Now](#)
2. On The Admin Side of PCO Groups. [Access Here](#)

As a group leader, managing your groups can be a daunting task. However, with the Planning Center Online Groups, you can streamline the process and create a sense of community amongst your members. The platform allows you to organize groups, take signups, and track attendance effortlessly. Additionally, the platform allows you to share materials, like study questions and curriculum, with members online or in the Church Center app. With features like Group Messaging and Reports, you can stay connected with your members and keep track of participation.

Managing Your Group From ChurchCenter App

To manage your group from Church Center, you'll need to be [logged in](#) to the Church Center web or app.

Add Members to a Group

You can [add members](#) to your group from the Members tab.

add_member_arrow.png

When the group member requests to join, review the request to add them as a member.

review_request_arrow.png

Create and Manage Events

To [create](#) an event in Church Center web or app, log into Church Center, go to the group's Events tab, and select the Actions button in the app or the New button on the web.

actions_arrow.png

Select an event to edit it.

Take Attendance

You can [take attendance](#) for a group event from Church Center web or app starting from 10 minutes before the event begins.

If attendance isn't something you're interested in tracking, an Administrator can disable the reminders on the [Settings](#) tab.

take attendance_arrow.png

If you want to add visitors to the attendance list, you can do that from [Groups Admin](#) if your group is set up to allow leaders to add members.

Managing Your Group From Admin Side of PCO Groups

Log in to Groups

The first time you log in to Groups, you may or may not need to set a password, depending on if you have previously set a password for one of our other apps.

On the [login page](#), select the Need a password? link below the email and password fields. Log in

Enter the email address your administrator used to set up your profile, then a verification code will be sent to that email address. After entering the code, you will be able to create a password and then log in.

Once you are logged in, you will stay logged in until you log out or after 2 weeks of inactivity.

Manage Members

The first page you see when you select your group is list of all your members. There are some quick actions you can take on this page, such as emailing members, removing them from your group, or printing a list of members.

You will also have the option to add new members from this page if your administrator has given you the permission to do so.

add member on group page

Click the Invite a new member button to email the person and invite them to join the group.

Add member

When someone requests to join your group, you will receive an email notification. You can either respond via the link in that email or respond from Groups. All requests will be displayed on top of your list of members

image.png

Manage and Email Group Members

Updated on: March 2, 2023

You can add or invite new members, email or print member lists, and remove people from a group from the Groups Admin Members tab. Administrators can also email members of any group from the Groups People page.

Emails will be sent to the primary email address, except in the case of Account settings. Accounts sends an email to every email address listed on an Organization Administrator or Billing Manager's profile.

Manage Group Members

You can add or invite new members, email or print member lists, and remove people from a group from the Groups Admin Members tab.

manage members_numbered.png

1. You'll receive an email notification when someone requests to join your group. You can either respond via the link in that email or respond from Groups.
2. Take one of these actions on selected members in the list: [Email](#) members, print a list of members, export a list of members, or remove members.

3. You can either [add or invite](#) members to the group. You'll see the Add Member button if you have permission to add a new member directly; otherwise, you'll have an Invite a new member button. Contact your Administrator if you need permission to add members directly.
4. Administrators can click to promote a member to a Leader or designate the member to take attendance.
5. Edit the date the person joined the group.
6. Click the red x to remove an individual member.

Email Members of One Group

Leaders and Administrators can send general emails to group members from the Members tab in Groups Admin. For example, if you want to let members know about a new group resource, add the file to [Resources](#), and then send an email letting your members know it's available.

To email group members about a specific event, send a [reminder email](#), which will include a link to the event.

- To email all members, click the email icon at the top of the Members tab.
- To email selected members, put a check next to the names of the people that you want to email, and then click the email icon.

email_arrow.png

Complete the subject and message in the email form, and then click Send.

Email Members of Any Group

[Administrators](#) can email members from more than one group. For example, if all small groups will be not meet next week due to a church-wide event, you can email all small groups with this information.

From the People page, [filter the list](#) for the people that you want to email. If you want to email specific people in the list, put a check next to their names, and then click the envelope icon.

email_arrow.png

Create an Event

Leaders and Administrators can create an event from either the Planning Center Groups or from Church Center (web and app).

Create an Event from Planning Center Groups

From a group Events tab, click Create a new event.

create a new event_arrow.png

If you are an Administrator, you can also create the event from the main Groups Calendar tab. If you do this, you will need to fill in details about the event before you go to the New Event page. Add the information about the event, and then click Create event to add it to your group calendar.

event settings_numbered.jpeg

1. Fill in the event name and description. This will be shown in Church Center for the group.
2. Set the meeting schedule.
3. Choose a [location](#) for the event.
4. Set [automated reminders](#) for the event.

Create an Event from Church Center

To create an event from Church Center web or app, log into Church Center, go to the group's Events tab, and select the Actions button in the app or the New button on the web.

actions_arrow.png

Select New event in the app.

new event_arrow.png

Fill out the event information, including the date and time, [location](#), and [reminders](#), and then select Save.

event settings.png

Edit an Event

Leaders and Administrators can edit an event from Planning Center Groups or from Church Center app or web.

Edit an Event from Planning Center Groups

Select the event name from the list in a group's Events tab.

event_arrow.jpeg

Click Edit event.

edit event_arrow.jpeg

Edit any information, and then scroll to the bottom and click Save. If your event repeats, choose to save only this event or all future events as well.

save dropdown_arrow.jpeg

Resources

The Resources tab allows you to view resources that have been uploaded and shared with your group. As the leader, you will also have the option to upload resources for your members.

When your members view the group, they will have access to the list of resources you have uploaded and they can download the resources on their end.

Settings

From the [Settings](#) tab, group leaders can modify group information such as name, description, Settings tab and group image.

Leaders can also update the meeting location, contact information, and group description.

Reportsimage.png

There are currently two different types of reports. The Overview report will give you a bird's eye view of how your group is doing as a whole.

The Attendance report will give you a closer look at the individuals in your group. As you take attendance during your events, this report will begin to populate.

Reports

If you need any help as you're leading your group, use the ? in the upper right of any page to contact our Support Team.

Group Leader Expectations & Requirements

More than any other place, the heart of Foothills is revealed and made real within our groups and thus the role that group leaders play is indispensable. Group Leaders are how people experience who Foothills is and that partnership is based in a commitment to our community and mission.

This year we have updated the requirements for group leaders to read as follows:

Foothills Group Leader Requirements

1. Be active members of Foothills
2. Attend an annual Group Leader Training
3. Commit to abiding by the Foothills Group Leader Code of Ethics
4. Have an articulated annual personal spiritual deepening intention for their leadership

Foothills Group Leader Code of Ethics

1. Abide by the Foothills Covenant of Right Relationship
2. Commit to taking attendance at group events, using event promotion forms, and being proactive in communicating with Foothills staff
3. Not misuse your power and always stay true to the mission of the church
4. Reach out for support when needed
5. Remember to have fun and that church is about learning to be human together

The Why

Our requirements aim to make sure that group leaders are equipped for the task, have a foundation in Unitarian Universalism (we are a church after all), and embody the values and practices of our community.

Don't these requirements restrict who can be group leaders?

Yes. Group leaders are so important that not everyone should be a group leader. But this restriction is not arbitrary as it serves a missional purpose and to meet the requirements are accessible to those who seek to become part of our community.

Is this for all groups?

All groups that are required to create a Shared Ministry Covenant are required however this does not mean that non-members can't participate in groups or service in many other volunteer capacities.

When do these requirements come into effect?

We know this is a shift, and so we are letting you know that this is the requirement and that all non-members will have till Oct 2024 to meet the requirements. If you are impacted, and want to learn about becoming a member, Lauren Farley is eager to connect with you!

Facilitating Small Groups

Facilitating Small Groups

Rev. Elaine's Small Group Facilitator Training

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/80KijmgGgs>

[Link:Small Group Facilitators Guide](#)

[Link: Small Group Facilitator Guide: Sisterhood](#)