

What Participants Say

"I was hesitant to get involved in a CD group because I couldn't quite imagine finding the time for a weekly meeting in the midst of my nutty life. Now, I look forward to that weekly meeting, both for the community and for the deeply felt presence of God that we share every time we meet."

—Lys Murray

"Covenant Discipleship has been a positive experience for me from the beginning. My CD group has helped me grow in my faith through the thoughts and encouragement of my group members and again, simply having our Covenant put Christ first in my mind everyday. I think I've also grown in that I have been able to talk about my faith journey and encourage others in theirs—they are strengthened, and I see how far I have come and how much more I still want to do."

—Lisa Heinsohn

"Being in Covenant Discipleship has strengthened my faith and made me more aware of the many ways in which God's love radiates around me and through me. I am grateful for the love, support, and encouragement from my fellow disciples as we walk together in the light."

—Phyllis Muyskens

"CD has helped me focus on specific areas of ministry in which I have felt either led or challenged to involve myself. I like that within a loving group I am continually reminded and encouraged to practice my faith each week."

—Mark Deshon

"The other CD group members are my fellow travelers, and our meetings allow me to keep track of our spiritual journeys. Our covenant with each other brings into focus that we are in this together as Christ's disciples. We are prayer partners and questioners. We offer support and healing, suggestions, and possibilities. We celebrate our joys and share our strength in times of need. I am grateful for this blessing of when our lives intersect and find meaning in the journey together."

—Marina Lutz

Saturday, February 4

This workshop is presented as a joint offering from the Center for Applied Wesleyan Studies at **Ashland Theological Seminary** and the Akron Branch of the **Tree of Life Community Church**: A United Methodist Congregation. The Center for Applied Wesleyan Studies exists to promote the study and practice of the Wesleyan tradition in Christian discipleship, pastoral leadership, and global witness in the multiple contexts of the church's life today. Tree of Life Community Church is a United Methodist congregation in four locations (Akron First, Christ, Copley, and Montrose Zion UMCs). This event is the first of many offerings as we partner together to serve the Church in a meaningful continuum of learning.



and **Tree of Life Community Church**
A United Methodist Congregation

263 East Mill Street, Akron, Ohio 44313
330-376-8143

<http://seminary.ashland.edu>

Equipping Missional Congregations for the 21st Century



Through Covenant Discipleship Groups



Rev. Dr. Steven W. Manskar

Director of Wesleyan Leadership
General Board of Discipleship
The United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 4, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Akron First United Methodist
263 East Mill Street, Akron, Ohio 44313

Workshop Speaker

Dr. Manskar will lead an all-day workshop on Saturday, February 4, 2012. This workshop will focus on “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” by talking about how we can make a bigger difference in our world both individually and corporately through the practice of Covenant Discipleship (CD), a small group in the Wesleyan tradition.

Manskar holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *Accountable Discipleship: Living in God’s Household, A Perfect Love: Understanding John Wesley’s “A Plain Account of Christian Perfection,”* and *A Disciple’s Journal: Daily Bible Reading and Guidance for Reflection.*

CD Groups

Dr. Paul Chilcote, Director of the Center for Applied Wesleyan Studies, says, “The movement described as the ‘missional church’ is very similar to the essence of earliest Methodism. I am convinced that the future of churches in the Wesleyan tradition will depend largely upon their rediscovery of missional congregations.”

A Covenant Discipleship group is 3-7 persons who meet together for one hour each week to hold one another mutually accountable for their discipleship. Groups tend to form based on the day and time people are available for a weekly meeting. There are no rules about the composition of groups.

The goal of discipleship is to become fully the human beings God created us to be, in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Our roadmap is the Bible, which contains His teachings and which He summarized:

... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself. —Mark 12:30-31

Workshop Schedule

- 9:00 Registration Check-in/Coffee
9:30 Morning Prayer
9:50 Laying the Foundation
- Two Kinds of Churches
 - Mission & The Means of Grace
 - The General Rule of Discipleship
- 11:15 Break
11:30 Covenant Discipleship Groups and Group Dynamics
12:30 Lunch
1:15 The Covenant and Covenant Writing
1:40 Covenant Writing Exercise
2:30 Break
2:45 Q&A
3:00 How to Introduce Covenant Discipleship Groups
3:15 How to Support and Sustain Covenant Discipleship Groups
3:30 Closing Questions & Discussion
4:00 Dismissal with Blessing

a light lunch will be provided.

A workbook is also included.



Basic information on Covenant Discipleship can be found online at www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.6125875/k.28EB/The_Basics.htm.

Workshop Registration

“Equipping Missional Congregations for the 21st Century”

Cost: \$25 per person **Deadline: Jan. 27**
(\$35 if receiving 0.5 CEU)

To register on-line go to: <http://ashlandseminary.eventbrite.com/>
Credit Card or PayPal accepted.

If mailing, Please print clearly or type:

Last Name _____ Clergy

First Name _____ Layperson

E-mail _____

Last Name _____ Clergy

First Name _____ Layperson

E-mail _____

Last Name _____ Clergy

First Name _____ Layperson

E-mail _____

Last Name _____ Clergy

First Name _____ Layperson

E-mail _____

Last Name _____ Clergy

First Name _____ Layperson

E-mail _____

*please send in all together (use another form for additional attendees)

Send completed form with your check (**payable to Tree of Life Community Church**, please indicate “CD Workshop” in the memo area of your check) to:

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