

Continuing Education Covenant Group Guidelines

There are two types of Continuing Education Covenant Groups (CECG). One is a traditional group with a similar format to the Residency Groups for provisional deacons and elders. The other is a focus group with a format based on a specific area of education. Both Groups are offered annually by the Board of Ordained ministry and coordinated by the Director of Continuing Education Groups.

Accountability Assessment

At the completion of each Continuing Education Group participants will complete an assessment that evaluates their educational growth and the effectiveness of the CECG program.

Confidentiality

In order to build and maintain trust, each leader and participant agrees to confidentiality for the CECG sessions. This is essential in order to meet the goal of CECGs to strengthen our connection by support and encouragement for each other.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU)

Focus groups will be granted CEUs based on the number of contact hours for the study. The formula is ten contact hours for one CEU with a maximum of 3 CEUs per focus group.

Traditional groups will be granted 3 CEUs for participants who attend 6 full sessions of the 9 sessions offered.

Certificates signed by the CECG director and group leaders will be given to participants at the last session.

Eligible Participants

Anyone appointed in the SC Annual Conference (LP, FE, FD, AM, DM, RM, OE, OD) may participate. Provisional members should complete Residency prior to participating in a CECG.

Anyone may participate in any group in any district but must remain with that group for the entire year.

Group Descriptions

Focus Groups meet for the timeframe outlined for the specific educational session. The topic for focus group sessions is chosen by the leader offering the session.

Traditional Groups meet monthly from September to May for six hours with a break for lunch that may be included as part of the time if the group has lunch together. The group leader may choose not to meet for one session during advent or one session during Lent or to grant a third absence to participants. Traditional groups must have a didactic session and a covenant session. A possible schedule is as follows:

9:00-12:00 Didactic Session
12:00-1:30 Lunch
1:30-4:00 Covenant Session

The schedule may be adapted but must contain six contact hours (may include lunch if your group has lunch together) to receive 3 CEUs. The covenant session may be modeled like a covenant discipleship group. The didactic session topics are determined by the group leaders and participants. Groups may be asked to include topics identified by the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Cabinet as areas that need educational growth in our annual conference in the didactic session. Selections should be creative and resourceful and use a variety of resources and formats to facilitate all learning styles.

Leaders for Continuing Education Groups

Group leaders are volunteers recruited annually by the CECG Director in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry and District Superintendents. Anyone interested in hosting a group should contact the CECG Director, Debra Armstrong @ daarmstrong@umcsc.org.