



Small Group Ministry to Begin at Blair Road!

History

For quite some time, the leadership at Blair Road has been interested in beginning a small group ministry. We began hearing more and more about it from area churches as well as some of the leading churches across the United States.

This spring, Johnny Lord, Eric Hendrickson, and Lynn Smith were able to attend a conference in Atlanta developed and taught by Saddleback Church (Pastor and author of Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren's church). They are one of the leading and most successful churches in small group development. We were excited before we got there, but nothing could have prepared us for our level of excitement at the close of the conference. Can you imagine how excited we were when we learned that our new pastor, Dr. Nancy Rankin, was as excited about starting small group ministry as we were! We had formed a task force already so now the challenge was how figure out how Blair Road would do small group ministry. Below is what we know right now.

Common Questions:

1. **What is small group ministry?** Groups of 8-12 adults gather each week for the specific purpose of deepening the five Biblical principles of Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Evangelism, and Worship. In some instances, a group may gather for special interests they share.
2. **Why do we need another ministry?** The purpose statement of Blair Road UMC states: *"To be a faith community where non-Christian, nominally Christian, and Christian people develop a deep, personal, spiritual, and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior"*. Small groups can bring people together from the community and the church to develop their relationship with Jesus Christ and as the body of Christ in a very powerful way!
3. **How will Blair Road begin?** We have formed a task force that will begin a study on **Sept. 7th** (see information below) called "Beginning Life Together". Following the study, we will train leaders and begin

4. **Will this take the place of Sunday school?** NO! We have a long tradition of active and healthy Sunday school classes. We hope that continues! Small groups can be in addition to a Sunday school class or an option for folks that are not involved in Sunday school.
5. **What will small groups do?** Each small group will have a leader but the group will choose material from a list of suggested material. Generally, the groups will meet once a week for 60-90 minutes at a location that is convenient for everyone. That could be at someone's home, a coffee shop, or the church. Remember, the group has a PURPOSE! The purpose will revolve around the five Biblical principles of Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, Evangelism, and Worship. The goal of every group is to be healthy—which means a good balance of all 5 principles!
6. **Can anyone start a small group?** Small group leaders must complete a short training session and understand the ministry of small groups. At that time we welcome the formation of a new small group!



[AND, We Have A Name: "Life Groups" at Blair Road!](#)

YOU CAN
Join the Life Guards of "BlairWatch"!

Join the first of many "Life Groups" on Sunday, September 7 at 4:00-5:30 as we begin our discovery of experiencing what Life Together really means! This is a 6-session program. For more information please visit our church web site at www.blairroadumc.org. Click on Small Group Ministry. Or, call Nancy Rankin, Lynn Smith, Johnny Lord, or Eric Hendrickson.