

Ministry Guidelines: Connect Groups

1. Purpose

The Grainery Church (TGC) is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting the physical, spiritual and emotional/mental wellbeing and development, of all those that call it 'home'.

The vision of Grainery Connect Groups is to disciple people into a transformative relationship with Jesus, and, find and experience loving community.

For this, The Grainery Church believes that all connect group leaders are to be 'shepherds' of people on their discipleship journey, and need to be committed in their own transformative relationship with Jesus, submitted to the authority of the Bible in their life, and open to the work of the Holy Spirit - both personally and corporately.

This policy provides guidelines for both Grainery Adult and Young Adult Connect Leaders and Support Persons.

2. Connect Leader Checks and Recruitment

All Grainery Connect Leaders and Support Persons are required to:

- Be 18 years or older,
- Have been attending the Grainery Church for at least six months,
- Complete the online Grainery Safe Church Ministry training (level 2),
- Complete the Grainery Screening Check Questionnaire for Volunteer Workers,
- Agree and adhere to the Grainery Leader Code of Conduct (attached in the above form),
- Complete the online Grainery Connect Leader training
- Have completed a WWCC for volunteers

The Senior Pastor (or relevant Pastor) will organise a face-to-face meeting with the Connect Leader/ Support Person (SP) during the recruitment process. Here, the expectations of the voluntary role and areas of Safe Church can be discussed, as well as provide an opportunity for asking questions.

3. Accountability

Connect Leaders are accountable to their allocated Support Person (SP), and are expected to communicate monthly with their Support Person.

During this communication, the Connect Leader should feedback on how their group is functioning. Including (but not limited to): individual attendance, group engagement with studies and prayer, group dynamics - positives and challenges, pastoral concerns, potential leaders in the group, prayer points for their leadership role.

The Support Person is accountable to the Connect Building Team, which meets each Tuesday, and discusses each Adult and Young Adult group once a month.

Where the Support Person is unable to attend the Tuesday meetings, mechanisms will be put in place for the group leaders' information they have discussed, to be presented on their behalf. Support People are expected to provide this information in a timely manner.

4. Meetings

- 1) Connect Leaders and Support people are expected to prioritise the Leaders' Equipping/Inservice meetings held 3-5x each year.
- 2) Connect Leaders should communicate monthly with their Support Person.

5. Reporting Concerns

Concerns in regards to group dynamics, pastoral needs, group engagement or managing individual members should first be raised with the SP.

In consultation between the Connect Leader and the SP, it may be decided

that the issue/concern should be brought to the Connect Building Team for discussion.

Concerns in regards to Safe Church Areas should be raised with the SP, the Connect Group Manager and the Grainery Church Executive Manager.

Concerns will be treated confidentially as per Safe Church Guidelines and where required, in accordance with the law.