



**Church of the Redeemer
Visions of Ministry
Open Space Report**

Topic: **Community Building and Small Groups**

Summary of Key Discussion Points:

- Redeemer is a large parish, multiple services, hard to get to know people on a deeper level. New people, middle term, and long term people all felt this.
- Deep longing to be better connected.
- Small groups one option – how to make them work in Redeemer context?
 - Geographic/demographic/topical groups.
 - Pastoral, educational, community building.
 - Need some sort of structure to give boundaries, set ground rules, inform people of what groups are out there, protect against pitfalls.

Next Steps:

- Small groups: a need that is strongly felt. Would be helpful to have some structure for them to be formed – guidelines (see above), central place to find out where (i.e. website, contact person) groups are so people can join. Maybe have some structure around starting a few at Redeemer, then allow others to start other groups.
- Meet in homes, hosted by different people in the group, with meals perhaps.
- Clearly need the idea that all members of the small group part of keeping it going, to avoid leader burnout.
- Community building ideas:
 - 9:30/11:15 service exchange
 - Updated parish directory (with care for privacy, but still very important)

- Parish retreat
- Nature walk, other social activities
- Making church picnic more inclusive – not just for kids
- Adult Sunday school (between services – maybe move services further apart?)