

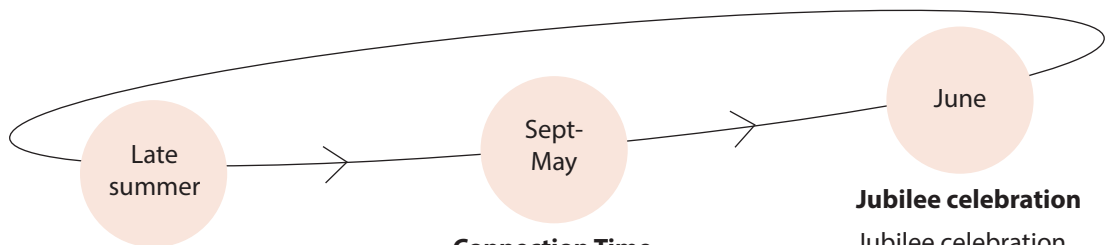
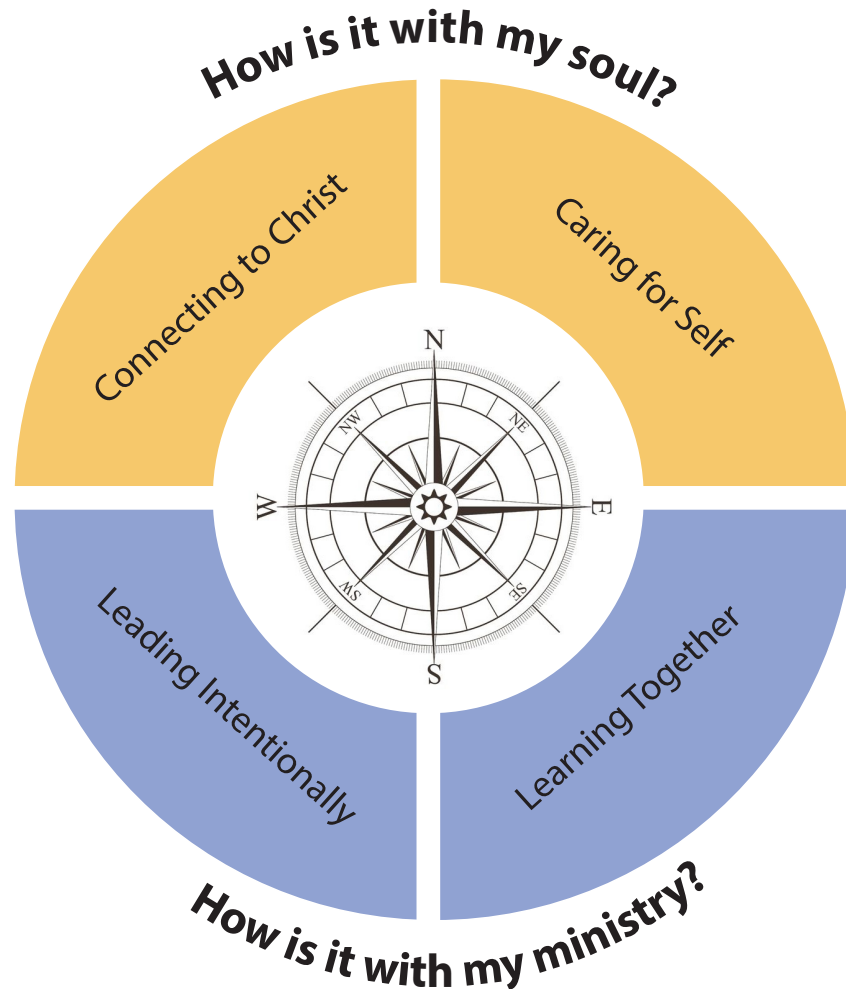


Peer Support and Learning

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

Compass Covenant Group



Create a Covenant

Your group will begin their journey with a 24-hour retreat in late summer. You will build community, define your learning agenda, set personal and group goals, and schedule your weekly/monthly connection time and format.

Connection Time

- Worship
- Check in "how is it with my soul?"
- Focus on ministry
 - » Topic, case study, presenter
 - » Clarifying questions
 - » Interaction around topic
 - » Group reflection and evaluation
- Closing prayer
- Food and fellowship

Jubilee celebration

Jubilee celebration Groups don't last for 49 years! In June, your group will celebrate your time together, decide if you wish to renew a covenant for another year and reach to others telling your story of how this has impacted your ministry.

Why Peer Groups?



Leading a congregation is a unique calling, requiring relational, organizational, supervisory, financial, marketing and business skills, as well as theological training, spiritual grounding, and the ability to pray, preach, counsel, teach, and mobilize people. Congregations need someone not only to love them but also to lead them with rapidly changing contexts in which we serve, learning these skills and deepening these gifts requires lifelong learning. Clergy learn best from other clergy... Nothing influences clergy leadership more than a supportive learning community of other pastors.

—Bishop Robert Schnase in *“Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences”*

“I was on the verge of quitting... my group helped me see some alternatives and remind me that I wasn’t the first person to go through this.”

—*So Much Better, How Thousands of Pastors Help Each Other Thrive*

“It is a safe place to tell my story. My group supports me and gives me suggestions without judging.”

—*So Much Better, How Thousands of Pastors Help Each Other Thrive*

Next steps

Called to be a guide?

All groups will be led by a clergy colleague who has felt this call from God into leadership, affirmed by their district superintendent and trained as a Guide. Guide training will occur in March-April.

Looking for a Compass group?

Once Guides are selected they will invite colleagues to join them in forming a peer group. Each group will have 5-12 people. Guides will be posted on the website so interested persons can connect with them about joining their group. 2017 groups will be formed in May-June.

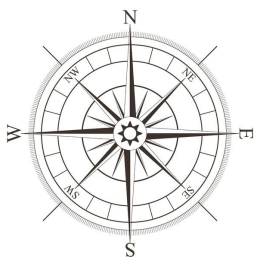
Already in a group?

Great! Keep doing what you are doing! But if you want to adopt the rhythm and structure of the Peer Support and Learning groups, one person needs to take on the role of Guide and engage in the training, and your group will participate in the Covenanting Retreat.

Pastors helping pastors thrive....

Ever feel like ministry is a roller coaster of exhilaration and exhaustion? We have the amazing privilege of leading God’s people, and yet nothing is easy about pastoral ministry these days. Those who sustain their joy, and are effective for the long haul attest to the power of a community of peers. They did not try to go it alone. We need a community to hold us up, cheer us on, challenge us to grow, keep us anchored in our identity as a beloved child of Christ and help us live out our calling as a disciple of Christ and leader in the church. Why peer groups? Because...

“It is time for us to more than just survive. We are meant to thrive!”



Questions?

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