

## Covenant Groups

### Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of covenant groups is to provide for their members support, accountability, resources, and encouragement in Christian discipleship. The probationary period is a time to develop patterns and habits to sustain ministry over the years. Covenant groups support this process by:

- Encouraging spiritual disciplines
- Encouraging discipleship in acts of justice
- Seeking to discern god's call in pastoral and personal situations
- Support development of members' ministerial identity and leadership

### Proposed Format:

- Groups will be formed geographically, on a district level. If there are not enough people in a particular district to form a group or if you have a different idea for a covenant group, this will be worked out on a case-by-case basis.
- Membership will be throughout the probationary period.
- Groups are expected to meet at least 4 times a year.
- Each group forms its own covenant, in keeping with the Statement of Purpose. The group covenant should include the kinds of topics the group will discuss, the format, and the way group members will provide support and accountability to each other.
- Group meetings are to be confidential with no evaluative link to the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Each group reports annually to the BOOM the dates of all meetings and the subjects discussed.