

Discipleship | Nurture | Action (DNA) Groups are an important part of the discipleship process at Devonport Church of Christ. They function as the primary place of Pastoral Care to occur within the Church. We need to encourage groups to ensure that they are connecting with each other and helping each other when help is needed. They are also an integral way of living out our vision as a Church.

Pursuing Jesus | Connecting Communities | Releasing Compassion | Transforming Lives

In order for groups to function it is imperative that people feel respected and safe in order to grow.

The following agreement provides the foundational level of accountability and protection for these DNA groups. It is designed to be discussed and agreed to at the formation of groups and then reminded of and recommitted to at least annually. While this represents the base level desired for our groups please write on the back of this agreement any additional considerations the group decides they would like to include.

If you have any questions about this agreement, please contact Yowie - yowie@devonportcoc.com.au

1. **Confidentiality** – I agree to keep confidentiality. This means that what is said within this group stays within the group. I will not share stories, or personal things that were shared during this group without asking for and receiving permission first. Disclosures of crime or in regard to concerns of someone's safety is the exception of this rule.
2. **I am responsible for the presence I bring** – The way in which we enter the group space is important. If we come with an attitude that is disruptive then that disrupts the entire group. Instead we need to come with an attitude that seeks to learn and be humble. This is not to say that I need to fake it, small groups are a place where we can be real with other people and share how life is going. This does need to be balanced, however.
3. **I will respect other people's:**
 - a. Time – Time is a precious commodity. I will therefore respect the time of other people in this group and they will respect mine. As a group we will set a start and an end-time, and we will stick to those times. This also means that I will provide plenty of notice if I cannot make small group during the week.
 - b. Opinions – Everyone has a right to their own opinion. I know that not everyone will believe the same things that I do, but I will respect their opinion as their own and I will know that my opinion will be respected as well
 - c. Right to Share – I know that everyone in the group has a right to share. I will not dominate the conversation, nor will I cut other people off as they speak. I will wait to make sure that people have finished speaking before I respond to them.
4. **I will care for other member's wellbeing** – I know that being part of community is part of God's plan for us. He desires us to live with love towards one another and I will show that in my words and actions.

I have read and agree with these conditions:

Name

Signature

Date