

## **New Member Policy for ERUUF Covenant Group and Chalice Circle Participation**

**Updated September 2018**

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Covenant Group (CG) and Chalice Circle (CC) groups create an open and nurturing environment at ERUUF that promotes personal and spiritual growth, expression of values and principles, service to our congregation and the community, and respect and care for one another. You can find more information on the ERUUF website, [www.eruuf.org](http://www.eruuf.org). Go to Connect, then select Groups, then Covenant-Groups.

Assigning members to CG and CC groups is the responsibility of the CG/CC Steering Team. Most members sign up and join or re-join groups in the fall, following the September Connections Fair. Each group is facilitated by a trained ERUUF member and group leader. Groups generally begin meeting in October, and members commit to participating in their group through to the following summer. Some groups continue on the following year, but membership sign-up is repeated each fall, with some groups evolving or dissolving, and other new groups forming to meet requests.

People can also be assigned to groups later in the year, pending availability (group size is generally limited to about 10 individuals). Several drop-in sessions are held in the winter and spring, to allow new members to observe how a group works.

To join a small group at any time:

- 1) Fill out an online form indicating an interest in joining a small group, some demographic information, and preferences for meeting times. (Go to the ERUUF website and Covenant Group page listed above, and click on the blue "Request to join" button.)
- 2) The Steering Team then assigns each applicant to an existing CG or CC that has opening and meets at an appropriate time. Once membership reaches 10 or 11, it is considered full. Incoming members agree to join and receive some personal orientation through one or more conversations with group leaders and/or Steering Team members.
- 3) If no group openings can be found to meet stated preferences, applicants are asked if they can be available for a group with an opening at a different time.
- 4) If no openings can be found, the applicant is placed on a waiting list until a group has an opening that fits their time and date preferences.

New members and ERUUFians can attend one or two sample drop-in small group discussion, held for several months in the winter and spring, to get a feeling for group activity or while waiting to join an ongoing group. Look for meeting times in the ERUUF e-News and Calendar of Events.

For information about small group membership or the sign-up process, send an email to [covenant@eruuf.org](mailto:covenant@eruuf.org), and one of the Steering Team members will be happy to talk with you.