**<Group Name>**

**Member Care Greeting**

**Projects**

**Fellowship Attendance**

**Outreach**

**Apprentice Teacher Prayer**

**Teacher**

**Coordinator**

**Communication**

**What Do I Do?**

**Fellowship Team** (a few who plan group get-togethers, monthly nights out, s'more festivals, etc.)

**Greeting** (welcome people at the front door of our building on rotating basis so they'll know there are actual people inside and choose to come in, smiles a lot and can point to our meeting room with ease)

**Member Care** (keep members from falling through the cracks when absent or need care)

**Attendance** (record attendance each week, get info from and introduce guests, love data and people)

**Outreach** (engage group members in reaching out to invite those who need Jesus and/or a group with people who know what it's like to lose sleep with a baby—or whatever your group is known for)

**Projects** (involve the group in projects/ministries to meet needs and share Christ; shall not include putting together Ikea furniture due to its unspiritual nature)

**Apprentice Teacher** (substitute, assist as needed, learn what not to do by observing the regular teacher, etc.)

**Prayer** (lead the group to pray for each other, our church family, and other needs; special prayers for your favorite sports teams may be imposed on the group only when they reach the championship game)

**Teacher** (plan sessions that lead the group to grow as followers of Jesus, as they all study and apply the Bible to life together)

**Communication** (keep everyone informed via Facebook page, emails, text, phone, bugle, smoke signals, etc.)

**Coordinator** (work with all to encourage and facilitate healthy group functioning, cheerleader, coach, big picture person, generally likable on most days, doesn’t mind texting and talking on the phone)

**Our Mission:** *Building bridges every day that invite people into real relationships with Jesus and each other.*

**Using the Ministry Circles model for your group**

Every member has a part to play in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). The same is true in our small groups and Sunday School classes—healthy groups don’t depend on one or two people for everything. They develop the gifts and abilities of all who are in the group.

The big idea behind the Ministry Circles model is that everyone in the group will add their name to one of the circles under one of the roles, *AND* will be empowered to lead the group in that specific area. The roles may be adapted for your unique setting, but a balanced emphasis on Community, Mission, and Discipleship is healthy. Based on the size, desires, and needs of your group, you may have more than one person in some roles.

Role descriptions are intentionally short (and fun) to avoid overwhelming or guilting group members. You will need to help group members visualize the specifics and connect their jobs to the big picture mission of the church and the group. For example, Greeters arrive a few minutes early and open doors, smile, verbally interact, etc. Project leaders plan parties to assemble hygiene bags for the local homeless ministry, organize the group to lead worship at a nursing home, set up a group work day with Habitat for Humanity, etc.

This model likely means your Teacher will have less time than in a traditional group or class, so work out a new “ideal” schedule in advance of implementing the strategy. (For example, one group plans 10 minutes each week for outreach, fellowship, or care group matters followed by 35 minutes of Bible study and 15 minutes of prayer/care group time.) In a best-case scenario, a Teacher will integrate other leaders as part of the lesson/discussion. For example, a lesson about starting spiritual conversations may end with three tips from the Outreach leader and a story from a group member who used those tips to share the gospel with a neighbor. In this way, leaders truly function as a team and the body is strengthened.

The Next New Class/Group circle reminds members that reaching new people for Jesus requires creating new places for them to connect. In general, when a group has been together for two years or more it is difficult for a newcomer to really become a part of the group. As established group leaders cultivate a missional/ pioneering/entrepreneurial culture, God will call out a few to launch a new group to reach new people. New groups should be started by resilient leaders at strategic times to reach a defined group in the church or community.

If you’d like to talk through the Ministry Circles model or want help in presenting it to your Sunday School or Small Group leaders, contact the Texas Baptists discipleship team.