

WhatsApp at Cornerstone

What's the place of WhatsApp at Cornerstone?

We use WhatsApp Communities to create online spaces for members of Cornerstone to connect with one another mid-week, gathered around congregations, Growth Groups, social groups and serving teams.

Cornerstone Church Community

The Cornerstone Church WhatsApp Community serves church members by making the invisible networks of relationships at church visible, and is particularly helpful for newcomers as they find their way into church life.

Anyone with the link can join the general community and request to join group chats for the congregations and ministries they're part of. Some groups require an administrator to approve requests, which helps to keep these spaces safe.

Types of groups:

- Congregational groups: essentials and noticeboard groups (admin approval required to join)
- Ministry groups, e.g. Kids' Space parents (admin approval required to join)
- Social interest groups

Cornerstone Growth Groups Community

- All Cornerstone Growth Groups group chats are part of the Growth Groups community
- Cluster groups (Uniconnect, Network and Thursday women's)
- Growth Group leaders administer their respective groups; joining requires admin approval
- Community administrators can share updates and documents relevant to everyone in a Growth Group on the community announcements channel.

Purpose Team Communities

All serving teams at Cornerstone fit into one of six purpose areas (Magnification, Ministry, Membership, Mission, Maturity, Ministry Support). There's a WhatsApp group for each purpose area, where the various serving team group chats sit.

The advantages are:

- Unity: it brings all social media church messaging into one place
- Immediate: communications are in real time, so you're not waiting for team meetings to get updates or resolve minor issues
- You can find all shared links and documents in one place

Administrator Responsibilities

Cornerstone Church Congregation and Ministry Area Noticeboard Admins

Who are the admins?

- **Congregation noticeboards:** Campus Pastor, female pastoral worker, welcoming team coordinator responsible for integration
- **Ministry area groups:** Ministry Coordinators and key leaders for each group

What are they responsible for?

- Approve or decline requests to join notice boards/groups
- Remove past members from the groups when they leave
- Ensure chat activity complies with our WhatsApp Community Guidelines
- Campus Pastor or female pastoral worker is responsible for resolving any breaches of the community guidelines in congregational noticeboards
- Ministry coordinator or Campus Pastors are responsible for resolving any breaches of community guidelines in ministry area groups (such as Kids' Space parent's group), as decided on case-by-case basis

Purpose Team Admins

Who are the admins?

- **Purpose communities:** Purpose pastor and ministry area drivers
- **Team group chats:** Team leaders

What are they responsible for?

- Adding new team members as part of onboarding process
- Remove departing team members
- Use your group chat for encouragement and keeping your team up-to-date

Community Guidelines

Congregation noticeboards and ministry area groups

Who can join a congregational noticeboard?

Only members of a congregation who have completed Newish. Members of different congregations should not be in multiple campus noticeboards unless they regularly attend or are involved in the community life of that congregation.

When should someone be added to their congregational noticeboard?

Ideally, during their post-Newish catch up.

Who can join ministry area groups?

Church members or contacts who are directly involved in the ministry. E.g. Only caregivers of children enrolled in Kids' Space at City Church should be admitted into the group chat for that ministry.

What type of content are the congregational essentials groups for?

- Updates from admins on matters relating specifically to that congregation
- Post-church meal details

What type of content are the congregational notice boards for?

- Open-invite social events
- Offers of freebies
- Ask the community for help on general matters
- General chat

What are the notice boards NOT for?

- Advertising your or someone else's business.
- Sharing content that is political or theological in nature; if you have something that you think would build up the people in your congregation, please share it with your Campus Pastor, who will review it first.
- Sharing world or national news articles.
- Asking for financial hardship support; if you are in need of financial hardship support, please talk to your Campus Pastor.