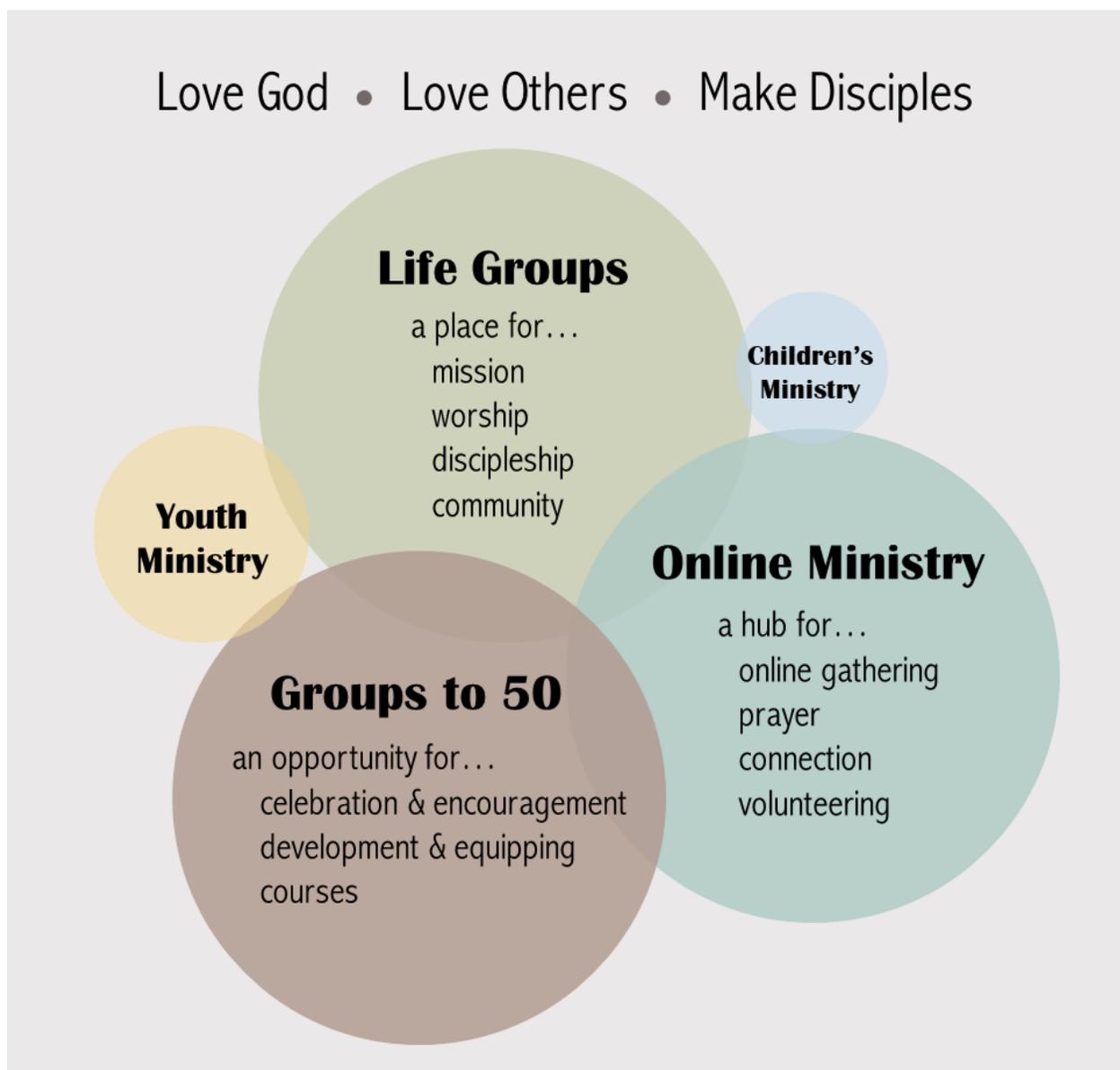


Westwood Church Ministry Plan

Fall 2020

In order to fulfill the mission that Jesus has left for His Church to “make disciples,” the Board of Elders and Pastoral Staff have jointly discerned a pathway forward to continue to love God and love others while confronted with challenging circumstances that COVID-19 has brought on everyone. Our leadership team has discerned three primary avenues for which to move forward. Life Groups, Groups to 50, and Online ministry.



Life Groups

Life Groups must become foundational to our understanding of “being the Church” and discipling one another. This calls for an increased number of maturing leaders, eager to grow in their own spiritual and leadership development, as they lead a group to practice discipleship, serve in mission, foster biblical community, and worship together through multiple ways beyond singing. Life Groups will need to have an attitude of always making room for “one more” and/or releasing part of their group to multiply.

To equip Life Groups to grow deeper in the Word in community, as a church we are working through the book of Acts through the fall of 2020. In a time of upheaval, we desire to unify the body, taking individuals deeper in their relationship with Jesus and His Word through studying and applying the text together in community.

Pastors Ryan Beer and Robin Bjarnason, together with administrative support, have been given the assignment of overseeing Life Groups.

Groups to 50

Celebration and Encouragement

“In-person” worship/encouragement gatherings will be one use of groups to 50 where live preaching, worship music, testimonies, baptisms, and corporate prayer can happen. With the health guidelines, Westwood can host 50 individuals in the auditorium and another 30 in the Youth Centre at one time for a worship gathering for a total of 80 individuals at one time. For a church our size, and the many implications of ministry focus, time, and effectiveness, it is not feasible to multiply worship gatherings several times over every week. Our approach is to develop an “in-person” worship gathering that will hopefully launch in mid-fall that we can film live for the purpose of live streaming and broadcasting online. Plans are currently underway in this regard.

Pastor Craig Reimer has been assigned oversight of online ministry and will work together with Pastors Rob Dyck and Corinne Wiebe in conjunction with technical/administrative support from both paid support staff and volunteers.

Development and Equipping

Groups to 50 will also be focused heavily on spiritual and skill development, especially leaders, in an intentionally systematic and balanced manner centred on...

- 1) Deepening a biblical worldview (biblical and theological studies)

- 2) Mission and service (practical skills to put feet to one's faith)
- 3) Shepherding - leading self and leading/caring for others.

Equipping will be a hybrid of online options through the development of a resource library that is currently being comprised and 'in person' learning at Westwood. A Teaching Advisory Team formed by both pastoral staff and lay leaders will be formed through the fall 2020. This team will work with Pastors Ryan Beer and Robin Bjarnason and be responsible for shaping the curriculum cycle, recruiting/engaging teachers, and implementing the ministry plan.

The purpose for this developmental focus is to undergird the centrality of Life Groups and the leadership needs which will emerge from that focus.

Online Ministry

Previously, much of our online presence was to promote or communicate ministry information. That is changing. We now are "doing" ministry on-line such as discipleship classes, prayer gatherings, and teaching and these aspects of ministry will continue and potentially grow as we strive to serve people where they are at.

Pastor Craig Reimer now oversees the Westwood online ministry sphere and works in conjunction with other pastoral and administrative staff, and lay leaders in the implementation of online ministry.

FAQ's

Q. What is happening with Children's and Youth Ministries?

A. Our Children's Ministries Director, Twyla Morgan has re-engaged at 2 days/week to experiment with possible ways to serve children and their families. Together with her leadership team, they recognize that children are a challenging demographic in light of physical distancing measures. Pray for them!

Pastor David Chelini is working with a volunteer leadership team of 20 in serving youth and has a great ministry plan focused on discipleship moving forward! They have great processes and protocols in place even as they seek to be highly relational in their approach to serving

youth. Junior Youth Group (gr 6-8) is on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm and Senior Youth Group (gr 9-12) is Wednesday evenings at the same time.

Q. Other churches have opened their doors to worship services, why hasn't Westwood?

A. For a couple reasons. First, the challenges that larger churches face under COVID-19 restrictions are different than smaller churches. So it has taken longer to figure out what we both can and should do. Second, we need to be effective in our ministry approach to making disciples. A worship service is very meaningful but it is only one "tool" in the toolkit. And when a worship service would have to be multiplied 12 times to serve the amount of people as we did pre-COVID, it becomes an issue of disciple making effectiveness as well as use of time and resources.

Q. When a worship gathering begins later in fall, will I be able to attend every week?

A. It's theoretically possible but it may not be probable. It depends largely on how many folks re-engage in a "live" worship service. While it has not yet been determined whether we host one or two "gatherings" of up to 80ish, as a church that had an average attendance of about 600 pre-COVID, we simply cannot meet those numbers currently. So we would have a registration process and work with a system that encouraged consideration and the needs of others.

Q. How are Westwood's finances?

A. Thankfully, our finances are fairly healthy so thanks to God for His faithfulness and to our church family for their continued generosity. Significant measures were taken at the end of March 2020 with numerous staff lay-offs and ministry expense cuts. On-going giving along with careful financial management has Westwood in a good place. That said, as government support ceases for many, time may tell the real economic picture of individuals and families moving forward. We need to always trust in God's provision while being fiscally prudent in our stewardship.

Q. How can I get into a Life Group?

A. Go to our website (www.westwoodchurch.bc.ca/connect) and sign-up online to get connected. Our pastoral staff will connect you.

Q. I want to be connected but I need to maintain physical distancing. Are there options for me?

A. Depending on how you want to move forward, the answer is “yes,” there are options. A conversation with one of our pastors will guide you forward.

Q. I’m not sure if my house can accommodate people for a Life Group. What are my options?

A. We are making the church facility available for Life Groups for their use if there is not a home for them in which to meet. However, it requires a little work to make a booking with all the necessary information, in order to adhere to facility use and public health guidelines.

Q. Do Life Groups have to adhere to health guidelines regarding safety and sanitization?

A. Yes.

Q. What is being done to ensure the church facility is a safe place to go?

A. Lots! We have facility plans, room number maximums, contact tracing forms, signage, and a custodian who is now a sanitization expert! Stephen even uses a really cool spray gun we purchased to make his job a little more efficient and cooler! If you’re not careful, you may even be sprayed 😊