

# Leading a Discipling Community

Characteristics, Expectations, & Responsibilities



## Discipling Communities Rise & Fall on Leadership

*Leadership is a dynamic process in which a man or woman, with God-given capacity, influences a specific group of God's people toward His purposes for the group. Bobby Clinton*

Leadership is an incredibly important part of the Discipling Community picture. It's not about natural ability or force of personality (i.e. charisma). It's not about being an "expert" or "doing it all." In the context of Discipling Communities, leadership is about relationship - upward, inward, outward, and forward.

### **The Non-Negotiable Characteristics of a Discipling Community Leader are:**

- Engaged member of FACT
- Disciple of Jesus Christ
- Fully committed to the direction of FACT
- Submitted to leadership
- Embraces the Disciple-making Paradigm
- Not afraid of the messy process of discipleship

### **The Expectations of a Discipling Community Leader are that he/she:**

- Gives time, energy, and commitment willingly because it's necessary in order to do life intentionally with others.
- Shepherds group passionately as an under-shepherd while remembering the expectation isn't to do it all, but to model, equip, and empower the group to care, to connect, and to engage (inward).
- Values prayer in the group context and personally. Pray for group members regularly, if not daily.
- Guides group in being disciples by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through the giftedness of each member, making the Bible the guide for daily living and group life, and championing the Disciple-making Framework and Core Competencies (upward), but doesn't necessarily have to be the primary teacher.
- Guides group to make Christ known to those within its sphere of influence inwardly and outwardly, locally and globally (outward).

## **The Functional Responsibilities of a Discipling Community Leader are that he/she:**

- Communicates regularly with church leadership, both verbally and through Discipling Community feedback forms.
- Takes advantage of training opportunities, resources to grow, and occasional leader gathering.
- Develops others in the group to lead with an eye toward multiplication and keeps this core value at the forefront (forward).
- Is accountable (i.e. no lone rangers)

Leadership is a definitely a big deal, but also a worthwhile endeavor. To do so means:

- The opportunity to journey with others in relationship toward a deeper reality of Christ in us.
- To be intentionally engaged in disciple-making with a group of people that results in “everyone being filled with awe” at the greatness of God.
- Breaking the pattern of being “overchurched” and “underwhelmed” that is rampant in our culture and society.
- Being on the front lines of First Alliance Church Toccoa being the kind of Acts 1:8 Holy Spirit empowered family that we are called to be.

**Leaders are people who feel a pull, a passion, and a heart desire to gather with a small group of people and to engage and grow together.**

When you step into the role of leader/facilitator of a Discipling Community, you will be provided with clear expectations, relevant training and equipping, support, proper tools, and to be held accountable. Our desire is not to get Discipling Communities going, and then hope they function on spiritual autopilot. Inevitably, that results in implosion or explosion. Neither is conducive to disciple-making, community, or new small groups regularly being birthed for the ongoing growth of the Kingdom of God.

At the end of the day, the “success” of our Discipling Communities is not about how many groups we have, how many people attend, or how often they come (although we will be aware of these factors because they are important metrics). **What we are focused on via Discipling Communities is the development of healthy, biblical disciples who make disciples.** The evidence of a well-lead group is not size, numbers, or activity, but the clear evidence of more people becoming healthy disciples of Jesus Christ, obeying all He has commanded and evidenced via the Core Competencies.

*Throughout history, and around the world today, disciples are made by leaders who make a goal of spiritual maturity, provide a clear path of spiritual transformation for their people, and get involved in the lives of those whom they serve. Most importantly, they are aware of their own need to grow deeper in Christ. - Ed Stetzer*

**What new Discipling Community could you begin that would create new space for more people to connect, grow, and engage as healthy, biblical disciples?  
Who do you know who isn't connected in a Discipling Community yet?**

*If you're interested in launching a Discipling Community as a leader/facilitator, get in touch with Pastor Chris or speak with an elder. We'll then help you flesh out the details and get going.*