



**GROUPS
FACILITATOR
GUIDE**

CROSSROADS
CHURCH 



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Contact Information

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CROSSROADS 
CHURCH

TYPES OF GROUPS

We are so excited you want to facilitate a group! There are various types of groups. Each group has a different purpose and intention.

Growth

Growth Groups are based primarily around the common goal of spiritual growth. They are intended to provide us with the opportunity to dive deeper into God's word alongside a group of like-minded people.

Common Interest

Common Interest groups allow us to get out and participate in an activity that we are interested in, while at the same time, build new relationships and community.

Sermon

Sermon Groups are based around the current sermon series at CrossRoads Church. Joining others to study and discuss what is being taught is a good opportunity to take what we've learnt and find practical ways to apply these lessons alongside others.

Mid-Sized Community

Mid-Sized Communities are a great way to bridge the gap between a small group and the larger church body. They are generally common interest groups who meet monthly for connection and events.

Life Groups

A Life Group is a small group of people who are committed to walking through life together. Although the content of the gatherings may change regularly, the purpose of a Life Group is fellowship, studying of God's Word, accountability, and spiritual growth and maturity.

Hope Groups

Hope Groups are designed to help people flourish through the tough things in life: death, divorce, anxiety and more, by providing soul care for people as we seek to create safe places where Jesus' presence is central and active in leading us to be more like him.

BECOMING A FACILITATOR

WHAT DOES A GROUP FACILITATOR DO?

Group Facilitators are responsible to provide the vision, direction, and support of the group over the semester. We believe that the Holy Spirit is our teacher and our job then, is to facilitate opportunities for people to encounter God (John 14:8-11). Facilitators do not need to fix or teach, rather Facilitators facilitate community. This removes the expectation of us having to be 'the expert' and instead puts us in a place of total dependence on the Holy Spirit (John 5:19-20).

WHO CAN BE A GROUP FACILITATOR?

If you sense God urging you to join Him in what He's doing through groups ministry, please come talk with us and share your heart and vision. Here are some key areas we consider when talking with potential facilitators:

- Does this person have a growing and personal relationship with Christ?
- Does this person recognize Christ as the authority of their life and Scripture as their foundation?
- Does this person have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to facilitate a group?

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

We ask that facilitators lead their group by:

- Facilitating group meetings
- Recruiting a co-facilitator; developing leadership within the group
- Inviting others to join your group
- Monitoring the group's health and effectiveness
- Promoting participation amongst group members & delegating tasks
- Committing to your own development and relationship with God
- Using Planning Center groups and the Church Centre App
- Participating in facilitator training opportunities
- Agreeing with Articles of Faith
- Facilitating by Example
- Signing the Facilitator Pledge
- Completing a once a month group report

GETTING YOUR GROUP STARTED

Pray & Ask God What Kind of Group He is Asking you to Facilitate:

- This group is for the purpose of?
- This group is a Growth, Common Interest or Serve Group?
- This study topic, theme or activity is?
- Materials required are?
- This group is for a specific gender?
- This group is for a specific lifestage?

Connect with the Community Life Pastor and Share Your Vision

Read the Facilitator Guide

- Sign the Facilitator Pledge and return to Community Life Team

Confirm the Logistics of Your Group & Submit the Host a Group Form

- Start & End Date
- Start & End Time
- Meeting Location
- Maximum number of participants
- Open to new people joining at anytime or closed once your group starts

Invite Others to Join the Group & Recruit a Co-Facilitator

Follow-Up with New Group Members

- Planning Centre Groups (see page 8) will send you an email when someone registers in your group, be sure to connect with them and share details of your next group meeting. Check your junk mail folder to ensure planning centre emails are not landing in there.

Facilitate Your Group Meetings

- Have fun! Enjoy connection, community and hospitality.
- If you have any questions connect with us!

GROUP SEMESTERS

CrossRoads offers three main semesters of groups through-out the year. At the start of each semester is a launch/promotion inviting CrossRoads attendees to check out all that CrossRoads offers (groups, ministries, serve opportunities, prayer, missions etc.) and what God might be leading them to. This launch is known as 'Connect Into Community'.

Fall Semester - September to December

Winter Semester - January to April

Summer Semester - May to August

GROUP PROMOTION

Group promotion is available in four ways:

- 1) Personal Invitation!** The best way to have others join you in a group is by personal invitation. Invite friends, family, neighbours, coworkers etc. to join your group.
- 2) Demographic!** Ensure you've set a clear demographic for your group. We can help you create one if need be.
- 3) Connect Into Community!** It's great if you can join in this day. This event morphs and changes each year. Watch your emails for opportunities to participate.
- 3) Planning Centre & Church Centre App!** That's our online group catalogue . When people browse the CrossRoads website or the Church Centre app they will see the groups listing online.
- 4) Social Media!** Use your personal platforms to invite others to join your group.

If you have further questions regarding group promotion, please connect with us.

PLANNING CENTER

Planning Center is the online platform we use to promote groups and register people in a group. This is a great way for you to keep in touch with your group members and for us, your Community Life Team to stay in touch with you.

STEPS TO CREATE YOUR GROUP

- Submit the **Host a Group form** which gives us some important details we need (found at <https://www.crossroadschurch.ca/Groups>).
- We create your group and set you up as the planning center leader of that group.
- Once we set you as leader of a group, **you'll receive an email** from planning center that you can now access your group.
 - **bookmark and save the access links in this email for future use**
- Once you have access you can do anything you want:
 - **Email** group members - select the mail icon on the right
 - **Add resources** like links to you tube videos or group materials - resources is on the list of options on the left
 - **Edit your group** information via the settings on the left
- **Download the Church Center App**. If you don't have it already download the app & select CrossRoads as your church, Once downloaded you'll have access to your group on your phone too. You can view 'my groups' which is the groups you lead and CrossRoads groups, which is all the groups open to join.

TIPS WHEN PROMOTING YOUR GROUP

- Provide a **clear, detailed group description**
- Provide a clearly stated **demographic** (which particular people are you hoping will join you)
- Keep the **group details up to date** - start time, location, contact info, start date, end date etc.
- Make sure you've set a **maximum size limit** of participants
- Ensure you've got the right **meeting location** listed

ONLINE GROUPS

Online groups are another option for hosting and facilitating groups, rather than meeting in homes, outside or public spaces.

Here are some platforms we recommend,

- Zoom
- Facebook Messenger
- What's App
- Google Meet
- Skype
- HouseParty

Tips for Online Groups:

- Read page 7 of this guide.
- Facilitate connection, don't teach. Enjoy bringing people together.
- Select an online platform - if you are stuck or need some coaching, email us and we can help you.
- Watch free tutorials available on the platform of your choice.
- Consider an online platform to stay connected all week, not just during your group.
- Use Right Now Media as a Bible study resource.
- Consider watching videos prior to meeting individually then gather together to discuss.
- Have fun - we have icebreakers available if you'd like some ideas.
- Ensure group members have proper links to online platforms and study materials.
- Keep online meetings shorter.
- Use mute buttons if someone has distracting background noise.
- You can pray online together or email out prayer requests.

CHILDCARE

If your group meets at CrossRoads Church and will be providing childcare you are required to use the Planning Center system and all childcare providers and serves need to have Plan to Protect training and a criminal record check on file with CrossRoads Church.

To set-up your childcare Kidcheck and Plan To Protect training, please email CommunityLife@CrossRoadsChurch.ca to find out more.

GROUPS BUDGET

If you are requiring budget assistance for your group, please email the Pastor of Community Life to start the conversation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media and apps are great tools to use within your groups. Whats App, Facebook messenger, etc. are all great ways to group chat and stay connected. If you'd like to start a social media page for your group, please email us.

When creating a social media account for your group, set expectations on the page of what can / can't be posted to your group. Keep content relevant to the group.

We also ask that the community Life Pastor be added to your page as an Admin.

ONSITE GROUPS

If your group would like to meet onsite at CrossRoads Church please book a space by completing the online form. Please email the Community Life assistant for the form. You'll need to provide your group name, amount of attendees, room set-up, AV/Tech requirements, start and end date, time of meeting, and your contact information. The Crossroads Facilities Team will keep you informed regarding building use information and access.

Please familiarize yourself with the **Emergency Instructions and Muster Points** located by the entrance door in the space you have booked.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA & RESOURCES

We offer a free groups resource data base called **RightNow Media**. This is like the Netflix of Bible studies with tons of resources to choose from and use in your groups.

RightNow Media can be watched on Smart TVs (download the app and log in) as well as from a lap top connected to a TV. Create your own RightNow Media account today by visiting the CrossRoads website:

www.crossroadschurch.ca/RightNow

We also have a small collection of groups resources that you can browse through, please email CommunityLife@CrossRoadsChurch.ca to see what is available.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Inwardly Strong, Outwardly Focused

- We encourage group members to be praying for 3 people who don't know Jesus.
- We practice minute longer conversations at work, home or in the neighbourhood to point people to Jesus.
- We are committed to cultivating spiritual disciplines.
- We want to growing as disciples and in making Disciples.

We ask others to join us.

- We consistently give group members opportunities to contribute and facilitate during group.
- We invite group members to participate in meeting the needs of the group.

Hospitable

- We work hard at knowing the names of group members and their families.
- We will find a way to make room for new people.

Accessible

- We will be timely in our responses to group members.
- We will be timely in giving information to group members.

FACILITATING BY EXAMPLE

It's a huge privilege to partner with God and His work in our CrossRoads community. When we take on the responsibility of a facilitator, we are placing ourselves in a role that is observed by others in our congregation. We believe this is an honorable and great thing! Leaders should be good role models, no matter where they are and what day of the week it is.

We also know that in our current culture, people's opinions vary greatly on what it looks like to honor God and lead well. So, we've come up with a few areas that we'd like to speak into, in hopes that you'll ponder the ways your life reflects these principles, especially as you pursue your intent to lead a group. The last thing we want to do is put you in a position where you feel pressure to represent or appear to give assent to a view on one of these subjects that you do not personally embrace.

1. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Your own personal study and time with God is paramount in equipping you to lead. We'll help you by providing learning opportunities, new skills and discussing questions/concerns through our Groups Facilitator Training opportunities. These sessions include a time of visiting with other facilitators, refreshments, skill training and shared learning. Keep posted for dates and times. We typically have four per year.

2. HOW WE FOLLOW JESUS

Under girding our vision at CrossRoads Church are our priorities for ministry from Isaiah 58. These priorities are;

1. Living Godly Lives

We believe God's grace is available to all without exceptions. His grace grabs us where we are but doesn't leave us there. It is His empowering presence that allows us to live godly lives.

2. Loving Each Other Deeply

We believe love is very practical (I John 3:16-20). The best place for practical expressions of love is in small groups, so at CrossRoads we emphasize that “as we get bigger we need to get smaller.” We all need to be connected in community.

3. Giving Priority to the Lost, the Last, the Least, the Little and the Nearly Dead.

This priority means 2 things:

- we will all be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission
- we will attempt to unleash unprecedented amounts of compassion both locally and globally

4. Delighting ourselves in the Lord through Worship

At the heart of worship is a desire to make God’s name great. It is His name we want lifted up in Central Alberta and around the world.

5. Serving

We serve because:

- it makes God known
- it demonstrates God’s heart
- it makes us more like Jesus
- God has gifted us for His glory

If we wholeheartedly embrace these priorities, we know God will do “more than we can ask or imagine”

www.crossroadschurch.ca/ourbeliefs

3. PRACTICES & CONDUCT

Believers are not to be conformed to the view and lifestyle of the world of which they are a part, but on the contrary, are to function as salt to prevent the spread of moral corruption, and as light to dispel spiritual darkness. High standards should therefore be set for their personal and collective life including the following:

- their disposition and attitudes be characterized by godliness and the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control;
- their social relationships bear witness to Christ, their entire conduct reflecting the spiritual ideals of Christianity rather than the world; they shall not marry unbelievers, shall not hold membership in oath-bound secret societies, and shall not compromise Christian principles in partnerships;
- their bodies be treated as temples of the Holy Spirit thus making it inconsistent with both Christian testimony and sound principles of health to compromise their influence and injure their bodies through inappropriate practices or substance abuse.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA

The people we lead judge the credibility of our message by the content of our lives. There are many ways people observe us - one popular way being watching our posts on social media sites. Be assured, the members of your group will visit your Facebook or other social media pages. While social media can be a great connection tool, it also serves as a window into your life beyond your ministry involvement. In light of that, we ask that you leverage social media with your group members in mind. We realize this is a judgment call.

FACILITATOR PLEDGE

When you are ready, please read over the Facilitator Pledge on the **last page of this guide** and sign as requested. Please email or drop off your signed pledge prior to your groups first meeting.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLES OF FAITH FP-1

FP-1.1. ABOUT THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy, and the only final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Bible, as originally written under the inspiration and supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit by human authors, is the Word of God, the supreme source of truth for Christian belief. The Bible reveals who God is, exposes who we are in light of His holiness, proclaims God's merciful salvation and teaches and trains Christ's followers how to grow in relationship with God and others.

Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:4; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21

FP-1.2. ABOUT GOD

We believe in the one true, living and holy God who is a self-existent, eternal, personal Spirit eternally existent as a trinity of three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These persons are distinct but inseparable, one in essence, power, and glory. God is the transcendent and immanent Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of all things visible and invisible.

Genesis 1:1-2; Isaiah 44:6-8; John 1:1-3,14; I Corinthians 2:9-12; Colossians 1:15-16, 2:9; Hebrews 1:3

We believe that the Father is eternally the Father of the Son, the author of salvation, and now the Father of all who are born again into new life through faith in Christ.

Gen. 1:1. Ps. 90:2. John 13:3; Eph. 1:2-4; I Pet. 1:2-4.

We believe in Jesus Christ in whom the divine and human natures are inseparably united. He is truly God and truly man, the eternal Son of God in the flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He came to reveal the Father, announce the arrival of God's Kingdom with word, miracles and deeds, and to offer Himself up as a sinless atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. He was physically raised from the dead and then exalted to the right hand of the Father. In fulfilling the earthly mission of His first coming, Jesus demonstrated a life of victory on our behalf over Satan and sin, provided the only way for people to be rescued from sin, and opened the way to live a holy life as participants in the Kingdom of God. He continues now as the only Mediator between God and humanity. Jesus will, at the Father's appointed time, come again in power and glory.

Matthew 1:18-25, 4:17, 23; Luke 23-24; John 1:1-18, 6:37-47, 10:10; 14:6; I Corinthians 15:3-8; Hebrews 4:14-15, 9:14-15; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 2:4-6a.

We believe in the Holy Spirit - who is fully God and, while not to be confused with the Father and Son, remains one with the Father and the Son in being, majesty, and glory. The Holy Spirit convinces of the need of a saving relationship with God and engages every person who trusts and follows Jesus in a life-giving relationship. Through His indwelling presence the Holy Spirit gives the believer spiritual life, assurance of salvation, understanding and guidance in all truth, and power to live out the Christian life. The Holy Spirit gives all believers the ability to accomplish God's purposes for their lives with spiritual abilities and gifts to use for God's glory and the service of others.

John 1: 12,13; 3:5-8, 16:7-14; Romans 8:5-17, 26-27; I Corinthians 2:10-12, 12:4-11; Ephesians 3:16-21; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 6:10-18

FP-1.3. ABOUT HUMANITY

We believe that God created humankind in His image, male and female, to enjoy a loving relationship with Him and with one another. God specially created humankind as the climax of His creative work on earth and established the family, based on covenant marriage between one man and one woman, as the building block of human community. We believe individual human lives are to be valued from conception, because God loves each one at every stage of life and desires that each one will come to know and love Him. Through human rebellion against God we have fallen and have come to be marred by a sinful nature. Humanity, apart from Christ, is now spiritually dead and, unless born again through Christ, cannot see the kingdom of God. We, in our own strength, without divine grace, cannot do good works pleasing and acceptable to God or bring glory to Him as we were designed to do. Through the finished work of Christ and God's grace experienced in the influence and empowering of the Holy Spirit individuals are enabled to exercise their will to accept God's gift and will. Personal acceptance of Christ's redemptive work results in a restored relationship with God and freedom to fulfill our created purpose through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 6:5. John 3:3-7; Rom.3:10,18, 23; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus 2:11-14.

FP-1.4. ABOUT SALVATION

We believe that in spite of our rebellion, God still loves all of humanity and has mercifully extended His lifegiving grace toward us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, people who believe in Him are forgiven of sin and declared righteous (justification), are made spiritually alive (regeneration), and are set apart into a neverending relationship with Him as holy people who are being renewed in the image of God (sanctification). True belief will be evidenced by heartfelt repentance from and godly sorrow for sin, complete trust (faith) in Jesus Christ as Saviour, and surrender to His will as Lord. Spiritual life will result in spiritual fruit in a life increasingly marked by love for God, fellow believers and the lost.

Salvation is God's gracious gift, to be accepted through faith, through which the believer can be assured of personal salvation which speaks to the past in the forgiveness of sins, to the present of a continuing walk with Christ, and to the future with the promise of resurrection life. Our assurance is in our continuing relationship with Christ by faith. As a result of the saving grace of Christ, the believer can experience a Spirit-filled, Spiritgifted, and Spirit-led life of victory over sin. In submission to the Spirit the believer's life will show increasing alignment with the Great Commandment and Great Commission of Jesus.

Matt 10:22; 22:37-40; 28:18-20; John 3:16-21; 15:4; Acts 2:22-42; Romans 5:1-2, 6:11,19-23; II Corinthians 5:14-6:2; Ephesians 2:8-10

FP-1.5. ABOUT THE CHURCH

We believe that the true Church consists of all people everywhere who have been reborn through personal participation, by faith, in the death and resurrection of Christ, being called out to become part of the body of which Christ is the Head. The Church is visible to the world when believers gather in community and when they are active in serving and blessing others in Jesus' name. The Church is the evidence of God's saving work and a strategic part of God's plan to reflect His grace, proclaim His truth, and extend His care to the world. The people of God have been sent on mission to the world – to love and worship God in a spirit of unity, to teach the Word of God, to celebrate Baptism and Communion, to encourage all people to follow Jesus, and to participate in the ever-growing kingdom of God.

Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:8-11, 14-21; 4:1-16; Colossians 1:18-23

FP-1.6. ABOUT THINGS TO COME

We believe that God intervenes in the affairs of this world. At the time of God's choosing, Jesus will bodily return to the earth in power and glory to judge and rule the world, as God's Kingdom is fully and forever established. We believe the promise of Scripture that God will create a new heaven and a new earth which will be the eternal dwelling place of those who have been made righteous in Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humanity to stand before God for final judgment. Those who have not accepted His life-giving grace will be raised to experience eternal punishment being separated from God and all that is good. Those who have trusted in Christ will be raised to live eternally in God's presence and receive the promised reward.

Matt 16:27; 25:31-46; John 5:24-29. 14:1-6; Acts 17:31; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:1-9.

ARTICLES OF PRACTICE FP-2

FP-2.1. Ordinances

The Christian ordinances are two in number, baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are the outward rites appointed by Christ to be administered in each local church, not as means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of its reality.

FP-2.1.1. Baptism

Baptism by water is the symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. It constitutes the public confession of these spiritual realities to the world and is the answer of a good conscience toward God¹. Baptism is administered, preferably by immersion, to those who have been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who give evidence of the genuineness of their salvation².

¹ Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:36-41; Rom. 6:3-5. ² Acts 8:12-13,34-39.

FP-2.1.2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ himself on the night of His betrayal¹. It is a memorial of Christ's death, a centre of communion and fellowship, a testimony to saving faith, and a visible token of Christ's redemptive covenant. It is observed only by believers and consists in partaking of the consecrated emblems of bread and the fruit of the vine, which symbolize the death of Christ for the remission of our sins and our continual dependence upon Him for life and sustenance until He comes². While the Lord's Supper is open to all true believers, we are strongly exhorted to examine ourselves "and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup³."

¹ Matt. 26:26-30. ² 1 Cor 11:26. ³ 1 Cor. 11:26

FP-2.2. Divine Healing

God is able to heal, therefore we ought to pray for the sick ¹. Although healing cannot be demanded of God, it should be sought according to Scriptural instruction. God heals in three ways:

- 1) through the natural processes of the human body which may be aided by medical help;
- 2) through the supernatural intervention of God bringing healing to the body;
- 3) through the death and resurrection of the body to a glorified state.

¹ Matt. 12:15,22; James 5:13-16.

FP-2.3. The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day¹, which commemorates the resurrection, is for private and public worship and for rest from unnecessary work. It should be devoted to spiritual development, Christian fellowship, and service². It is essential to the permanence and growth of the Christian church and important to the welfare of society.

¹ Matt. 28:1; I Cor. 16:2. ² Isa. 58:13-14; Heb. 10:25.

FP-2.4. Christian Stewardship

In recognition of God's ownership of all¹ things believers should practice systematic and proportionate giving, adopting the tithe as a minimum expression of their stewardship². They should regard Christian liberality as a privilege and sacred duty, and freely give of their substance for the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad, for the maintenance of the local church, and for the support of the agencies and enterprises of the denomination. Believers should also dedicate themselves, their time, talents, and substance to God and to the advancement of His kingdom. Christians are encouraged to spend time in Bible study, prayer, and in sharing the gospel³.

¹ Gen. 1:1, 14:18-23. ² Mal. 3:8,10. ³ II Cor. 5:14-15, 8:9-12, 9:6-8.

P-2.5. Dedication of Children

God is concerned for the well-being of children¹ who are under the atonement of Christ². We encourage the formal dedication of children in a public service of the church.

¹ I Sam. 1:24-28; Matt. 19:13-15; Luke 2:21-22. ² Mark 10:13-15; John 3:16-19; Rom. 5:13.

FP-2.6. Marriage, Singleness, Family, and Human Sexuality

As human beings, men and women, we are created in the image of God. God saw that his creation of humankind was very good. As a result we have intrinsic worth and are found to be equally valued by God.

We believe God has established the church as a family of faith in which we are each sons or daughters. It is within this family of faith that we are established, rooted, fulfill our ministry, and find maturity in Christ.

We also believe the family of faith is where the goodness of being either single or married is to be honoured. We recognize that God has created human beings for relationship with him and with each other. God's intention is for people to be blessed through families: both the family of faith and the family into which God has placed us. God created the family to be the cornerstone of social order.

The home is a divinely established institution¹ in which the husband is the head² but serves its members by the law of love, and in which husband and wife are to work together to raise their children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”³ Obedience to parents is to be rendered by children in the spirit of mutual respect and love.

Marriage is part of God’s design in establishing the family. We believe that marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. This heterosexual union⁴ is the only appropriate relationship within which the joy of sexual intimacy is to be expressed. We affirm such marriage as God’s design for a lifelong loving relationship, sexual intimacy, and the birth and nurture of children. Christian marriage is intended for those who share a common faith in Christ⁵. Such a marriage is blessed of God.

Since the EMCC believes the Bible defines marriage as being a covenant union of one man and one woman, the EMCC only recognizes covenantal heterosexual unions as marriages. Therefore, ministers are forbidden to perform ceremonies or make any public comment that would give any indication to the contrary.

¹ Gen 2:23-24. ² Eph 5:22-25, 28; Col 3:18-21. ³ Deut 6:4-9. ⁴ Gen 2:23-24. Rom 1:26-27. ⁵ Deut 7:3; II Cor 6:14-17

PF-2.7. Divorce

FP-2.7.1. Divorce is viewed in the Scriptures as contrary to God's will¹. Christians should seek by forbearance and forgiveness to preserve the marriage bond.

¹ Gen. 2:24-25; Mal. 2:15-16; Matt. 5:31-32, 19:3-12; I Cor. 7:10-16.

FP-2.7.2. Persons divorced and remarried who give evidence of being genuinely born again are eligible to be received into membership in the church.

FP-2.7.3. Divorce between members of the church is an occasion of great tragedy. Such conduct brings the teaching and reality of Christian reconciliation under reproach and offenders are to be disciplined. The church board shall provide counsel and take proper disciplinary action giving consideration to appropriate aspects of local church discipline. Care should be exercised that such action be as redemptive as possible for all parties involved.

FP-2.7.4. Ministers are to refrain from performing marriage ceremonies where one or both parties are divorced. However ministers are permitted, at their discretion, to solemnize the marriage of a person whose previous marriage partner committed adultery, who is recognized as living a genuine Christian life, and where there is good evidence that a true Christian marriage is intended.

FP-2.8. Practices and Conduct

Believers are not to be conformed to the view and lifestyle of the world of which they are a part¹, but, on the contrary, are to function as salt² to prevent the spread of moral corruption, and as light to dispel spiritual darkness. High standards should therefore be set for their personal and collective life including the following:

1) their disposition and attitudes be characterized by godliness and the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control³;

2) their social relationships bear witness to Christ, their entire conduct reflecting the spiritual ideals of Christianity rather than the world; they shall not engage in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage; shall not marry unbelievers, shall not hold membership in oath-bound secret societies, and shall not compromise Christian principles in partnerships⁴;

3) their bodies be treated as temples of the Holy Spirit⁵ thus making it inconsistent with both Christian testimony and sound principles of health to compromise their influence and injure their bodies through inappropriate practices or substance abuse⁶.

1 Rom. 12:1,2. 2 Matt. 5:13. 3 Gal. 5:22-24. 4 II Cor. 6:14-16. 5 I Cor. 3:16,17, 6:19,20. 6 I Cor. 6:12-20.

FP-2.9. Attitude Toward Civil Government

Civil government is ordained of God¹ for the welfare of society to promote and protect the good and to restrain and punish evil². Therefore, we consider it the duty of Christians to pray for rulers and for those who are in authority over them and to give due loyalty, respect, and obedience to them³. Christians are also encouraged to take an active interest in government at all levels. Where the demands of civil law would militate against the supreme law and will of God, Christians should obey God rather than man⁴.

1 Dan. 4:17. 2 Rom. 13:1-5. 3 I Tim. 2:1-4. 4 Acts 4:13-20, 5:27,28.

FP-2.10. Oaths

A Christian's life should be so transparent in its honesty and integrity that his or her word can be fully trusted without swearing on the Bible in judicial situations¹ or taking the Lord's name in vain².

¹ Matt. 5:33-35,37; James 5:12. ² Ex. 20:7.

MY FACILITATOR PLEDGE

1. I will make CrossRoads my church home by attending services on a regular basis.

2. I will become familiar and agree in principle with the values and priorities of CrossRoads Church.

3. I will live a life that consistently reflects and honors God as my Lord and Saviour, no matter if it's serving in my local church or working out in my community.

4. I will take the time necessary to prepare for my facilitator role by pursuing a growing relationship with God each day

- Asking Him to show me the purposes He has for our group
- Making time each week to prepare well for my group meetings
- Praying for the members of my group
- Making good use of training opportunities when available

5. I will intentionally seek to foster an environment in our group that encourages authentic community, safe sharing, and ownership by all.

Is there anything in Crossroads doctrinal statement or vision and values that you would like to discuss with the Pastor of Community Life? Y / N

Name of Facilitator: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Community Life Staff: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please return signed pledge to:
CommunityLife@CrossRoadsChurch.ca or to main office**